

## Council Meeting, 7 April 2016

### Notice of Motion Constitution Amendment – A13 Questions by Members

Council Standing Order A13 permits Members to submit questions for response at Council meetings. However, Council Standing Order A13.8 requires responses to take the form of a direct oral answer. In the interests of open government, transparency and public engagement answers to written questions should be recorded in the minutes.

Therefore, it is proposed that the Council's Constitution be amended as follows (changes shown in **bold**):

#### A13.8 **Responses**

An answer to a question ~~or a supplementary question may~~ **will** take the form of:

- (i) a ~~direct oral written answer and attached to the minutes of the Council meeting~~; or
- (ii) where the desired information is in a publication of the Council or other published work, a reference to that publication.

**An answer to a supplementary question will take the form of a**

- (i) a direct oral answer; or**
- (ii) where the desired information is in a publication of the Council or other published work, a reference to that publication.**

Where the member to whom the question was asked is either absent and no other Member is able to respond, the question will be referred to the next meeting where the member is present. If the member asking the questions wishes a response prior to the next meeting, they may request a written answer from the member concerned.

~~Where a written response has been prepared by officers, the Governance Support Manager will make arrangements for these to be included on the Council's website as soon as practicable after the meeting at which the question was asked. (NB. Recordings of all Council meetings are available from the Governance Support Team on request.)~~

Proposed: Councillor Sanders  
Seconder: Councillor Darling (S)