

<b>Local Members Interest</b>
N/A

## **Council – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

### **Change to the Constitution – Number of Questions by Members at Full Council**

#### **Recommendation**

I recommend that paragraph 8.3 of Section 12 (Procedural Standing Orders) of the Council's Constitution is amended to limit the maximum number of questions that may be submitted by a member to one rather than the current two so that the wording of paragraph 8.3 will then read:

*Each Member may submit a maximum of one question each, however only the first 15 questions received by the Director for Corporate Services before the deadline will be dealt with at the meeting. All other questions will receive a written answer*

#### **Report of the Director for Corporate Services**

#### **Proposed Change**

1. The Staffordshire County Council Constitution sets out in section 12 the procedure to be followed at Council Meetings (known as Procedural Standing Orders). Among other things, these deal with how many questions may be submitted by each member at each meeting of the Council under the agenda item known as Members' Questions Under Standing Order 8. The maximum number of questions that may be submitted by Members under Standing Order 8 is currently 2 per member per meeting. It is suggested that the limit is revised to a maximum of 1 question per member per meeting.

#### **Reason for the Change**

2. The change will ensure that each member has a better chance of being able to successfully put forward a question at each meeting. It would guarantee that 15 members are allowed to submit a question at each meeting whereas under the current maximum the number of members able to submit a question can be limited by those members who choose to submit two questions.
3. The change was presented to the Audit and Standards Committee on the 13<sup>th</sup> September whereby the recommendation was approved.

#### **Risk Implications**

4. The change proposed should not reduce the ability of members to either obtain information, or to hold the Executive to account, as members would still have a range of other routes to seek answers to questions (e.g. by writing to the Portfolio Member or Officer, by raising the matter under the Leader's Statement).

### **Legal Implications**

5. The changes proposed in this report are designed to ensure that Staffordshire County Council operates a system of good governance, accountability, and transparency as required by the Localism Act 2011, other legislation and more generally as required.

### **Resource and Value for Money Implications**

6. The proposals in the report do not generate any additional resource implications for the Authority

### **Climate Change Implications**

7. There are no climate change implications arising as a result of this report.

### **List of Background Documents/Appendices:**

Section 12 of Constitution – Procedural Standing Orders

### **Contact Details**

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