

Appendix 1 - CDC Constitution Review Consultation Comments from Elected Members

Section of Constitution	Comment / Proposal
1 - Committee Terms of Reference and Scheme of Delegation	Scheme of delegation - there are a number of items which should not have to come to Planning Committee, especially minor amendments and condition discharges to Council applications. These waste extra time as the Executive have to leave and return. I also find it odd that councillors have to judge fellow councillor's applications. I think these should be done under delegated powers but perhaps be specially published to ensure transparency.
2 - Meeting Procedure Rules - Address by public	Addresses by members of the public - I believe there should be an overall time limit - say half an hour - for Addresses on any one agenda item at Council. Individuals would be limited, as now, to five minutes, first come first served. This should be enough to hear all points of view: the 16 speakers registered at the last Council could have taken an hour and a half, with the inevitable gaps and overruns, which is disproportionate and could potentially result in organised filibustering to "talk out" unpopular items.
2 - Meeting Procedure Rules - Rules of debate	If a seconder reserves their right to speak at the end of a debate no further speakers to be allowed
2 - Meeting Procedure Rules - Rules of debate	Secunder, reserved rights: the seconder may speak "later in the debate". It should be clarified if this means they have the right to speak last (before the proposer) or whether anyone can then indicate. I suggest the seconder should have the right to go last before the proposer.
2 - Meeting Procedure Rules - Rules of debate	- Indication to speak: at the end of debate, when there are no further indications and the Chairman has asked if anyone else wishes to speak, no further speakers should be allowed. This prevents the "...and another thing" tendency prolonging matters unduly.
2 - Meeting Procedure Rules - Rules of debate	Reduce speaking time - 5 minutes for proposer and seconder and 3 minutes for all other speakers
2 - Meeting Procedure Rules - Rules of debate	Speeches on motions and recommendations to be limited to 5 minutes for proposer and seconder, 3 minutes for the other speakers including the summing up. As usual the budget debate usually suspends standing orders if requested.

2 - Meeting Procedure Rules - Rules of debate	Speeches time limit to apply to full council and all committees and sub committees except planning (ward member addresses)
2 - Meeting Procedure Rules - Address by public	Limit public participation - number of speakers and length of speeches
2 - Meeting Procedure Rules - Rules of debate	Cut speaking times
2 - Meeting Procedure Rules - Rules of debate	Speaking order - confirm that when the seconder reserves their right to speak, they are the final speaker before the proposer sums up
2 - Meeting Procedure Rules - Rules of debate (Motions without Notice)	When a procedural motion is proposed a vote is taken immediately
2 - Meeting Procedure Rules	The word limit for motions with amendments should be increased in order to allow additions to motions by amendments. The word limit for original motions can remain the same
2 - Meeting Procedure Rules - Rules of debate	Motions and amendments from the floor should be permitted in full council. This would allow for debate to actually influence outcomes and positions of motions to evolve as discussion occurs, creating better policy and resolutions.
2 - Meeting Procedure Rules - Recorded Vote	5 members needed for a named vote
2 - Meeting Procedure Rules, Quorum	Quorum: we have often come perilously close to inquorate where Executive members have to withdraw and others have conflicts, or there is another meeting that evening. I suggest that quoracy is established at the start of the meeting and that withdrawals due to conflicts of interest do not result in inquoracy.
2 - Meeting Procedure Rules - Rules of debate - Voting & 3.5 - Members'	Voting: there is a mistaken belief, which sometimes gets put in writing, that a member not present for an entire debate should not vote. In fact, the member must simply satisfy themselves that they have sufficient information to vote. This should not be changed (or else it potentially weaponises site visits, which could be used to disenfranchise members) and should be clarified.

Planning Code of Conduct	
2 - Meeting Procedure Rules & 2.7 - Roles and Appointments, The Chairman	There needs to be a mechanism to overrule the chair of council and committees (a threshold vote of members for example).
2.1 - Council Procedure Rules	Review the order of business so reports are before questions and motions
2.1 - Council Procedure Rules	Introduce a time limit for questions
2.1 - Council Procedure Rules	Introduce a cut off time for Full Council
2.6 - Planning Committee Procedure Rules	Planning. Speeches by Ward members should be limited to 10 minutes. Members should be allowed to ask questions in an agreed slot either after the officer has spoken or after the public speaking. No questions to the public to remain.
2.6 - Planning Committee Procedure Rules	Allow county councillors to speak on applications in their division
2 - Meeting Procedure Rules - Rules of debate & 2.6 - Planning Committee Procedure Rules	Planning 1: it has become the custom to invite the ward members, if present on the committee, for the application site to speak first. I would like to see this invitation (which does not have to be taken up, they can still speak later instead) codified as a right.
2 - Meeting Procedure Rules - Rules of debate & 2.6 - Planning Committee Procedure Rules	Planning 2: I suggest splitting the member section of each decision into two. Firstly, questions to the Officers. This would enable members to clarify points of fact or law. Then have the debate proper when members, in possession of all the facts, can try to convince the committee. It would make things easier for members and officers and, I think, make the debate more effective and easier to chair.
2.6 - Planning Committee Procedure Rules, Site Visits	Site visits: we had a very successful drone presentation in lieu of a site visit. This could be formalised.

2.6 - Planning Committee Procedure Rules - Call in (of planning applications)	this area needs more work as it is not clear and needs discussion with councillors. I note that it changed between my 2010 Constitution, where call in was to be accepted "on the advice of the committee chairman" and 2015 where it was decided by an Officer "in consultation with" the Chairman. I prefer the former...
General comment	some discretion to be allowed for Chairmen in the committees and sub committees.
Not currently in Constitution	All council meetings should end at a given time i.e. 10.30 or 11.00 pm
N/A - virtual meetings	given the Covid experience, it would be useful to incorporate the extra provisions for video meetings. The protocols for admitting outside speakers by video or telephone would be most useful. Also clarification of the role of Deputy Chairman in video meetings and taking (non-recorded) votes by roll call if disputed or negative indication if trivial. A new provision to allow Minutes to be signed remotely would prevent me getting RSI when I finally confront the backlog of Planning minutes! Guidance on muting mikes, blurring backgrounds, use of chat and raised hands etc is useful but more suitable to an appendix.
N/A - general re. dsitribution	the key sections of the constitution should be printed and given to every councillor. This has a cost but an invisible set of rules on a website is no use. We need to have them to hand in meetings.
N/A - hard copy agendas	Hard copy Agenda documents should be supplied to all who need them. This is both because they are easier to work with and can be used in remote meetings where the screen is in use. This is a necessity not a luxury.
N/A	get rid of 'southnorthants from the email address