

Agenda item 9 **Council Issues**

1. Executive Statements

- 1.1 The Council has made numerous changes to the rules about executive statements over the last two years and as a result the drafting has become somewhat complex and it was apparent at the last meeting that it was being interpreted differently by different people.
- 1.2 As a result the Constitutional Working Group have undertaken a comprehensive review of the rules and they have been rewritten to be clear and to ensure there is a single understanding.
- 1.3 In summary, if the Council adopts the text below:
- The Leader nominates subjects, speakers and maximum lengths of statements at least two days before the meeting (late statements can, exceptionally, be accepted by the Chairman).
 - Statements can't be longer than 10 minutes or 20 minutes overall.
 - Leaders of groups can make statements of up to 3 minutes per statement each – either enbloc or after each statement, at the chairman's discretion.
 - Leader has up to 5 minutes to respond.
 - After the Leader has responded questions are permitted for a maximum length of time permitted by the Chairman.
- 1.4 If approved the new rules would apply for the October meeting.

Recommendation:

- (1) That paragraph 16.11.1 be replaced with:
- (i) An item ('Executive Statements') will be included on the agenda for every Council meeting other than an extraordinary meeting.
 - (ii) The purpose of an Executive Statement is to allow the Leader of the Council or a Cabinet Member to update the Council on current issues of importance that cannot be covered elsewhere as part of the usual business.
 - (iii) No executive statement may last more than 10 minutes. The executive statements made at a meeting shall not in total last more than 20 minutes. The maximum length of each statement shall be notified in accordance with (iv).
 - (iv) No statement shall be made unless
 - a. The subject of any proposed statement and the identity of the person who will be making it should be notified by the Leader to the Head of

Democracy and Transparency by 5pm two working days prior to the Council meeting. The Head of Democracy and Transparency will send an e-mail notification to all Members of the Council; or

- b. the Chairman agrees that there are exceptional circumstances which mean that the statement should be made notwithstanding that (a) has not been complied with. Any request under this paragraph must be made at the earliest possible opportunity to the Head of Democracy and Transparency. If the Chairman agrees the request the Head of Democracy and Transparency shall notify the leaders of all political groups at the earliest possible opportunity.
- (v) At the meeting, the Leader of the Council or Cabinet Member will be entitled to address the Council on the subject of the Statement for the time allocated.
- (vi) After a statement has been made or, at their discretion, after all statements have been made, the Chairman shall then invite leaders of opposition groups (or a member nominated by them) to make a statement in reply for up to three minutes for each statement that has been made.
- (vii) After all opposition group leaders (or their nominees) have had the opportunity to speak on all statements the Leader (or their nominee) shall have up to five minutes to respond.
- (viii) After the Leader has responded the Chairman will set a period of time during which Members of the Council may ask questions relating the statements. The originator of the Statement shall respond to the questions as they are raised or, at the discretion of the Chairman, at the end of all the questions.