

COUNCIL MEETING 10TH FEBRUARY 2021

AMENDMENT TO NOTION OF MOTION AS SET OUT AT ITEM 9.B OF THE COUNCIL AGENDA

In accordance with Procedural Rule 10.4.1 of Part 4 of the Council Constitution the following amendment was received in the names of County Borough Councillors P. Jarman, H. Fychan, D. Grehan, E. Griffiths, J. Williams, A. Cox, S. Rees-Owen, M. Weaver, G. Davies, E. Webster, A. Chapman, S. Evans, J. Cullwick, J. Davies, K. Morgan, L. Jones and E. Stephens:-

The Council requests that an Officer report is presented to a meeting of the Corporate Governance & Constitution Committee setting out the following proposals for consideration:

~~*{Delete: That any Members questions submitted for answering at council that the answers to are readily available on the council's website or have been included in information supplied by Members Services to Members in the previous six months shall be rejected. And the Member directed to the relevant and easily available information*~~

~~*{Insert: This Council presumes this motion is tabled as a consequence of the unanswered question tabled on the 11th November 2020 relating to question arrangements.*~~

~~*This Council requests that an officer report is presented setting out proposals for a protocol relating to the tabling and answering of Members Questions. This report to include the appropriateness or not of rejecting a question by applying a 6 month rule which is part of the protocol relied on in procedure rule 14.1 and 14.2 for disallowing lost motions or to rescind a previous Council decision.*~~

~~*There are already rules which provide for more productive question and answer sessions which should eliminate duplication and repetition but are generally not observed.*~~

~~*These are set out in this Council's Rule of procedure 9.5 relating to answering questions which may take the form of (b) where the desired information is in a publication of the Council or other published work, a reference to that publication. Such an answer will suffice but is never relied on. Instead lengthy responses relying on previously published information are common. This in turn also reduces the opportunity of more tabled questions being asked in the 20-minute slot set aside for Members Questions.*~~

~~*So that there is no doubt insofar as to the application of rule 9.6 relating to supplementary questions, there is an automatic right to ask such a question according to the Constitution subject to the first question being asked and answered.*~~

~~*The sense and purpose of the motion is to streamline and maximize the opportunities for Members to scrutinize Cabinet Members and Chairs of*~~

Committees, by questioning them on matters of detail or updates on issues that they may have responsibility and accountability for but have not been made known generally or publicly.

This is the rationale of asking that an Officer report is presented to the Corporate Governance and Constitution Committee to review and refresh, if appropriate, the rules relating to Members' Questions}.

The motion amended will read:

The Council requests that an Officer report is presented to a meeting of the Corporate Governance & Constitution Committee setting out the following proposals for consideration:

This Council presumes this motion is tabled as a consequence of the unanswered question tabled on the 11th November 2020 relating to question arrangements.

This Council requests that an officer report is presented setting out proposals for a protocol relating to the tabling and answering of Members Questions. This report to include the appropriateness or not of rejecting a question by applying a 6 month rule which is part of the protocol relied on in procedure rule 14.1 and 14.2 for disallowing lost motions or to rescind a previous Council decision.

There are already rules which provide for more productive question and answer sessions which should eliminate duplication and repetition but are generally not observed.

These are set out in this Council's Rule of procedure 9.5 relating to answering questions which may take the form of (b) where the desired information is in a publication of the Council or other published work, a reference to that publication. Such an answer will suffice but is never relied on. Instead lengthy responses relying on previously published information are common. This in turn also reduces the opportunity of more tabled questions being asked in the 20-minute slot set aside for Members Questions.

So that there is no doubt insofar as to the application of rule 9.6 relating to supplementary questions, there is an automatic right to ask such a question according to the Constitution subject to the first question being asked and answered.

The sense and purpose of the motion is to streamline and maximize the opportunities for Members to scrutinize Cabinet Members and Chairs of Committees, by questioning them on matters of detail or updates on issues that they may have responsibility and accountability for but have not been made known generally or publicly.

This is the rationale of asking that an Officer report is presented to the Corporate Governance and Constitution Committee to review and refresh, if appropriate, the rules relating to Members' Questions.