

FC15 DECISION MAKING STRUCTURES

Prior to consideration of this item Councillor Meiklejohn circulated to all members a letter dated 21 June 2013 from Derek McKay, Minister for Local Government and Planning in regard to proportionality on local authority committees.

Council adjourned at 12.15pm to allow members of the Administration to consider the terms of the letter and for lunch and reconvened at 1.20pm with all members present as per the sederunt. The Provost then indicated that items FC 16, and 17 would be considered before the report on Decision Making Structures.

FC18. DECISION MAKING STRUCTURES (CONTINUED)

Council now considered the follow up report by the Chief Executive on decision making structures (see item FC 15 earlier).

On 19 March 2013, Council had agreed a new decision making structure and, on 24 April 2013, had agreed a partial scheme of delegation, introduced roles and remits for portfolio holders and agreed transitional arrangements for the period through to this meeting.

Council was now asked to continue consideration of the Standing Orders relating to meetings (deferred from the April meeting) and to determine the remainder of the Scheme of Delegation. Revised contract standing orders and financial regulations were also presented. In addition, the report recommended a more streamlined approach to dealing with consultation documents and reported on the Scrutiny Committee's proposal to establishing a Standing Scrutiny Panel on performance.

Councillor Martin, seconded by Councillor Dennis Goldie moved that, with effect from the close of the meeting

1. the Scheme of Delegation to Committees is approved with the following amendments:
 - (a) the square brackets are removed from the final entry in the matters reserved to Council as they appear on page 71 of the agenda and that entry is now amended to read "any issue with significant impact on the Council area which the Provost, having consulted with the Leader and the Leader of the Opposition considers is suitable for debate at Council."
 - (b) the square brackets are removed from the word "exclusive" in paragraph 2(2) on page 72;
2. the Standing Orders Relating to Meetings are approved with the following amendments:
 - (a) to reflect the inclusion of these terms in the Scheme of Delegation, the Definitions section (starting on page 31 of the agenda) shall be extended to include the following:
 - (i) "Opposition" shall mean those councillors who are not members of the Administration,

- (ii) “Leader of the Opposition” shall mean the Leader of the largest Opposition group on the Council;
 - (b) the period of notice for meetings of the Council (and its committees) shall be extended from 3 clear days to 5 clear days. This will have a knock on effect on the deadlines for submission of questions and for motions. Those deadlines will consequently also be extended by 2 clear days and Standing Orders 30.2 and 33.1 (on pages 55 and 57 respectively of the agenda) will be changed accordingly;
 - (c) Standing Order 20 dealing with advance notice of motions and amendments (on pages 47 and 48 of the agenda) shall be delete in its entirety. This will have a knock on effect on Standing Order 31.1 (on page 56 of the agenda) which shall also be delete. Standing Order 31.2 will, however, be extended to require any person proposing to submit an amendment to the budget to have lodged details of that amendment with the Chief Finance Officer by noon on the second last day before the meeting takes place to enable him/her to consider the financial implications thereof;
 - (d) the time allowed for speeches as set out in Standing Order 22.2 (on page 49 of the agenda) will be increased from 6 minutes for the mover of the motion or amendment to 8 minutes and from 3 minutes to 4 minutes for any other speaker. Any person seconding a motion or amendment may also do so formally while reserving his/her entitlement to speak on the matter to a later stage in the debate. It is recognised that these time limits will be

extended during the Council’s budget meeting and otherwise with consent of the Provost;
 - (e) Standing Order 32.1(1) (on page 56 of the agenda) will be amended to read, “special circumstances exist which, in the opinion of the Provost, having consulted with the Leader and the Leader of the Opposition, requires an exception to be made to the general rule”.
- 3. the Contract Standing Orders and Financial Regulations set out in appendices 4 and 5 respectively are approved.
 - 4. a standing Scrutiny Panel should be established to take forward that part of the remit previously carried out by the Best Value Forum with respect to the monitoring of Services’ performance.
 - 5. the procedure for dealing with consultation requests set out in paragraph 6.4 of the report is adopted.

Council then adjourned at 1.30pm, to allow members of the opposition the opportunity to consider the terms of the motion and reconvened at 2.00pm with all members present.

Councillor Meiklejohn, seconded by Councillor Jackson, moved in substitution for the motion that Council approves the:-

1. Standing Orders relating to Meetings subject to the alterations set out in Appendix 2(1) to the minute
2. Scheme of Delegation to Committees subject to the alterations set out in Appendix 2(2) to the minute
3. Scheme of Delegation to Officers subject to the alterations set out in Appendix 2(3) to the minute; and
4. Contract Standing Orders and Financial Regulations as set out in the report.

In terms of Standing Order 21.4(1) a vote was taken by roll call, there being 32 members present with voting as undernoted:-

For the motion (17) – Provost Reid; Depute Provost Patrick; Baillies Buchanan and Paterson; Councillors Black, Blackwood, D Goldie, G Goldie, Gow, MacDonald, McLuckie, Mahoney, C Martin, Dr C R Martin, Murray, Nicol and Nimmo.

For the amendment (15) – Councillors Alexander, Balfour, Bird, Carleschi, Chalmers, Coleman, Hughes, Jackson, McCabe, McNally, Meiklejohn, Oliver, Ritchie, Spears and Turner.

Decision

The motion was agreed.

Councillor Coleman left the meeting after this item of business.