

## CONSTITUTION AND MEMBERS' DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

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| <b>Report title</b>   | Extraordinary Council Meetings   |   |
| <b>Chief Executive or Director</b>  | James Bromiley Strategic Director for Finance Governance and Support   |   |
| <b>Date</b>   | 27 April 2018  |   |
| <b>Purpose of the report</b>  | To consider possible amendments to the Council Procedure Rules as they relate to Extraordinary Council Meetings                          |   |
| <b>Summary of the report</b>  | The report suggests a minor alteration to the Council Procedure Rules, to provide clarity in relation to Extraordinary Council Meetings. |   |
| <b>If this is a key decision, which key decision test applies?*</b>   | Over the financial threshold (£150,000)  |   |
|   | Amends the Council's policy framework  |   |
|   | Affects two or more wards  |   |
|   | Non-key  | X |
| <b>If this is a confidential report, which category of exemption(s) from the Schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972 applies?</b> | <i>Not applicable</i>  |   |
| <b>Decision(s) asked for</b>  | That the proposed changes to the Council Procedure Rules are endorsed, and commended to Council for agreement.                           |   |
| <b>Impact of decision(s)</b>  | Members will have additional clarity in relation to Extraordinary Council Meetings.  |   |

### What is the purpose of this report?

- To set out the proposed changes to the Council Procedure rules, and to seek endorsement for the changes to proceed to Council.

### **Why is this report necessary?**

2. Following a number of Extraordinary Council Meetings in 2017, it is considered expedient to revise the Council Procedure Rules to provide additional clarity for Members. As a starting point, it should be noted that the provisions of Schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972 do not limit the nature of topic to be considered at an Extraordinary Council meeting.
3. During the 2017/18 Municipal Year the Council has had a number of requests for Extraordinary Council meetings, in line with the provisions set out in the Local Government Act 1972. However, the timescale for hosting such Extraordinary Council meetings has never been considered; the only requirement for such meetings is that they be called (i.e. the date of the meeting is fixed, and notice of the meeting date is published) within seven days of the request.
4. Presently, Rule 7 of the Council Procedure Rules states, in relation to Extraordinary Council meetings, that such meetings "... shall be held on such date and at such time as may be determined by the Chair."
5. In order to introduce clarity for those calling the meeting, and for all members, it is proposed that the above wording should be replaced with the following: **"... shall be held in accordance with Rule 7(c) below."**
6. It is then proposed that a new paragraph (c) be introduced to Rule 7, to read as follows:  
  
**"(c) Unless it appears to the Chair, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer, that the matter to be discussed at an Extraordinary Council meeting is so time-sensitive as to require an earlier meeting, all Extraordinary Council meetings requested will be convened for the rise of the next scheduled Ordinary Council meeting."**

### **What decision(s) are being asked for?**

7. That the Constitution and Members' Development Committee endorses the approach set out in the report, and commends it to Council for consideration and decision.

### **Why is this being recommended?**

8. The proposed changes will serve to assist Members in the future hosting of Extraordinary Council Meetings.

### **Other potential decisions and why these have not been recommended**

9. The only other option available would be to do nothing. This would leave Members in the current 'limbo' without the additional certainty which the suggested alteration would achieve.

## **Impact(s) of recommended decision(s)**

### **Legal**

10. There are no legal implications of the proposed changes.

### **Financial**

11. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

### **The Mayor's Vision for Middlesbrough**

12. The statement is line with the Mayor's vision for Middlesbrough.

### **Policy Framework**

13. The changes do not adversely impact upon the Council's policy framework.

### **Wards**

14. Not applicable. No wards are directly affected by this document.

### **Equality and Diversity**

15. An Impact Assessment has not been completed, as the changes will not adversely impact on any individual group.

### **Risk**

16. The proposed changes provide for the risk of delay to be managed in an appropriate manner.

### **Actions to be taken to implement the decision(s)**

17. Once approved the proposed changes to the Council Procedure Rules will be referred to Council for a decision.

### **Background to Proposal**

### **Appendices**

18. There are no appendices to this report.

### **Background papers**

19. There are no background papers to this report.