

# Leaders' Committee AGM

## Constitutional Matters – Amendments to London Councils Standing Orders

Item no: 15B

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### **Summary:**

This report proposes a number of amendments to London Councils Standing Orders.

These provide additional clarity to procedures and consistency of wording throughout the document. The changes are minor and do not alter the provisions for managing meetings.

### **Recommendations:**

Leaders' Committee is asked to agree to the proposed amendments to London Councils Standing Orders, as detailed in Appendix 1.



## **Constitutional Matters – Amendments to London Councils Standing Orders**

1. London Councils Standing Orders (SOs) are contained in Schedule 6 of the Leaders' Committee Governing Agreement. In accordance with section 27.2 of the SOs, they can be amended by a decision of London Councils Leaders' Committee. The SOs have been amended a number of times since 2001. The current version was approved by Leaders' Committee on 2 June 2015.
2. The proposed amendments are detailed in Appendix 1. The current SOs and a revised version, as proposed, are available as background papers.
3. There are two changes of substance:

### **a) Declarations of interest**

Declarations of interest are covered by SO 20 and very much follow guidance issued by government. However, they are framed quite narrowly and a further SO is proposed to give members the opportunity to declare an interest that they feel may be relevant but is not caught by the SOs as existing.

### **b) New Urgency Arrangements for Sub-Committees**

Under the urgency arrangements in the current SOs, urgent matters of a Sub-Committee may be dealt with by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Elected Officers of the relevant joint committee. In some instances these arrangements do not provide sufficient flexibility because consultation is required with the Elected Officers of the relevant joint committee rather than the equivalent members of the Sub-Committee. New urgency arrangements are therefore proposed as set out in the Appendix.

4. There are further changes which are intended to provide additional clarity to procedures and for consistency, for example clarifying how arrangements for meetings are made. Some further minor drafting changes are also proposed to ensure clarity of language throughout the document. These minor drafting changes are not included in the Appendix attached but a version including all the proposed changes can be provided upon request.
5. Finally, it should be noted that in accordance with SO 1.8, sub-committee and forum substitute appointments must be made by the relevant joint committee in accordance with the political balance rules, unless the terms of reference (or constitution) of a sub-

committee or forum makes specific provision for the make up of its membership. These substitute appointments should be made at the relevant joint committee's AGM for the ensuing year.

## **Recommendations**

Leaders' Committee is asked to:

- Agree to the proposed amendments to London Councils Standing Orders as detailed in Appendix 1.

## **Financial Implications for London Councils**

There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

## **Legal Implications for London Councils**

It is necessary that changes to London Councils governance documents are properly made in a manner which is consistent with the joint committees' Governing Agreements. Leaders' Committee has the authority to approve changes to London Councils Standing Orders. Should these revised Standing Orders be approved, they will be deemed to be substituted as Schedule 6 to the Leaders' Committee Governing Agreement.

## **Equalities Implications for London Councils**

There are no specific equalities implications for London Councils from this report.

## **Appendix 1: Proposed amendments to London Councils Standing Orders**

### **Background Documents:**

- The current Standing Orders (last revised June 2015)
- A revised version of London Councils Standing Orders as proposed in this Report