

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

15 May 2013

Business Conducted at Council Meetings

Report of the Director of Legal Services

1. Purpose of the report

To consider proposed changes to the business to be conducted and the order of business at meetings of the County Council.

2. Information and Analysis

The following changes are proposed to the business to be conducted and the order of business at meetings of the full Council.

(a) Report of the Leader of the Council

It is proposed that the Leader of the Council will present a report to Council on major and strategic issues.

(b) Report from the Cabinet

It is proposed that Council will receive a report from Cabinet detailing, in summary, the decisions taken at Cabinet meetings. This will replace the Cabinet minutes which are currently received by Council. Members will be permitted to ask questions in writing on the items in the report. The deadline for questions will be 12 noon on the day prior to the Council meeting. The position in relation of the receipt of other committee minutes by Council is being reviewed.

This procedure is provided for in the Model Constitution recently published by the Association of Council Secretaries and Solicitors and has been adopted in a number of other local authorities. It is considered that the procedure will assist communications between Cabinet and the Council and enable more considered responses to be provided by Cabinet Members in relation to issues arising.

(c) Presentations to Council

An item will be included on the Council agenda to allow for presentations by Council departments, voluntary and others organisations on matters of interest to the Council.

(d) Order of Business at Council Meetings

The changes proposed above will require a change in the order of business to be conducted at Council meetings as detailed in the Council's Procedure Rules (Part 4 of the Constitution). The proposed revised order of business is as follows:-

- (a) If necessary, the appointment of the Chair
- (b) Chair's announcements
- (c) Questions submitted by the public
- (d) Minutes of the previous meeting
- (e) Report of the Leader of the Council
- (f) Questions submitted by Members
- (g) Motions of which notice has been given
- (h) Report from Cabinet
- (i) Presentations

The Constitution provides that any proposed changes to it should be considered by the Standards Committee. Should Council agree to the proposed changes, a report will be presented to the Standards Committee. Any comments from the Standards Committee will be reported to the meeting of Council on 24 July 2013. If the Standards Committee commends the proposals, the proposals will be adopted and the Constitution amended accordingly.

3. Legal Considerations

As contained in the report.

4. Other considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors have also been considered: financial, prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, human resources, environmental, health, property and transport considerations

5. Background papers

File held by the Director of Legal Services.

6. Officer Recommendations

That, subject to consideration by the Standards Committee, the provisions of the Council's Rules of Procedure be amended to provide for:

- (a) a report of the Leader of the Council be included as an agenda item;
- (b) a report from Cabinet be included as an agenda item;
- (c) the order of business at Council meetings be amended as detailed in the report.

John McElvaney
Director of Legal Services