



Classification	Item No.
Closed	

Meeting:	Democratic Arrangements Forum
Meeting date:	2 nd November 2023
Title of report:	Constitution Update
Report by:	Democratic Services
Decision Type:	
Ward(s) to which report relates	All

BACKGROUND

Current constitutional issues for discussion are set out within this briefing paper.

QUESTIONS TO COMBINED AUTHORITY

Following previous agreement reached at this Forum and duly approved by the Council, Council Members agreed that at every Council meeting;

Members would consider a report on the work of the CA and then a further 20 minutes for questions. Questions are asked through political group rotation and the sequence is dictated by political proportionality. In addition, that questions are required to be submitted 6 clear working days prior to the meeting.

At the last meeting, Group Leaders resolved to ask Democratic Services to review this element of the Full Council meeting.

Issues for decision:

Members are asked to consider:

- A proposal to change the current system to invite on a rotational basis Councillors to present an update on the work they are undertaking at the CA.

- Suggest 2 per meeting, Members to be asked to present for 5 minutes and take verbal questions for 5 minutes.
- Suggested persons to include:
Leader-Trailblazer and work of the CA / Cllr A Quinn – GMWDA / Cllr R Gold – GMP / Cllr Bernstein Cllr Rizvi – Scrutiny / Cllr Bayley - TfGM / Cllr Grimshaw – Pensions / Health – Cllr Tariq and any others identified by Group Leaders.
- As stipulated in the devolution deal, the GM Mayor to be invited to attend a Full Council meeting, once a year. It is proposed that the GM Mayor attends the 20th March Council meeting from 6pm to 7pm and gives a short presentation and a Q&A session.

ENSURING THE YOUNG PEOPLE’S VOICE IS INCLUDED IN DECISION MAKING

At a recent Youth Cabinet meeting young people discussed how their voice can be included in the decision-making process. The Youth Cabinet asked group leaders to consider the following:

The YC would like an opportunity to present a motion to a meeting of Full Council. The YC will proactively engage with young people and they have suggested that the YC draw together 2 or 3 motions for consultation and circulation across the Boroughs’ schools. The motion with the most support will be put before Council. Democratic Services will assist and provide advice to the Youth Cabinet in respective of the notice of motion.

Issues for decision

To consider the proposal to once a year, consider a notice of motion from Youth Cabinet at a Full Council meeting.

REVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

As part of the Annual Constitution review the financial regulations have been reviewed and updated a revised version of the Regulations will be presented to the next meeting of Full Council.

TIMINGS - SPEAKERS

During recent Municipal Years, there has been a number of occasions when the Councillors have failed to adhere to the speaking timings necessitating the mayor to interject.

Members are asked to review the timings for speakers as detailed below:

Purpose of speech	Who can make the speech	Length of speech
Present a report	Leader (or their nominee), Cabinet member, Committee chair	5 minutes
Propose original motion	Proposer	5 minutes

Second the motion	Secunder (may reserve their right to speak until the end of the debate)	3 minutes
Propose an amended motion	Any member other than proposer/secunder of original motion	3 minutes
Second an amended motion	Any member other than proposer/secunder of original motion	3 minutes
Speak during debate	Any member other than proposer and secunder of amended motion and proposer of the original motion	3 minutes
Right of reply to debate on amended motion	Proposer of original motion	3 minutes
Respond to specific question	Cabinet member	2 minutes
Propose the budget	Leader (or their nominee)	10 minutes
Second the budget	Deputy Leader (or their nominee)	5 minutes
Respond to budget proposals	Group leaders (or their nominee)	5 minutes
Right to reply to budget debate	Leader (or their nominee)	5 minutes
Moving a Budget Amendment	Opposition Leader (or their nominee)	5 minutes
Point of order	Any Member	2 minutes
Personal Explanation	Any Member	2 minutes
State of the Borough Debate	Leader or Deputy Leader	10 minutes

Issues for decision:

Members are asked to consider the current timing allocations and wider format of the meeting including allowing Group Leaders a set time to respond to the Leaders statement.