

FC89. DECISION MAKING STRUCTURES

Council considered a report by the Chief Executive setting out the work of the Decision Making Structures Working Group.

Council established, on 12 November 2014 (ref FC48), a working group to undertake a formal review of its decision making structures.

The working group, comprising Provost Reid (chair), Baillie Paterson and Councillors Carleschi, C Martin, Meiklejohn, Nicol and Spears, met 5 times between 17 December 2014 and 19 March 2015. The group's minutes were presented together with proposals put forward by the Non Aligned Independent Group and the SNP Group together with the Administration's response to these.

Councillor C Martin, seconded by Baillie Paterson, moved that Council agrees to amend the decision making structure as follows:-

- (1) there should be two Scrutiny Committee of 8 persons – 4 from the Administration and 4 from the Opposition, with both chaired by a member of the largest Opposition group. One group will scrutinise external organisations with the other looking at internal service issues. The Scrutiny Committees will require to recommend to Council an amended Scrutiny Plan and programme of meetings;
- (2) following a period of six months of participation in the decision making structure by the Opposition, there will be a comprehensive review of Standing Orders, particularly those which relate to the order and conduct of business at meetings of the Council and Committees;
- (3) questions which should be more properly dealt with by officers should not be included on the agenda for Council meetings, and
- (4) question time at Council should include questions to the Provost on civic and related matters.

Council then adjourned at 2.30pm to allow members of the SNP Group to consider the terms of the motion, and reconvened at 3.00pm with all members present as per the sederunt, with the exception of Councillor Oliver.

As an amendment, Councillor Spears, seconded by Councillor McCabe, moved in substitution for the motion, that Council agrees to adopt a decision making structure based on a cycle of 3 day meetings of Council as set out in the Non Aligned Independent Group's submission appended to the report.

Councillor Meiklejohn gave notice of a further amendment.

In terms of Standing Order 22.4(i) a vote was taken by roll call, there being 30 members present with voting as undernoted:-

For the motion (16) – Provost Reid; Depute Provost Patrick; Baillies Buchanan and Paterson; Councillors Black, Blackwood, D Goldie, G Goldie, Gow, MacDonald, Mahoney, C Martin, Dr C R Martin, Murray, Nicol and Nimmo.

For the amendment (3) – Councillors Coleman, McCabe and Spears.

Abstain (11) – Councillors Alexander, Balfour, Bird, Carleschi, Chalmers, Hughes, Jackson, McNally, Meiklejohn, Ritchie and Turner.

Having given notice of a further amendment, Councillor Meiklejohn, seconded by Councillor Jackson, moved that Council agrees clauses (1), (3) and (4) set out in the motion and replaces (2) with the following:-

(2) that, having made progress, the working group continue their work with proposals for changes to Standing Orders, to come forward to the next full Council meeting in May.

In terms of Standing Order 22.4(i) a vote was taken by roll call, there being 30 members present with voting as undernoted:

For the motion (16) – Provost Reid; Depute Provost Patrick; Baillies Buchanan and Paterson; Councillors Black, Blackwood, D Goldie, G Goldie, Gow, MacDonald, Mahoney, C Martin, Dr C R Martin, Murray, Nicol and Nimmo.

For the amendment (12) - Councillors Alexander, Balfour, Bird, Carleschi, Chalmers, Coleman, Hughes, Jackson, McNally, Meiklejohn, Ritchie and Turner.

Abstain (2) – Councillors McCabe and Spears.

Decision

Council agreed the motion.