



LOCAL COMMITTEE PROTOCOL

SCC LOCAL COMMITTEE IN SPELTHORNE 30th June 2007

KEY ISSUE: To agree the Local Committee protocol.

SUMMARY: The Local Committee has previously agreed a Local Committee protocol which has provided for some slight deviations from the Council's Constitution to provide for public engagement at Local Committees. The protocol needs to be formally agreed by the Local Committee.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS: That the Protocol set out in Appendix A be approved.

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Local Committee has always sought to provide for public engagement within a general framework within the Council's Constitution. Any changes from the Constitution have to be formally agreed by Members to ensure that members of the public are aware of what is permitted.

2.0 LOCAL COMMITTEE PROTOCOL

The attached protocol at Appendix A was agreed by the Local Committee in the last municipal year. It is proposed that the protocol be continued to enable public engagement at Committees and to provide for shorter timescales for members of the public to present petitions and ask questions. The protocol also provides members of the public to informally address the Committee, through an adjournment, during the discussion of some reports where no executive decisions need to be taken. For consistency it is proposed that the protocol be altered to bring into line the deadline for public questions to be the same as for the deadline for Members questions i.e. noon on the Tuesday before the meeting the following Monday instead of noon on the Thursday. The Committee is asked to approve the protocol for this municipal year.

3.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

The protocol provides for greater flexibility for members of the public to engage with or address the Local Committee.

4.0 CONCLUSION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 An agreed Local Committee protocol is necessary to reflect any amendments to the Council's Constitution.

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Background papers: None