

STANDARDS AND CONSTITUTIONAL OVERSIGHT WORKING GROUP

13 FEBRUARY 2018

Minute extract

11 **DISCUSSION ON THE TIMELY HANDLING OF CABINET MEMBER QUESTIONS AT COUNCIL**

The Chair reflected on the expressed dissatisfaction at the consideration of questions to Cabinet Members at meetings of the Council, noting that several approaches had been tried but none had adequately resolved the issue. The Deputy Monitoring Officer acknowledged the difficulties in addressing the issue, noting options including limiting the number of questions and reconsidering the time limit.

Members acknowledged the discretion of the Mayor in managing the process and referred to the maximum limit of five questions to each Cabinet Member and a possibility of returning back to a 45 minute question time.

With regard to rule that questions should relate only to the content of the Cabinet Members' reports, comment was made that the reports made reference to Pledges and to recent media reports, and not what the Cabinet Members had actually done in the preceding months which, it was suggested, had been the initial intended purpose of the reports. The Chair noted that the Cabinet Members might be reminded of the intended purpose of their reports to Council.

RESOLVED:

That the Working Group recommend that the Council meeting Cabinet Member question time be extended to 45 minutes.