



LOCAL COMMITTEE PROTOCOL

SCC LOCAL COMMITTEE IN SPELTHORNE 11th July 2011

KEY ISSUE: To agree the Local Committee protocol for 2011/2012.

SUMMARY: The Local Committee has previously agreed the Local Protocol, which provided for some minor variations from the Council's Constitution to improve public engagement at the Local Committee meetings. At the September 2009 meeting the Local Committee also approved amendments to include public speaking rights for Rights of Way reports.

The Local Protocol needs to be agreed annually at the first meeting of the municipal year.

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

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

According to the Council's Constitution:

"Local Committees shall comply fully with these Standing Orders (parts 2 and 3) except where they draw up local protocols allowing them discretion to make minor variations to working practices which may only

relate to the arrangements for public engagement, including arrangements for the presentation of petitions, public question time etc., and monitoring service performance locally”.

This 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. The Head of Legal/Monitoring Officer and head of Democratic Services also have to be in agreement with the protocol.

2.0 LOCAL COMMITTEE PROTOCOL

The attached protocol at Appendix A was agreed by the Local Committee in the last municipal year. The Committee is asked to approve the protocol for this municipal year.

3.0 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY 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