

Meeting of the City Council

7 December 2022

Report title	Changes to the Constitution – Rules of Debate	
Referring body	Governance and Ethics Committee – 24 November 2022	
Councillor to present report	Councillor John Reynolds	
Wards affected	All Wards	
Cabinet Member with lead responsibility	Councillor Paula Brookfield; Governance and Equalities	
Accountable director	David Pattison, Chief Operating Officer	
Originating service	Governance	
Accountable employee	David Pattison	Chief Operating Officer
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Report has been considered by	Governance and Ethics Committee	24 November 2022

Recommendation for decision:

The Council is recommended to:

1. Approve the amendments to the Constitution as detailed in this report.
2. Authorise the Monitoring Officer to implement the changes.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To approve the changes in the constitution, particularly the Rules of Debate, as set out in the report.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 On 24 November 2022, Governance and Ethics Committee considered a report on Changes to the Constitution – Rules of Debate.
- 2.2 Copies of the report have been supplied to Councillors and can also be accessed online on the Council's website [here](#).
- 2.3 Governance and Ethics Committee recommended that Council:

Approve the Changes in the Constitution, particularly the Rules of Debate, as set out below:

Section 14.1 (l.) to be amended to state 'that the meeting continue beyond 3½ hours in duration **by a fixed time with no further extension** under rule 8.1.'

Section 10.1 be amended to state 'The statement will last no more than ~~40~~ **8** minutes.'

Section 10.3 be added to state '**The Leader of the Council, or a Councillor nominated by them, will have the right to reply. The right to reply will last no more than 2 minutes.**'

Section 16.1 Majority to be amended to state 'Unless the constitution provides otherwise any matter will be decided by a simple majority of those Councillors voting and present at the time the question was put – **for the avoidance of doubt in the event that a named vote is called (or required) only those Councillors present at the start of the named vote will be entitled to vote.**'

3.0 Financial implications

- 3.1 The financial implications are detailed in the Governance and Ethics Committee report of 24 November 2022.

4.0 Legal implications

- 4.1 The legal implications are detailed in the Governance and Ethics Committee report of 24 November 2022.

5.0 Equalities implications

5.1 The equalities implications are detailed in the Governance and Ethics Committee report of 24 November 2022.

6.0 All other Implications

6.1 All other implications are detailed in the Governance and Ethics Committee report of 24 November 2022.

7.0 Schedule of background papers

7.1 Changes to the Constitution – Rules of Debate, Governance and Ethics Committee, 24 November 2022.