

BRECKLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of: Vicky Thomson, Democratic Services & Legal Manager / Monitoring Officer

To: Council – 9 December 2014

(Author: Vicky Thomson, Democratic Services & Legal Manager / Monitoring Officer)

Subject: Change to Standing Order No. 5 - Order of Business

Purpose: To change Standing Order No. 5 of the Council's Constitution to allow for the addition of Leader's Announcements as part of the Order of Business

It is recommended that:

1. Delegated authority is given to the Monitoring Officer to update the Constitution of Breckland Council to include the following:
 - a) Leader's Announcements to be added to 'Standing Order No. 5 - Order of Business' to allow for the addition of Leader's Announcements as part of the Order of Business
 - b) The Leader's announcement will be in the form of a verbal report to Council.
 - c) All Members may ask questions of the Leader on the content of the Leader's announcements.
 - d) Questions and answers on the Leader's announcement will be limited to a period of 30 minutes in total.
 - e) The Leader may invite Members of the Council's Executive to respond to questions on the Leader's behalf.
 - f) The Leader has the right to respond to questions raised after the meeting. This will be in writing and to all Members of the Council.

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 At the meeting of Full Council held on 6 November 2014, Members were asked to trial a new agenda item of Leader's Announcements.
- 1.2 At the meeting, 15 minutes were set aside for the Leader to present a verbal report and to receive questions from Members relating to the content of his report.
- 1.3 Members were asked to provide their feedback in relation to the trial and through a show of hands, Members unanimously supported having Leader's Announcements and Questions as a Standing Item on the agenda.
- 1.4 It was therefore agreed that the Monitoring Officer would be invited to bring a report to the next meeting of Full Council to seek changes to the Constitution to allow Leader's Announcements to be part of the formal agenda of Council.

2.0 **OPTIONS**

- 2.1 To approve the recommended changes to the Constitution as detailed within the recommendations of this report.
- 2.2 To approve in part, or with changes, the recommended changes to the Constitution as detailed within this report.
- 2.3 To do nothing.

3.0 **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 The recommendations within this report support the request of Members as set out in the meeting of Council held on 6 November 2014.

4.0 **EXPECTED BENEFITS**

- 4.1 Members will have the opportunity to be provided a regular update by the Leader Council.
- 4.2 Members will have the opportunity to raise questions to the Leader of the Council on the content of the verbal report.

5.0 **IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 **Carbon Footprint / Environmental Issues**

- 5.1.1 It is the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

5.2 **Constitution & Legal**

- 5.2.1 The nature of this report is to make changes to the Constitution of the Council.

5.3 **Contracts**

- 5.3.1 It is the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

5.4 **Corporate Priorities**

- 5.4.1 It is the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

5.5 **Crime and Disorder**

- 5.5.1 It is the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

5.6 **Equality and Diversity / Human Rights**

- 5.6.1 It is the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

5.7 **Financial**

- 5.7.1 It is the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

5.8 **Health & Wellbeing**

5.8.1 It is the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

5.9 **Risk Management**

5.9.1 It is the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

5.10 **Staffing**

5.10.1 It is the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

5.11 **Stakeholders / Consultation / Timescales**

5.11.1 It is the opinion of the Report Author that there are no implications.

5.12 **Other**

5.12.1 There are no other implications to be considered as a result of this report.

6.0 **WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED**

6.1 Changes to the Constitution have the potential to affect all communities in Breckland.

7.0 **ACRONYMS**

7.1 None are used within this report.

Background papers:- None

Lead Contact Officer

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Director / Officer who will be attending the Meeting

Name and Post: Vicky Thomson, Democratic Services & Legal Manager / Monitoring Officer

Key Decision: No

Exempt Decision: No

This report refers to a Mandatory Service

Appendices attached to this report: None