

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

15 January 2018

MOTIONS WITH NOTICE AND SPEECHES AT FULL COUNCIL

1. Introduction

At the Constitution Committee meeting on 9 October 2017, members considered a proposal to increase the amount of time allocated for Motions with Notice to be debated at meetings of full Council. Following a discussion, it was agreed that the issue be referred to Group Leaders for their consideration.

2. Arrangements for the length of speeches at full Council

2.1 At its meeting on 1 December 2017, Group Leaders considered the timings of motions at full Council, and the arrangements for the length of speeches on motions.

2.2 The current arrangements for the length of speeches at full Council are determined under Part 4 of the Council's Constitution, section 13, Procedural Standing Orders:

13.4 *Content and length of speeches*

Speeches must be directed to the matter under discussion or to a personal explanation or point of order. No speech may be longer than five minutes without the agreement of the Chairperson.

Exceptions to this rule are:

13.4.1 *A Member who puts forward a motion may speak to it for not more than ten minutes and may also speak in reply to it at the end of the debate for not more than five minutes. This Standing Order does not apply to a speech made under Procedural Standing Order 12.2;*

13.4.2 *A Member presenting or answering questions on reports of committees or Cabinet may not speak for more than 10 minutes unless otherwise agreed by the Chairperson.*

2.3 Group Leaders discussed the merits of shortening the length of speeches at meetings of full Council to maximise the time available for Motions with Notice. The suggestions were to reduce the time limits from no longer than ten minutes to five minutes for the proposer and from five minutes to three minutes for other speakers. The arrangements under 13.4.2 would remain the same as they are not related to Motions with Notice.

3 Recommendation

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