

**RECORD OF OUTCOMES FROM THE CONSTITUTION AND ETHICS  
COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD AT 7:00PM, ON  
MONDAY, 29 OCTOBER 2018  
BOURGES/VIERSEN ROOM, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH**

**1. COUNCIL MEETINGS – TIMINGS AND STANDING ORDERS**

The recommendation in relation to amending the Council's Standing Orders to include a time limit on the debate of motions on notice to not exceed 30 minutes per motion and to reduce the entire time for motions on notice to two hours was not moved.

A vote was taken (4 voted in favour, 3 voted against, 0 abstain from voting) and the Constitution and Ethics Committee **RECOMMENDED** that Full Council amend the Council's Standing Orders to reflect that questions at Council were to relate to broader council matters. Questions relating to Ward specific issues would receive a written response and be published as part of the minutes.

The recommendation to amend the Council's Standing Orders to include a 20 minute time limit allocated to Questions on Executive Decisions was not moved.

A vote was taken (1 voted in favour, 6 voted against, 0 abstain from voting) to recommend that Full Council amend the Council's Standing Orders to allow Members to remain seated while addressing the Chairman. The recommendation was **DEFEATED**.

A vote was taken (unanimous) and the Constitution and Ethics Committee **RECOMMENDED** that Full Council note that these changes would take effect at the following meeting.

**AGREED ACTION**

The Constitution and Ethics Committee agreed (unanimous) that a survey be undertaken with all Elected Members to seek their opinion on amending the start time of Full Council from 7.00pm to 6.00pm, with the guillotine to be triggered after four hours at 10.00pm with the results to be reported back to the next meeting.

The Constitution and Ethics Committee agreed (unanimous) that an item be added to the work programme in relation to the Full Council debate procedure for motions and amendments.

**2. PETITIONS SCHEME – MATTERS THAT CAN BE DEALT WITH**

A vote was taken (unanimous) and the Constitution and Ethics Committee **RECOMMENDED** that Full Council amend the Petitions Scheme and Council Standing Orders to allow urgent petitions to be considered at the Annual Council meeting.

A vote was taken (6 voted in favour, 0 voted against, 1 abstained from voting) and the Constitution and Ethics Committee **RECOMMENDED** that Full Council adopt the updated Petitions Scheme as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

A vote was taken (unanimous) and it was **RESOLVED** that the Constitution and Ethics Committee agreed to maintain the current petition threshold levels for debate at Council (500 signatures), Cabinet (50 signatures), and Scrutiny (50 signatures).

### 3. WHISTLE BLOWING POLICY

A vote was taken (unanimous) and the Constitution and Ethics Committee **RECOMMENDED** that Full Council amend the constitution to pass the delegated responsibility for the council's whistleblowing policy and oversight from the Constitution and Ethics Committee to the Council's Audit Committee.

### 4. CIVIC PROTOCOLS - UPDATE

A vote was taken (unanimous) and the Constitution and Ethics Committee **RECOMMENDED** that Full Council agree the updated Civic Protocols as attached at Appendix 1 to the report, subject to the correction of typographical errors and the alteration of wording around companions to the Mayor to refer to male companions as 'Consort' and female companions as 'Mayoress'.

### 5. UPDATES ON NATIONAL ISSUES

#### AGREED ACTION

The Constitution and Ethics Committee agreed (unanimous) that it be suggested to the Mayor whether food and refreshment be reinstated after meetings of Full Council, for a contribution from Members.

### 6. REPORT ON CODE OF CONDUCT ISSUES

A vote was taken (5 voted in favour, 0 voted against, 2 abstained from voting) and it was **RESOLVED** that the Constitution and Ethics Committee requested that, in relation to the complaint with an outstanding apology, the Monitoring Officer seek the apology once more and if it was not forthcoming she should write to the appropriate person within the relevant Political Group to raise the issue and recommend that appropriate Group action be taken.

### 7. WORK PROGRAMME

A vote was taken (unanimous) and it was **RESOLVED** that the Constitution and Ethics Committee:

1. noted and agreed the Work Programme for the remained of the municipal year 2018/19, subject to the addition of an item on Full Council debate on motions and amendments, and
2. agreed to change the meeting in January from 7 January 2019 to 28 January 2019, to allow reports to be ready following the Christmas shutdown.