
LEADER'S REPORT TO COUNCIL

To: **Standards Committee – 4 September 2013**

By: **Democratic Services & Scrutiny Manager**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Summary: **To review the wording of Council Procedure Rule 2.2 in relation to the total time allowed for the Leader of the Council and other Group Leaders to speak**

For Information

1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 Council Procedure Rule 2.2, which governs the process by which the Leader's report is received and commented upon, currently provides that:

The Leader of the Council may make an oral report, not exceeding ten minutes, on key issues arising since the last meeting of Council.

The Leaders of any other Political Group may comment on the Leader's Report. The comments of the Leaders of the other Political Groups shall be limited each to five minutes. The other Group Leaders will comment in an order determined by the number of Councillors within those Political Groups, with the largest Group commenting first, and so on.

The Leader has a right of reply to each Group Leader limited to two minutes, in hierarchical order, to any comments made on his/her report.

The total time (including time slots as mentioned above) will be limited to 31 minutes.

The Leader of the Council and the Leader of any other Political Group may appoint substitutes to speak on their behalf.

No motions may be moved nor resolutions passed under this item.

- 1.2 The clause that, "The total time (including slots as mentioned above) will be limited to 31 minutes", was agreed by Council on the basis that there were three 'other Group Leaders' so the total time permitted reflected the addition of the various rights to speak at the time.

2.0 The Current Position

- 2.1 As there are now four 'other Group Leaders', 31 minutes is insufficient to give the Leader of the Council and other Group Leaders their allotted time slots.
- 2.3 It is suggested that the provision as to the "total time" be removed from Rule 2.2 altogether, as otherwise the Rule would have to be reviewed each time there was a change in the number of political groups.

2.4 No changes are proposed in respect of the timings that the individual Group Leaders can speak.

3.0 Recommendation of the Constitutional Review Working Party

3.1 At its meeting on 21 August 2013, the Constitutional Review Working Party agreed to recommend to Standards Committee that the following wording be removed from Council Procedure Rule 2.2:

“The total time (including time slots as mentioned above) will be limited to 31 minutes”.

4.0 Corporate Implications

4.1 Financial and VAT

4.1.1 There are no financial or VAT implications.

4.2 Legal

4.2.1 Any change to the existing Leader’s Report arrangements would require the Council’s constitution to be amended.

4.3 Corporate

4.3.1 The Council’s constitution sets out the rules governing the Council’s business.

4.4 Equity and Equalities

4.4.1 There are no equalities implications.

5.0 Recommendation

5.1 THAT Standards Committee recommends to Council that the following wording be removed from Council Procedure Rule 2.2:

“The total time (including time slots as mentioned above) will be limited to 31 minutes”.

6.0 Decision Making Process

6.1 Any recommendations of the Standards Committee will be referred to Council for final decision.

Future Meeting

Council	3 October 2013
---------	----------------

Contact Officer:	Glenn Back, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager, Ext 7187
Reporting to:	Harvey Patterson, Corporate & Regulatory Services Manager, Ext 7005

Annex List

None	
------	--

Background Papers

Title	Details of where to access copy
None	

Corporate Consultation Undertaken

Finance	N/A
Legal	N/A