

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

8 MARCH 2010

CABINET PROCEDURE RULES: Questions at Cabinet Meetings

Report of the Assistant Director of Law and Administration

At the last Constitution Committee meeting on the 12 January 2010, the Committee considered a paper about a protocol for questions at Cabinet meetings. The Monitoring Officer was asked to draw up amendments to the Constitution to implement the proposals discussed.

Cabinet meetings are regulated by the Cabinet Procedure Rules in Part 4 of the Constitution. An additional Rule 9 is proposed and a draft thereof is attached at Annex A to this report.

The draft follows the wording in the Constitution for questions at Council. It is felt that having a protocol as similar as possible to that applicable to full Council meetings will simplify the process for all concerned, e.g. time limits for one will not be confused with time limits for the other.

The draft also combines questions from Members with questions from the public, in order to keep the new rule as short as possible. There is no reference to questions on Police Authority matters as there is for Council.

Members are asked to consider the wording of the draft and also, specifically, whether oral questions should be permitted or not.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT:

1. Members consider and approve, with or without modification, the draft of Cabinet Procedure Rule 9 relating to Questions at Cabinet Meetings as set out in Annex A; and
2. The resulting version of the new Cabinet Procedure Rule be recommended to Cabinet for adoption.

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