

## Extract from Council Minutes – Thursday 3rd May 2012

### 15. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

#### Decision:

**That recommendations 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 as detailed in report number LDS062 be referred back to the Constitution Committee for further consideration.**

The Chairman of the Constitution Committee, in moving the recommendations in report number LDS062 explained why the Committee had looked to make recommendations on the number of notices of motion that could be submitted at Council meetings. He also provided a summary of the number of notices of motion that had been received. The proposition was seconded.

Debate on the motion ensued, which incorporated the following points:

- Restricting the number of motions would restrict the ability of Members to bring issues before the Council, restricting opposition groups
- Limiting the number of notices of motion to two a meeting could lead to a backlog and prevent timely discussion of arising issues
- The average number of notices of motion had been 5.2 a year. The number of notices of motion in March 2012 (6) was not usual
- The proportionality of making a decision on the basis of one meeting; it was suggested as an alternative that the Committee could have proposed preventing or limiting notices of motion at the Budget Council meeting only. A ruling on the proportionality of the decision was requested as a point of order in respect of Article 16.2(i). The point of order could not be accepted because it did relate to an alleged breach of rule relating to the council meeting.
- Preventing the submission of notices of motion would restrict Councillors' ability to represent their Wards
- Some issues brought as notices of motion could be resolved by asking questions of Portfolio Holders

An amendment was proposed and seconded that *“the matter be referred back to the Constitution Committee for further consideration.”* It was suggested that the Committee could undertake wider consultation with Councillors.

The amendment was put to the vote, where an equality of votes was achieved. The Chairman used her casting vote to vote for the amendment, which was consequently carried. The amendment became the substantive motion, and on being put to the vote, was carried.