

**CIVIC AFFAIRS**15 May 2017  
6.00 - 6.25 pm

**Present:** Councillors McPherson (Chair), Benstead (Vice-Chair), Gawthrope, Holt and Robertson

**FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE COUNCIL****17/18CIVd Constitutional Amendments**

Committee agreed that the changes to Council Procedure Rules introduced in April 2016 had worked well and noted that there had been no feedback from Group Leaders to the contrary.

On the proposals in the officer report (paragraphs 4.6-4.9)

Length of speeches: the Committee agreed to be consistent with speaking times for Motion debates ie 3 minutes per councillor. However, Committee agreed that Ex Cllr/Chair and spokes should be permitted up to 5 minutes.

Extraordinary meetings: the Committee agreed that public questions at Extraordinary Meetings of Council should only relate to that item, but did not agree that they should be submitted by 10am the day before. It should be consistent with other meetings ie. you can ask a question if it is an item on the agenda without prior notice.

County Councillors on Area Committees: the Committee agreed the proposal in the report with the clarification that only a city councillor can be a Chair or Vice Chair.

Appointment to outside bodies: the Committee agreed with the proposal. It was clarified that the arrangement would only apply for appointments 'within Group'.

The Committee noted a further proposal concerning the ability for Groups with more than one seat on a Scrutiny Committee to appoint 2 Alternate Members. The Committee noted that the Group Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group had been notified of this proposal but not in time for nominations to reflect this. Updates will be included in the Information Pack published the day before the Annual Meeting.

**Resolved:**

To recommend to Council the changes to Council as set out below in **bold text and “”**:

**Council Procedure Rules**

6. Appointment Of Alternate Members Of Committees And Sub-Committees

6.2 Number

6.2.1 For each committee or sub-committee, the Council (or committees in respect of sub-committees) will appoint one alternate member in respect of each political group represented on that committee or sub-committee, **“and two in the case of the major Scrutiny Committees for groups with more than one Committee member,”** but shall not appoint an alternate member for a political group which declines to nominate an alternate member.

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21. Length of speeches

Generally

21.1 **“Except for Executive Councillors, Chairs and spokespersons, who may speak for up to 5 minutes,”** no other speech shall subject to the exceptions provided elsewhere in Council Procedure Rules exceed **“3 minutes”** length (without the consent of the Council given by reason of the exceptional importance of the subject and which consent shall be ascertained by the Mayor either on his/her own initiative or on a motion made which shall be put without amendment or discussion. Provided that it shall be within the discretion of the Mayor to permit up to a further 3 minutes beyond the time so mentioned without the necessity for any such consent.

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**PART 4B-ACCESS TO INFORMATION RULES-APPENDIX 2 PUBLIC SPEAKING RIGHTS**

**“Extraordinary Council Meetings – public questions will only be taken on the single item of business for which the extraordinary meeting has been called.”**

#### Part 4EE-AREA COMMITTEE PROCEDURE RULES

##### 4. Co-opted Members

4.1 Each area committee shall invite county councillors **“where the clear majority of a County Council Division is within”** the area to be co-opted members. **“County Councillors may vote on all matters except for any decision relating to city council funding and the election of the Chair and Vice-Chair.”** Area committees may appoint such other non-voting co-opted members as they choose. Co-opted members may be appointed either in respect of the whole work of the area committee, or in respect of specific aspects of that work.

6.1 An area committee shall, at its first meeting of the municipal year, elect **“City Councillors as”** Chair and Vice Chair.....

6.1.2 In the absence from any meeting of the Chair and Vice Chair, a **“City Councillor as”** Chair for that meeting.....