

Meeting **Standards Committee 5 March 2024**

Title: **Changes to Council Standing Orders and Full Council Protocol**

Lead Officer: Ayshe Simsek Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager

Report authorised: Fiona Alderman Head of Legal and Governance and Monitoring Officer

1. Describe the issue under consideration.

- 1.1 This report takes forward the discussed changes to Council Standing Orders and the Full Council Protocol, relating to deletion of the Haringey debate provision, the meeting process for motions, Mayor’s communications and having additional oral council questions to allow wider back bench member involvement in Council meetings. These proposals are put forward following discussion and steer at the Constitution Working Group.
- 1.2 These changes are set out in track changes for the Committee to consider and put forward to the Full Council meeting on the 14th of March 2024 for adoption by Full Council and to take effect in the 2024/2025 municipal year.
- 1.3 The changes to the Council Protocol will be shared with the Leaders of the political groups as set out at page 1 of the Council Standing Orders.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

Not applicable

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 To consider Appendix 1 outlining track changes to the Full Council protocol and recommend adoption by Full Council on the 14th of March 2024.
- 3.2 To consider Appendix 2 for ease of reference which contains the proposed updated Full Council protocol without the track changes.
- 3.3 To consider Appendix 3, Council Procedure Rules, outlining resultant changes in yellow and recommend to Full Council for adoption on the 14th of March 2024 and for the changes to take effect from the Annual Council meeting on the 20th of May 2024.

4. Reasons for decision

The reasons for recommendations are set out within the report and summarised at paragraph 1.1.

5. Alternative options considered.

Not applicable

6. Background information

Motions not reached before 10pm

- 6.1 The changes to Council Procedure Rules attached at Appendix 3 allow motions that have not been reached to fall and be put forward to the next meeting. There was concern that this may cause confusion to the sequencing of motions at meetings, if motions that have not been reached have to go forward to the next meeting. However, reference to rule 13, means that the motion has to be resubmitted to the next meeting and it does not automatically get carried over to the next meeting. Rule 13 also sets out that the motions will be in a sequence alternated between groups from meeting to meeting and there is now an additional reference to the Council Protocol at 13.2 which prescribes the sequencing.

The number of speakers for motions or Council debates from each political group reflecting the political proportionality.

- 6.2 At the CWG meeting on the 19th of January and 26th of January, Option 2a was agreed and this was to prescribe the speakers for motion debate at the Ordinary meetings in the Full Council Protocol. It was agreed to have 2 motions per meeting and each motion have a total of 31 minutes. This is now set out at Appendix 1, paragraph 2.7 and the references added to Council Procedure Rules at Appendix 3 at paragraphs 13.2 and 15.1 approval as part of the Council Protocol.
- 6.3 There is additional information added to paragraph 2.7 on amendments to motions to provide clarity if both opposition groups put forward amendments.

Removing Haringey Debate

- 6.4 The meetings of CWG in September, October, January, agreed removing the Haringey debate and this included the mayoral charity focused debate as well. This is set out in track changes in Appendix 1 and 3.

Mayoral Communication

- 6.5 CWG have agreed to have a written report of Mayor's activities circulated and limit this item to 5 minutes in total. These 5 minutes will include responses to national and international or local events and a one-minute silence to pay respects to former members. An additional 5-minute provision is included for

awards or certificates. This update has been added to Full Council protocol set out at Appendix 1.

Council Oral Questions

6.6 At the meeting of CWG on the 26th of January, it was agreed to increase the opportunity for back bench member participation in the Council meetings and increase the number of oral questions from 6 to 9 and the time allocation from 30 minutes to 45 minutes. This is set out at Appendix 1, paragraph 3.1 and Appendix 3, paragraph 10.5.

Current agenda outline and time allocation for Ordinary Council meetings as a result of the changes is as follows:

1. Council Reports from committees [average two committee reports] 10 minutes
2. Mayors' communications 5 minutes
3. Provision for Leader announcements. – 5minutes (CSO 3.1 vii – applies to ordinary meetings)
4. Officer/ Chief whip reports – 5 minutes
5. Deputations provision - 30 minutes
6. Petitions debate – 25 minutes – if over 2643 signatories
7. Public question allocation 20 minutes. Actively seeking questions from local community groups and the community and promoting this facility proactively at community meetings.
8. **Councillor Questions 9 questions – 45 minutes** – 5 questions Majority group, 3 questions 1st Opposition and 1 question second opposition.
9. Two Motions on notice **[62 minutes]**

Total time 3hours and 22 minutes - petitions, deputations and public questions are not fixed expectation and if these were not received then the total time 2 hours and 7 minutes. Taking account that it is usual to have deputations at Council meetings, the timing is more likely to be 2hours and 37 minutes.

7. Contribution to strategic outcomes

The Council's Constitution supports the governance of the Council and its Decision making thereby assisting the Council to meet its strategic outcomes.

8. Statutory Officers comments (Chief Finance Officer (including procurement), Assistant Director of Corporate Governance, Equalities)

8.1 Finance and Procurement

8.2 No financial implications arise from this report.

8.3 Legal

8.4 These are set out within the report.

8.5 Equality

8.6 There are no equality matters in this report.

9. Use of Appendices

Full Council Protocol with Track changes – Appendix 1

Full Council Protocol without track changes - Appendix 2

Council Procedure Rules – Appendix 3

10. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

10.1 The Council Constitution which can be found at.

<http://www.haringey.gov.uk/local-democracy/about-council/council-constitution>