

Motions to Special Council Meeting 19/05/03

Motions under Summons Item 2 in the name of Councillor Bob Blackman

AMENDMENTS TO BRENT'S CONSTITUTION

1) COUNCIL MEETINGS – Starting Time

This Council believes that the proposed new structure of Council Meetings is a significant improvement from the existing one. This Council believes that meetings should commence at 7.30pm instead of the 7pm start at present.

This Council therefore resolves to change standing orders as follows: -

Standing Order 28 in d) delete “7pm” and replace by “7.30pm”.

2) COUNCIL MEETINGS – Interval

This Council believes that a comfort break of 10 minutes should be taken at 9pm (approximately) and therefore resolves to amend the Constitution as follows:-

Standing Order 29 delete and replace by “There shall be a 10 minute comfort break during each meeting of Full Council, which shall be taken around 9pm. The exact timing of this interval to be specified by the Mayor to ensure that it is taken at a convenient time having regard to the business being transacted.”

3) SCRUTINY PROCESS

This Council notes & welcomes the proposed changes from the CWG. In order to clarify and resolve the issue of call-in of decisions, this Council resolves to change the Constitution to reflect the role of the Forward Plan Select Committee as follows: -

Add to Standing Order 21

- iv) the Forward Plan Select Committee decides.
- v) 40% or more of the Forward Plan Select Committee request.

4) ACCESS TO INFORMATION

This Council believes that the decision-making process should be as open and transparent as is possible under the current legislation.

This Council believes that this requires informed decisions being made and appropriate information being provided to all political groups on the Council.

This Council resolves to amend the Access to Information Rules as follows: -

Add at the end of 46 in the “Access to Information Rules” “and copied to the Chair & Vice Chair of the relevant Scrutiny Panel/Select Committee for information/action.”

This Council therefore resolves to improve the Access to Information Protocol as follows: -

Add at the end of 7.4 in the Protocol on Members Rights of Access to Information: -

“Officers can decide to provide briefing to other members if they feel that it is appropriate and in the best interests of furthering the democratic accountability of Brent Council.”