

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

15 January 2018

URGENT QUESTIONS AT CABINET

1. Introduction

At the full Council meeting on 6 December 2017, it was agreed that the arrangements for members of the public to ask oral questions at meetings of full Council be amended under Part 4 of the Council's Constitution, section 9, Procedural Standing Orders, to the following:

9.11 A member of the public may ask an urgent question, which the Chairperson considers could not have been reasonably submitted by the deadline for the receipt of written questions, within the 30 minutes set aside for written questions, providing that he or she gives notice of the question to the Chief Executive by 12 noon the day before the meeting.

2. Arrangements for Cabinet

2.1 The current arrangements for the asking of oral questions by members of the public at meetings of the Cabinet are determined under Part 4 of the Council's Constitution, section 9, Cabinet Procedural Rules:

9.4 An oral question may be asked by a member of the public about any item on the Cabinet agenda for that meeting provided that he or she gives notice of the question to the Chief Executive at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the meeting.

2.2 It is proposed that the arrangements for the asking of oral questions at Cabinet meetings be amended to mirror the changes to the arrangements for meetings of the full Council, whilst maintaining that questions can only be asked about items on the Cabinet agenda.

3 Recommendation

That the Constitution Committee consider the proposed changes to the Constitution, as set out in Annex A.