

## FC94. REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS

Council considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services presenting proposed amendments following a review of Standing Orders.

Having considered a progress report on the matter at its meeting on 16 December 2015 (ref FC76) Council had agreed to continue consideration of the item to enable the Leader's Group to complete its deliberations.

The report noted that the Group had met on 22 February 2016 and set out those amendments on which consensus had been reached by the Group prior to December 2015 together with comments on outstanding matters.

Councillor C Martin, seconded by Baillie Paterson, moved that Council *agrees the changes to Standing Orders set out in appendix 3 to the previous report with the addition of those changes to Standing Order 33, dealing with deputations, and the insertion of a new Standing Order 10, to formalise the Leader's business meetings, set out in the revised appendix 2.*

As an amendment, Councillor Meiklejohn, seconded by Councillor Jackson, moved that in addition to the motion, Council also agrees to:-

- (1) *reform full Council meetings to provide for proper access to be given to back bench and Opposition Councillors. This would include provision for notices of motion and/or dedicated Opposition time;*
- (2) *the reform of the Executive, cutting the number of members to three portfolio holders, Leader and Deputy Leader of the Administration and three Opposition members;*
- (3) *the slimmed down Executive should be the main Policy Development forum of the Council with regular meetings designed as development stages operating under suspension of Standing Orders;*
- (4) *the reduction of portfolio holders to three to match the number of service departments. This not only sets an example and is consistent with the changes which have already been implemented;*
- (5) *the Opposition to have freedom to nominate whoever they wish from within their own ranks to committees;*
- (6) *the Opposition will hold one of the places on the Health and Social Care Integrated Joint Board, and*
- (7) *Audit Scotland clearly stated that the Performance Panel should be held in public. In order to meet this condition the agenda will be merged with the main Scrutiny Committee with adjustments between the Internal and External Scrutiny Committees.*

Following discussion which included reference to the proposed changes to Standing Order 51 in regard to called in planning applications Council adjourned for 20 minutes to allow members to consider the motion and amendment and reconvened at 11.40 a.m. with members present as per the sederunt with the exception of Councillor D Goldie.

With the consent of the Provost, and of Baillie Paterson as his seconder, Councillor Martin agreed to adjust the terms of his motion insofar as it referred to Standing Order 51 to the effect that all members who call in a planning application must give an explanation for that action including a declaration of any approaches made to them.

On a division 15 members voted for the motion and 13 voted for the amendment, with voting as follows:-

For the motion (15) – Provost Reid; Depute Provost Patrick; Baillies Buchanan and Paterson; Councillors Black, Blackwood, Gow, MacDonald, McLuckie, Mahoney, C Martin, Dr C R Martin, Murray, Nicol and Nimmo.

For the amendment (13) – Councillors Alexander, Balfour, Bird, Carleschi, Coleman, Garner, Hughes, Jackson, McCabe, Meiklejohn, Oliver, Ritchie and Turner.

### **Decision**

**Council agreed the motion.**