



**OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE  
(RUNNYMEDE)**

**LOCAL PROTOCOL- PUBLIC QUESTIONS DEADLINE**

**5 OCTOBER 2007**

**KEY ISSUE**

Changes to the County Council Constitution have altered the deadline for Member Questions, prompting the issue of whether the deadline for Public Questions should be amended in line with this.

**SUMMARY**

The report makes the case for amending the Local Protocol on Public Engagement to ensure that question deadlines are the same for members and the public.

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The Local Committee (Runnymede) is asked to agree that:**

- (i) the deadline for receipt of public questions for the Local Committee shall be 12 noon, four days before the meeting.

## **1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The Local Committee agreed a Local Protocol for public engagement at its last meeting on May 11<sup>th</sup> 2007. This included an agreement that the deadline for Public Questions would be 12 noon, two working days before the meeting.
- 1.2 Subsequently the County Council met in June 2007 and agreed a new deadline for receipt of member questions, as part of a package of amendments to the Council's constitution.

## **2 ANALYSIS**

- 2.1 The Local Committee must abide by the agreed changes to the County Council's constitution, which have already taken effect, so that any Member Questions must be submitted by noon at least four working days before the Local Committee meeting. It has power to vary the provisions only in relation to public engagement i.e. petitions and public questions.

## **3 OPTIONS**

- 3.1 The Local Committee may choose to amend its Local Protocol to bring the deadline for receipt of Public Questions in line with the deadline for Member Questions i.e. within four days of the meeting.
- 3.2 Alternatively the Local Committee could decide to leave its agreed Local Protocol untouched for the remainder of the municipal year.

## **4 CONSULTATIONS**

- 4.1 None have been undertaken.

## **5 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 None.

## **6 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 None.

## **7 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 None.

## **8 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 It is recommended that the Local Protocol is amended in respect of Public Questions.

## **9 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 This will bring the deadline for Public Questions into line with that for Members' Questions.

## 10 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

10.1 If members approve the recommendation, all Local Committee publicity which refers to Public Questions will need to be corrected.

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**BACKGROUND PAPERS:** NONE

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