

**CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
19 NOVEMBER 2008**

RULES OF PROCEDURE - AMENDMENTS

RICHARD LONG: DIRECTOR OF LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To amend the Rules of Procedure as contained in Part 4 of the Constitution.

Background

- 2 Part 4 of the Constitution sets out the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Council and its Committees. These were amended at the Annual Meeting in May, when certain new procedures were introduced.
- 3 The amendments were intended to free up debate in Council, and to assist in the effective management of Council Meetings. However, it has been noted that there are a small number of minor amendments that could be made in order to ensure that the original aims and objectives are realised.

Proposed amendments

- 4 At present, the Constitution allows 30 minutes for the consideration of Executive Matters, in addition to consideration of any report and/ or statement by the Mayor. It is proposed that the Chair should have the discretion to extend this to 45 minutes where
 - (a) the extension is warranted because of the number of questions or comments that have been notified to the Chair in advance of the meeting; and
 - (b) the extension will not restrict consideration of the remainder of the Agenda

- 5 In order to ensure that the maximum number of Members are given the opportunity to participate in that part of the Council meeting that is allocated to Consideration of Executive Matters, it is proposed that no Member will be invited by the Chair to ask a second question, or make further comment, until all who wish to participate in this part of the Council business have had the chance to do so..
- 6 In order to ensure that Members are fully able to explore matters being addressed under Consideration of Executive Matters, it is proposed that the Chair should have the discretion to allow up to two supplementary questions following an Executive Member's answer to an initial question.
- 7 In order to ensure consistency and equity, during Consideration of Executive Matters Members will be called to speak in such a manner that reflects the political composition of the Council.
- 8 All of the above amendments were agreed by the Constitution Committee on 28 October 2008 and referred to Corporate Affairs Committee for incorporation into the Council's Constitution.

Recommendation

- 9 That Committee agrees for incorporation into the Council Constitution the proposed amendments to Section 15 of the Council Procedure Rules as set out in paragraphs 4 to 7 above.

Background Papers

Middlesbrough Council Constitution, Section 4

Author:

Chris Davies
(01642) 727904
chris.davies@middlesbrough.gov.uk