

Central Bedfordshire Council

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

7 December 2017

REPORT ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS FOR PROCEDURES FOR MOTIONS

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Purpose of this report

1. To propose amendments to the procedures for dealing with motions at Council to provide more clarity on the procedure.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to:

1. Recommend the proposed amendments to Council

Overview and Scrutiny Comments/Recommendations

2. This Report sets out proposed amendments to the Constitution which comes within the remit of the General Purposes Committee and Council.

Introduction

2. Part 4A of the Council's Constitution details the procedures for dealing with motions at full Council. These rules of procedure can be followed by both Executive and other Committees if considered appropriate.
3. Rule 17 details the procedure for giving notice of a motion. Rule 18 details motions which may be moved without notice and Rule 19 provides the Rules of Debate of motions including minor alterations.
4. Currently the Rules do not require proposals for amendments to motions to be in writing or to be provided prior to a meeting.

5. Written notice of proposed amendments would however improve quality of decision making as Members would be able to fully understand and appreciate the full effect of the proposed amendments on the original motion.

Proposed amendments

6. It is proposed that Part 4A of the Constitution, Rule 17 is amended to require proposals for amendments to motions to be providing in writing to the Monitoring Officer at least one clear working day prior to a meeting.
7. It is also proposed that Rule 18 is amended to remove the ability to amend a motion without notice. Minor alterations to a motion by the Member can still be made by that Member under Rule 19.9.
8. The above suggested amendments to Part 4A of the Constitution together with ancillary amendments are detailed as tracked changes in Appendix A with a clean copy at Appendix B.
9. A typographical error to the numbering of Rule 19.12.1.9 has also been corrected and is show in Appendix A.
10. If these amendments are adopted and the Constitution changed accordingly there will be greater clarity for both Members and public in relation to the procedures for debating motions resulting in better decision making.

Council Priorities

11. The effectiveness of the Council's governance arrangements contributes to the achievement of all the Council's priorities. Having clearer procedures will assist with this.

Corporate Implications

Risk Management

12. There are no specific risk issues arising from this report.

Staffing (including Trades Unions)

13. There are no specific staffing issues arising from this report,

Legal Implications

14. None except as detailed in the report.

Financial Implications

15. This report raises no specific financial implications at this time.

Equalities Implications

16. Central Bedfordshire Council has a statutory duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and foster good relations in respect of nine protected characteristics; age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. A clearer Constitution will assist with access by the public in general.

Conclusion and next Steps

17. A recommendation to Council for the changes detailed in Appendix A will be required.

Appendices

The following Appendices are attached:

Appendix A – Amended extracts from Part 4A of the Constitution (tracked)

Appendix B – Amended extracts from Part 4A of the Constitution (clean copy)