

Special Council Meeting, 25th June 2020

Agenda Item 7: Supplementary Standing Orders – Remote Meetings

Councillor Gilbert to propose

Councillor Woodley/Mulroney to second

That the Council endorses the Supplementary Standing Orders, Protocol on Virtual/Remote Meetings and Procedure Note on public speaking at remote meetings attached at **Appendix 1** to the submitted report, subject to the 3 additions set out paragraph 3.5 of the report and to the following adjustments:

- (a) Delete Supplementary Standing Order 3.1 regarding the requirement to consult all group leaders on the draft Agenda for meetings.
- (b) Replace paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 of the Supplementary Standing Orders with the following:

“5.2 In the event of any apparent failure of the remote connection, the Chair should immediately determine if the meeting is still quorate:

- if it is, then the business of the meeting will continue; or
- if there is no quorum, then the meeting shall adjourn for a period specified by the Chair, expected to be no more than ten or fifteen minutes, to allow the connection to be re-established.

5.3 Should any aspect of an individual’s remote participation fail, the Chair may call a short adjournment of up to ten minutes to determine whether the connection can quickly be re-established. If the connection is not restored within that time, the meeting should continue to deal with the business whilst this happens, providing the meeting remains quorate and the public are able to hear.

5.4 In the event of connection failure, the remote Councillor(s) will be deemed to have left the meeting at the point of failure and if the connection cannot be re-established to those Councillor(s) before the end of the meeting, then the presumption will be that the meeting should continue to deal with the item/s.

5.5 If the connection is successfully re-established, then the remote Councillor(s) will be deemed to have returned at the point of re-establishment.

5.6 If a connection to a Councillor is lost during a regulatory meeting, the Chair will stop the meeting to enable the connection to be restored. If the connection cannot be restored within 5 minutes, the meeting will proceed, but the Councillor who was disconnected will not be able to vote on the matter under discussion as they would not have heard all the facts.”

(c) Change “a reasonable period” in paragraph 6.2 of the Supplementary Standing Orders under “Access to Meetings – Members of the Public and Councillors who are not on the Body” to “30 minutes”.

(d) That all future meetings will be available by live video webcast to enable members of the public to view proceedings (councillors would have the option of using the camera on their device during a meeting) and that the Protocol on Virtual/Remote meetings be amended as appropriate.