

GOVERNANCE REVIEW – POLITICAL GROUP VIEWS

Majority Group

1. The majority group has considered the Governance review report. Whilst the Group supports most of the recommendations from the cross-party meetings, it wishes to propose some changes to the recommendations concerning Council procedures, and to make an alternative recommendation concerning scrutiny arrangements.
2. On **scrutiny arrangements** (see paragraph 7), the report says that the working party could not reach a consensus over change (eg. reducing scrutiny committees from two committees to one). The majority group wishes to recommend Council that from the 2013/14 Council Year Council appoints one scrutiny committee that will be responsible for co-ordinating the scrutiny work programme and for commissioning a range of review and standing panels. The scrutiny committee will be politically balanced and will consist of twelve members. This recommendation would, if implemented, not require any consequential variations to the proposed programme of Council and committee meetings. However, the Council's Constitution would need to be changed and Council would be recommended to authorise the Head of Law and Governance to make changes to the Constitution that would give effect to the recommendations in the report (see recommendation D).
3. On **Council procedures** (see Annex 6A and 6B), the majority group wishes to recommend the following amendments to those contained in the report:-
 - (a) **Public addresses – response by Board Member** – the report does not recommend any changes to the Constitution in terms of responses to addresses. It says (PR11.10(h) and (i)) that addresses that relate to something for decision at the meeting will be considered with that recommendation or report or motion, and addresses that are not about something for decision at the meeting will be referred to the Chief Executive without discussion. The majority group would like to recommend that the appropriate Board member be able, if they choose, to make a response to an address for a maximum of three minutes. If this recommendation is adopted PR11.10(h) and (i) will be amended by the addition of these words:-

“..... but the relevant Board member may respond for up to three minutes immediately following the address.”

(b) **Public addresses – numbers** – the report is recommending to Council that there should be a maximum of four addresses to Council, with up to two of those being on matters that are not for decision at the meeting and up to two of those being on matters that are for decision at the meeting. The majority group would like to recommend that there is no restriction on numbers of addresses. However, the majority group would like addresses ordered so that those that relate to matters on the agenda are heard first. If this recommendation is adopted PR11.10(f) will be deleted, PR11.10(e) will be adjusted and the deadline for addresses will be 1.00 p.m. at least four clear working days before the meeting.

(c) **Motions on notice** - the report is recommending to Council that there should be a limit on the number of Motions taken at each meeting and a limit on both the time taken to debate each Motion and on the length of time for dealing with all Motions. The majority group would like to change this so that there is no limit on the number of Motions included on the agenda for an ordinary meeting and no limit on the time taken to debate each Motion. It would like to recommend that the order in which Motions appear is sequential between groups. If this recommendation is adopted PR11.16(b), (d) and (e) would be deleted and replaced by the following:-

(b) Number of motions

There shall be no limit on the number of motions included on the agenda for an ordinary meeting of Council. No motions shall be taken at a special meeting of Council or at the annual meeting.

(c)

(d) Listing motions on the agenda

Motions will appear on the agenda in the order received and in the following order where received:

- One motion in the name of a member of the majority group
- One motion in the name of a member of the next largest group
- One motion in the name of a member of the next following largest group (where there is one),

and so on until ungrouped members are reached. The motion first received from ungrouped members will be taken.

Once one motion (where received) from each group and the first motion (where received) from any ungrouped members has been included on the agenda, the sequence will be repeated until all motions have been included.

(e) Time limits

There is a limit of 60 minutes for dealing with motions. Any motions where the debate has not started when the time limit is reached shall fall and not be taken at another meeting unless resubmitted in accordance with (a) and they will then be included on the agenda in the order set out in (d).

If the time limit is reached after a motion has been proposed and seconded and debate upon it has commenced the Lord Mayor shall direct Council to move immediately to 11.18(j) and to follow the procedure set out there to conclude the debate.

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