

Amendments to Standing Orders	17 September 2019
Corporate Policy and Resources Committee For Decision	

Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)	
Strategic Theme	Leader and Champion
Outcome	Provide civic leadership to our citizens
Lead Officer	Chief Executive
Cost: (If applicable)	Staff time to rework £200.

1.0 Background

Following feedback from Elected Members about Standing Orders the Governance Working Group considered a number of amendments.

2.0 Proposed amendments to Standing Orders

New Standing Order 4 (5): Allocation of Seats. Seating of Members in the Council Chamber shall be through mutual arrangement between the various political parties and any independent Members. Any points of dispute shall be decided by the Council.

New Standing Order 7 (6): Quorum count out. If the attention of the Mayor is called by a Member of Council or the Chief Executive to the fact that there is not a quorum present, the Chief Executive shall call the roll of Members, and if there is not a quorum present, the Mayor shall declare the meeting of Council at an end, and the names of those who are present and those who are absent shall be recorded on the minutes of the Council.

New Standing Order 13.3: Discussion on Committee Minutes. The Chairpersons of each of the Standing Committees shall propose that the minutes of the proceedings of the Committee for which they are the Chairperson are "approved and adopted" and the Mayor shall immediately thereafter seek a seconder for that motion. Any amendment to be moved by any Member in relation to that motion shall be about a matter which is included in the minutes submitted to the meeting. Where possible, amendments to be moved should be sent to the Chief Executive in advance of the meeting of the Council. Any Member who wishes to receive further information regarding any matters appearing in the minutes submitted to the Council for approval shall where possible put requests in writing to the Chairperson of the Committee concerned before the commencement of the Council meeting and he/she shall be entitled to a reply when the proceedings of the particular Committee are submitted for approval.

Standing Order 15.1 (1): Motions (to be received by email);

Notice of every motion, other than a motion which under Standing Order 15.2 may be moved without notice, shall be given in writing by hard copy or email, signed by the Member or Members of the Council giving the notice and seconded, to the Clerk not later than at least seven clear days before the next Meeting of the Council. This will be date and time stamped. The motion must be clear in meaning otherwise it shall be rejected within 48 hours until such time as it is resubmitted in clear language, and not later than seven clear days before the meeting. Those members seconding shall either sign the hard copy or be copy addressees in the email. There should be a check that the seconder is content.

Standing Order 15.1 (6): Numbers of Notice of Motion. Retain the limit at 3 per Council meeting.

Standing Order 18. Rules of Debate for all Council business

18.4 Mode of Address. A Member shall direct his/her speech to the question under discussion or to a personal explanation or to a point of order. All Members are to direct their comments through the Mayor /Chair.

New Standing Order 18.12: Explanations. A Member who has been referred to by another Member during a speech and has had ascribed to him/her an opinion which they feel to be inaccurate may, with the consent of the Mayor, give a short explanation of the matter at the conclusion of the speech in which they are referred to, regardless of whether or not they have already spoken on the matter under discussion. This explanation must deal solely with the issue at hand, must not introduce new arguments and not in effect be a new speech on the matter. A Member giving such an explanation must end their contribution if the Mayor shall so direct. The Mayor should permit an explanation to be provided if improper conduct or an improper motive has been alleged against the member wishing to give the explanation.

Standing Order 18.4: Mode of Address. Members of Council shall address other Members by their respective title of “Mr / Madam Mayor”, “Deputy Mayor”, “Chairperson”, “Alderman” or “Councillor”. When a Member is called to speak he/she shall not be interrupted except as provided for in these Standing Orders.

New Standing Order 24.5: Offensive expression. A Member shall not impute motives or use offensive expression in reference to any Member of the Council or Council Official.

Standing Order Annex C Paragraph 55: Precedence at Civic Events (to include MLAs);

At civic events organised by Council the order of precedence will be as follows:

1. Mayor (and Mayoress/Consort, if present);
2. Deputy Mayor (and Deputy Mayoress/Consort if present);
3. Member of Parliament;
4. Members of the Legislative Assembly;
5. Mayor’s Chaplain (where appropriate);
6. Aldermen and Councillors;
7. Chief Executive.

In the event of any need to amend this order the order of precedence will be determined by the Chief Executive.

3.0 Recommendation

Members are asked to review the amendments. Suggested implementation would be October 2019.