

From: Walton, Cllr_Dean
Sent: 08 October 2006 13:42
To: Alexander, Cllr Heidi; Downes, Cllr Hilary; Flood, Cllr Chris; Griesenbeck, Cllr_Sven; Hall, Cllr Alan; Morris, Cllr Mark; Peake, Cllr Philip; Stamirowski, Cllr_Eva; Stockbridge, Cllr Ron; Wise, Cllr Susan
Cc: Neal, Barrie; Nicholson, Kath; Quirk, Barry; Smith, Peter; Nicholson, Janet; Banfield, Elizabeth; Flaherty, Kevin; Weaser, Clare
Subject: Constitution Working Party/Amendments to Motions

Dear All,

Just an informal note about whether members of the Working Party would be happy to spend some time to considering the issue of the proposing amendments to motions during and immediately prior to Council meetings at the meeting on 23 October. I would like to discuss whether there is any common support for introducing a deadline before the Council meetings for submission of formal amendments to motions, to allow time for party groups to consider the amendments etc and discuss these with other groups if necessary. Further, there has been some confusion at recent meetings as to which version of an amendment or indeed amended amendment has been under discussion - a situation which is not helpful.

Camden, Southwark & Bradford councils have this feature in their constitutions...they use the following:

CAMDEN

Notice of any amendments to motions must be received in writing by the proper officer not later than 10am on the Friday before the council meeting. Any amendments proposed after that time may only be accepted if they relate to accuracy and by the consent of the meeting.

Amendments to motions will be moved after the motion has been proposed and seconded and will be considered in debate together with the main motion, subject to (d) below. At the end of the debate, the amendments will be voted on in the order in which they were received by the mayor.

...

If an amendment is carried, the motion as amended takes the place of the original motion. This becomes the substantive motion to which any further amendments are moved.

...

After an amendment has been carried, the mayor will read out the amended motion before accepting any further amendments, or if there are none, put it to the vote.

BRADFORD

An amendment to a motion must be in writing ... must be delivered to the Legal and Democratic Services Director at a location designated by her/him at least six hours before the start of the meeting.

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Amendments will be listed for each agenda item in the order in which they were received by the Legal and Democratic Services Director. Copies of every amendment received will be made available to every member at the meeting.

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Amendments will be discussed together unless the meeting decides to discuss each one separately.

Amendments will be put to the vote in the reverse of the order in which they were moved at the meeting. The first amendment to be carried will be the substantive motion and other amendments will not be put to the vote.

SOUTHWARK

Notice of every member's amendment to a motion shall be delivered at least one clear working day before the day of the meeting at which the motion is to be moved, at the office of the borough solicitor. Each member is limited to proposing one and seconding one amendment per item of business. All amendments must be accompanied by a named mover and seconded by this deadline. Amendments shall be placed on the agenda in the order of receipt. Any subsequent changes can only be agreed with the consent of the meeting.