

PROPOSED CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT – STANDING ORDERS

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Wards affected: None directly

PROPOSED DECISION

That the proposed amendment to Standing Orders to reflect the provisions of The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, as set out in paragraph 4 below, be agreed.

Corporate Implications

1. Changes to the Constitution are made by Council. There are no financial implications arising from this report.
2. New Regulations, The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 were laid before Parliament on 31 January 2014 and come into effect on 25 February 2014. These Regulations require all Councils to amend their Standing Orders to adopt the practice of recorded votes on decisions relating to the Budget and Council Tax at their Budget Council meetings.

Executive Summary

1. This report sets out a proposed amendment to Standing Orders within the Council's Constitution required by the enactment of new legislation. The Council's Constitution and Standing Orders underpin the way in which the Council operates and the procedures that govern the decision-making processes.

Background

New Regulations

2. The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 were laid before Parliament on 31 January 2014, and come into effect on 25 February 2014. The Regulations make it mandatory for all Councils to amend their Standing Orders to include a provision requiring recorded votes at their Budget Meetings when making decisions relating to the Budget and Council Tax.
3. The requirement for recorded votes includes recording in the Minutes of the Budget Council meeting how each member present voted, i.e. in favour, against, or abstained from voting.

Proposal

4. In order to comply with the new Regulations it is proposed to add the following paragraph at subsection (5) of Standing Order 16 (Voting) as follows:

“At the annual Budget Council Meeting, a recorded vote shall take place on decisions relating to the setting of the Budget and Council Tax. The Head of Democratic, Legal and Policy Services, or their representative, shall call upon each member present to say if that Member votes for, against, or abstains from the voting on the proposals before the meeting. This will then be set out in the Minutes of the meeting”.

5. As these Regulations came into effect on 25 February 2014, the requirement for a recorded vote on the Budget and Council Tax is in place for this meeting, when considering the Council’s Budget and Council Tax setting for 2014/15 later in the meeting.

Background Papers

The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014.