NOTICE OF MOTION RELATING TO QUESTIONS SUBMITTED UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 9.2

Corporate Governance Committee on 17 November 2014 considered a report by the Monitoring Officer/Acting Head of Legal and Committee Services arising out of a Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor R M Stoddart which had been referred to the Committee for consideration and report back to Council for determination; such Motion being in the following terms:

*That Members submitting questions under S9.2 Part 4/page 8 of the Constitution shall have the option to read out the question at the meeting where it falls to be answered.*

Councillor Stoddart’s written submission in support of his Notice of Motion is attached as an Appendix.

In considering the matter, the Committee noted the following:

- As questions were already printed in the agenda there would be duplication of information.

- If the Member used the opportunity to add “context” to the question, that could be tantamount to turning the question into a speech, which might change the scope of the question to be answered.

- That the context should be explained in any preamble to the question.

Councillor Stoddart spoke in support of his Notice of Motion and he stated that the purpose of the Motion was to enable the public to understand the context in which the answer was given. He considered that anyone listening to the webcast of the meeting would not know the context for the answer without having sight of the Agenda. Councillor Stoddart disputed the argument put forward in the report and he advised the Committee that he was in support of the Chairman reading out the question if there was concern regarding the meeting being lengthened by speeches being made. He pointed out that Members should have the option to request that their question be read out and he asked the Committee to consider that as an amendment to his Motion.

The Leader of Council acknowledged the points raised and he suggested that the relevant Cabinet Member could read out the question prior to giving the answer. Councillor Stoddart stated that Members should be given the option of having their question read out, rather than all questions being read out, as that could lengthen the meeting.
The Committee’s Decision was to make the recommendation as set out below.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council be recommended that Members submitting questions under Procedure Rule 9.2 Part 4/page 8 of the Constitution shall have the option to ask the relevant Cabinet Member to read out the question at the meeting where it falls to be answered.

Background Documents: None
Supporting Submission - Notice of Motion relating to Questions submitted under Council Procedure Rule 9.2

To allow members of the public to understand the context in which the answer is given.

Councillor R M Stoddart