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NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL

THURSDAY, 4TH JUNE, 2020

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

Please find attached supplementary papers relating to the above meeting, as follows:

Agenda No Item

7. **CHANGES TO CONSTITUTION RECOMMENDED BY CORPORATE PEER CHALLENGE & FLEXIBILITY OF MEETINGS REGULATIONS CHANGES** (Pages 3 - 4)

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR - LEGAL AND COMMUNITY & MONITORING OFFICER

To consider potential amendments to the Council's Constitution and Council Procedure Rules following recommendations in the Corporate Peer Challenge Report and the introduction of the 'Flexibility of Meetings Regulations 2020'.

Please find attached proposed amendments from the Conservative Group

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Agenda Item 7 - Changes to Constitution - Amendments from Conservative Group

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8.4.5(c)(iii) (Planning call in by Members)

amend to read:-

“within three weeksdetermined by Committee:

1 detailing the reasons based upon one or more relevant material planning considerations and detailing the reasons that the matter is in the public interest.”

This removes the proposal that the validity of the request is could be determined by an individual officers opinion

Proposed by David Levett

Seconded by Simon Harwood

4.8.4 (c)(ii) (Substitutes)

amend to read:-

“the request is sent via email to the proper officer by noon on the day of the meeting”

The purpose of this part of the constitution is “to try to ensure full representation on committees” and this particular part relates to change of a substitute for one meeting only when nominated substitutes are not available.

As this would only likely to occur in exceptional circumstances, for example, in case of sudden illness, urgent family/work commitments, having to give 7 clear working days notice of a change is contradictory to the purpose of ensuring full representation.

The proposed amendment ensures that in exceptional circumstances full representation is made possible

Proposed by David Levett

Seconded by Claire Strong

4.8.9 (d) (Presentations by Public)

proposed amendment is for actual presentation contents be sent to proper officer 2 days before meeting - this goes against the principles of freedom of speech and could be seen as an attempt to censure representations.

Ultimately the Chairman of the meeting has the ability to direct person presenting as regards relevance of content etc.

Proposal is to remove this amendment.

Proposed by David Levett

Seconded by Claire Strong

8.3.1 (Licensing and Appeals reserve member)

amend to read:-

Three(3) Councillors shall be appointed to a Licensing Sub-Committee and one non-voting observer reserve Councillor.

Footnote: NB in the event that one of the voting Councillors cannot attend, has a conflict or is unable to participate for for the whole of the meeting the reserve shall become a voting, participating member of the Sub-Committee for quorum and decision making purposes.

As written the implication is that the reserve member can fully participate in the meeting with the exception of voting thereby influencing the decision of the Sub-Committee, a reserve is there as a backup and should remain as such until if and when they are needed. This amendment seeks to clarify the purpose of having a reserve.