

Report to:	COUNCIL
Relevant Officer:	Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Partnerships
Relevant Cabinet Member:	Councillor Simon Blackburn, Leader of the Council
Date of Meeting:	28 June 2017

EXECUTIVE, AUDIT COMMITTEE AND COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY REPORTS TO COUNCIL

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To consider proposed changes in relation to time limits on speeches relating to Executive, Audit Committee and Combined Fire Authority reports to Council.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To agree that Procedural Standing Order 10.3 for Council meetings is amended to allow for a period of not more than 25 minutes for questions and comments on the report of each Senior Executive Member, a nominated Fire Authority representative and the Chairman of Audit Committee and that respondents are given a period of not more than 25 minutes to answer.
- 2.2 That the Director of Governance and Partnerships be authorised to amend the Constitution accordingly.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 To allow for sufficient time for questions to be raised of Senior Executive Members, the nominated Fire Authority representative and the Chairman of Audit Committee and for responses to be given.
- 3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No
- 3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes
- 3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:
- To remain with the current time limits for questions to / responses from Senior Executive

Members, the nominated Fire Authority representative and the Chairman of Audit Committee.

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The proposed change will help the Council achieve all of its priorities.

5.0 Background Information

5.1 On 8 July 2015, the Council agreed a revised procedure for reports of Senior Executive Member reports, the Chairman of the Audit Committee and a representative from the Combined Fire Authority. This included the provision for a period of 15 minutes for oral questions or comments from members on each report, at the expiry of which, respondents would be given ten minutes to answer.

6.0 Proposals

6.1 There have been a number of occasions at recent Council meetings, where members have agreed to additional time for questions / comments from members as well as time for respondents, in order that reports from Senior Executive Members can be debated more fully.

6.2 The proposals therefore ask the Council to consider amending the Procedural Standing Orders to extend the time limit to 25 minutes for questions or comments and similarly extend the time limit to 25 minutes for responses. This would apply to reports of Senior Executive Member reports, the Chairman of the Audit Committee and a representative from the Combined Fire Authority.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

List of Appendices:

None

7.0 Legal considerations:

7.1 Any changes to the Constitution require Council approval.

8.0 Human Resources considerations:

8.1 None

9.0 Equalities considerations:

9.1 None

10.0 Financial considerations:

10.1 None

11.0 Risk management considerations:

11.1 The proposals ensure that Executive Members are held to account.

12.0 Ethical considerations:

12.1 One of the Council's values is accountability and these proposals help enforce this principle.

13.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

13.1 None.

14.0 Background papers:

14.1 None