



Annual Council Meeting – 22 May 2024

Liberal Democrats Group amendment Agenda Item 7 - Annual Review of Constitution

1st Amendment to Standing Order 49 (Appointments to and chairs of Council Committees and Sub-Committees)

Democratic scrutiny is a pillar of healthy and functioning governance. To ensure it is effective there should be a clear separation between Councillors who lead Scrutiny Committees and the governing party in the borough.

Changes made by the current Labour Administration in Brent to the way the two Scrutiny Committees are chaired and Vice-Chairs are appointed have effectively locked Opposition Groups from having a meaningful say in the way scrutiny is led. This includes in the setting of the work programme for each of the Committees.

To ensure renewed confidence in the scrutiny process in the borough it is important that the two Chairs of the Scrutiny Committees in the borough are appointed from the Opposition Groups.

To safeguard the effectiveness and independence of Brent's Scrutiny Committees we therefore propose the following change to Standing Order 49 relating to the appointment of Chairs for the scrutiny function:

- (1) Standing Order 49 (ii) be amended to require that the Chairs of the existing Scrutiny Committees are Opposition Group appointments (in order to emphasise the independence of Scrutiny from the Executive).
- (2) That Standing Order 4 in Part 1 of the Constitution be waived in order to enable the above changes to come into immediate effect during the meeting.

Councillor Anton Georgiou
Leader of Liberal Democrats Group