

<b>Recommendation to Council on 18 April 2013</b>	<b>From: General Purposes Committee on 14 March 2013</b>	<b>Item 11 (c)</b>
	<b>Business at Council Meetings</b>	
1.	Council is asked to approve the following recommendations:-	
	<p><b>1</b> that the Constitution be amended to include provision for up to two motions on notice at the budget setting meeting of the Council and up to two motions on notice at the annual meeting of the Council subject in both cases to the matter being significant or time critical and to the Chairman's agreement, after consultation with the Monitoring Officer, being secured at least 7 clear working days in advance of the meeting to include the motions in the business of the meeting as set out in Appendix A;</p> <p><b>2</b> that paragraph 15.1 of Part B5 of the Constitution be amended to remove the provision for ward presentations at the budget setting meeting of the Council as set out in Appendix B.</p>	
	<b>Background</b>	
2.	The General Purposes Committee considered a report by the Monitoring Officer which advised of the concern expressed by a Member that due to the budget setting Council meeting being followed by the annual Council meeting, at neither of which could the minority groups raise issues through notices on motion and written questions, there was no opportunity over a lengthy period for minority groups to raise issues at Council meetings. A request had therefore been made by the Member that the position be reviewed.	
3.	The Monitoring Officer reminded the meeting of the existing provisions within the Constitution which allowed Members to raise issues at ordinary meetings of Council; these being through written questions, notices of motion and ward presentations. He also reminded the Committee that the annual meeting of the Council could not include written questions, notices of motion or ward presentations on its agenda whilst the budget setting meeting could not include written questions or notices of motion, although ward presentations were permitted.	

4.	The Committee noted that attempts had been made in the past to include an ordinary meeting of the Council following the budget setting meeting, without increasing the overall number of Council meetings throughout the year, but this had proved to be impractical. The revised timetable would not be conducive to the cycle of Executive meetings which, in turn, needed to mesh with overview and scrutiny committee meeting dates.	
5.	Members noted that while ward presentations could provide information to a meeting of the Council no debate was permitted nor was there opportunity to ask questions and no motions could arise for the Council to vote on. Written questions provided a means of drawing a matter to the Council's attention but a reply could be secured from the relevant Executive Member outside of the Council meeting. The Committee was advised that, of the mechanisms available, it was motions on notice that allowed full debate at a meeting and a resolution to undertake specific action.	
6.	It was suggested that the Constitution could be amended to allow a limited number of notices on motion to be considered at the budget setting meeting and the annual Council meeting subject to their meeting certain provisions such as the agreement of the Chairman in consultation with the Monitoring Officer and the issues raised being time critical and significant in nature.	
7.	Members also considered introducing consistency between the budget setting meeting and the annual meeting by removing the provision for ward presentations at the former.	
8.	It was subsequently resolved that the Monitoring Officer be authorised to draft wording to amend the Constitution, reflecting the Committee's views as detailed above, for recommendation to Council.	
<b>Appendices</b>	Appendix A	Additional Paragraph to Notices of Motion under the Full Council Procedure Rules (Part B5 of the Constitution).
	Appendix B	Tracked Changes to Paragraph 15.1 under the Full Council Procedure Rules (Part B5 of the Constitution).