

Meeting **Standards Committee 5 November 2024**

Title: Changes to Council Standing Orders section 10 on submission date for public and Councillor oral and written questions

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 considers changes to the Council Standing Orders section on submission date for public and Councillor oral and written questions to allow more time for the answers to be researched and reviewed to ensure that they are in line with the Council Standing Orders.
- 1.2 Following queries at the Full Council meeting on the second supplementary questions and desktop research, the Constitution Working Group was asked to consider the procedure of second supplementary questions. There were two options put forward which included removing the provision of second supplementary questions or amendments for allocation of second supplementary questions to be in line for proportionality of the Council. There was not agreement at the meeting for removal of the second supplementary question provision and latter option required further consideration. This included consideration of how the process will work at council meetings to ensure equality and scrutiny of administration can be maintained but also that changes did not impact of the running and chairing of the Council meeting. This will continue to be considered at the CWG meeting on the 6th of November and changes put forward to the next meeting of Standards Committee.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

Not applicable

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 To consider paragraphs 6.1 to 6.2 and Appendix 1 outlining track changes to the Council Procedure Rules and increasing the working days for notice of Council questions from 8 to 10 days.
- 3.2 To recommend this change to Full Council on the 18th of November for adoption and to take effect for the 27th of March 2025 ordinary Council meeting.

4. Reasons for decision

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

5. Alternative options considered.

To note take forward the changes would impact on the support for meetings.

6. Background information

Council Oral Questions

- 6.1 Given the increased number of questions and need to ensure that questions are fully researched, and responses considered in accordance with CSO section 10 on questions, officers are requesting an additional **2** days being added to the timescale for submission/ notice of Council questions. This would mean amending 10.4a to allow 10 working days' notice of questions rather than 8 working days.
- 6.2 The Constitution working group considered this change in submission date and there were some queries about how current and reflective this would allow questions to be in the run up to a Council meeting. However, given that the increase was only 2 days and there was an increase in the number of questions that could be asked this was not felt to be a considerable issue. It was also noted that there was provision for emergency motions for more pressing current local matters or that the Leader of the council and Chief Executive announcements/ table reports on such urgent local matters that would allow questions to be put. Therefore, this change was recommended for approval.

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

Appendix 1 – CSO recommendation 3.1

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>