

Report of the Monitoring Officer

Deputy Leader's report to Council

1. Background

- 1.1 Both the previous Council procedure rules and those which came into force at the last meeting of Full Council make arrangements for a report from the Leader of the Council to be presented at each meeting and for the Leader to be questioned on that report. The rules were drafted in the context of the Council having previously been led by single party administrations either with or without an overall majority.
- 1.2 The current circumstances are, of course, different with a joint administration. There is an argument that it is right to provide Council with the opportunity to hold to account both the Leader and the Deputy Leader.
- 1.3 This Committee did consider the principle of introducing a Deputy Leader's report at its last meeting as part of its consideration of wider issues relating to democratic governance. Although differing views were expressed the majority of the Committee did not support the proposal. The proposal which came forward at the last meeting was for an "in principle" discussion only. There was limited detail provided of how such a system might work and one concern Members had was as to how it might be accommodated recognising the time pressures which exist at the Council meeting. The following specific proposal is therefore being put forward for consideration.
- 1.4 The proposal is that the existing rules for Cabinet Member reports will apply to the report of the Deputy Leader. He or she will therefore formally move receipt of the report but will not otherwise speak to it. There will be a ten minute slot allocated for questions of the report. In order to accommodate this, the Deputy Leader's

right to respond to the Leader's report will be removed saving five minutes. A further five minutes may be saved by reducing the time for questions on the Leader's report from fifteen to ten minutes.

- 1.5 Audit and Governance Committee is asked to formally refer this proposal to Council with such comments as the Committee wishes to make in relation to it.

2. Consultation

- 2.1 This report is being Audit and Governance Committee by way of consultation before the proposal is referred to Council.

3. Council Plan

- 3.1 Allowing opportunities to present and scrutinise the policies and actions of the joint administration will assist in achieving all Council plan priorities

4. Implications

- 4.1 Legal - any change to the existing Council procedure rules will require a decision of Full Council. There are no other implications which need to be reported.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 Members are requested to refer to full Council a proposal that:

- a) The Council Procedure rules include provision for a report from the Deputy Leader

- b) The existing rules for Cabinet Members' reports be applied to the report of the Deputy Leader

- c) The Deputy Leader's right to respond to the Leader's report be removed from the Constitution

- d) The time for questions on the Leader's report be reduced from fifteen to ten minutes

Reason – to allow Full Council to consider the introduction of a Deputy Leader's report

5.2 Members are requested to make comments on the proposal to be reported to Council

Reason

To enable Council to have the benefit of the Committee's advice when debating the proposal

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the report:
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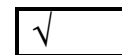
**Report
Approved**



Date 14/09/2015

Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

None

Annexes

None