

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

County Council
13 October, 2022

REPORT AUTHOR: Head of Legal and Monitoring Officer
SUBJECT: Constitution – Section 4 - Speaking on Motions

REPORT FOR: Decision

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The Council is asked to consider an amendment to Rule 4.47.1 of the Constitution in relation to speaking times for motions together with consequential amendments to Rules 4.54.8.2 and 4.54.8.4 (if required). This was considered by the Democratic Services Committee on 5th September, 2022.

2. Background

- 2.1 Section 4 of the Constitution currently states in relation to speaking on Motions at Council:

Content and Length of Other Speeches

4.47.1 Non aligned Members and a nominated principal speaker from each Political Group will be able to speak on each motion with all Members having a right to speak to raise additional or different issues in the debate.

4.47.2 Speeches in accordance with 4.47.1 above must be directed to the motions under discussion or to a personal explanation, point of order or right of reply. The proposer of a motion may speak for no more than 10 minutes; otherwise no speech may exceed 5 minutes without the consent of the Chair. ▲ ■

- 2.2 The previous Council agreed to undertake a trial reducing the time allowed for speeches from 10 and 5 minutes to 5 and 2 minutes.
- 2.3 The revised speaking times have been utilised at Council meetings since November 2020, (with the exception of the Annual Meeting and Budget Meetings) and were reviewed by the Democratic Services Committee on 5th September, 2022 who have made the following recommendation to Council on the basis that the trial times (5 minutes and 2 minutes) have not appeared to have restricted Members' ability to propose the motion, second it or make comments upon it within those timescales. The Chair of Council also does have discretion to allow a Member additional time if required. The Democratic Services Committee was of the view that the revised timescales were working well and should be adopted on a permanent basis.
- 2.4 The Democratic Services Committee in considering these issues were also asked for consistency to consider amending the following Rules in relation to speaking times for seconds and other speakers which would also become 2 minutes each:

Closure Motions

4.54.8.2 if an amendment has been moved and seconded before a closure motion has been passed by Full Council, that amendment must be discussed immediately but will be subject to the following restrictions:

- The debate on the amendment cannot exceed a maximum of 30 minutes in total, save for the exercising of the Chair’s discretion.
- the proposer will have a maximum of 5 minutes to speak on the amendment;
- the relevant Portfolio Holder(s) will have a maximum of 5 minutes to speak on the amendment;
- the seconder and all other speakers will have a maximum of 3 minutes to speak on the amendment;

4.54.8.4 a single new amendment to the substantive motion (as amended if appropriate) will be allowed if properly seconded, but will be subject to the following restrictions:

- the first new amendment proposed and seconded will be considered and no further proposed amendments will be considered;
- The debate on the new amendment cannot exceed a maximum of 30 minutes in total, save for the exercising of the Chair’s discretion.
- the proposer will have a maximum of 5 minutes to speak on the new amendment;
- the relevant Portfolio Holder will have a maximum of 5 minutes to speak on the new amendment;
- the seconder and all other speakers will have a maximum of 3 minutes to speak on the new amendment;

2.5 The Democratic Services Committee was supportive of amending the rules in respect of speaking at Council meetings and made the following recommendations to the Council. A revised version of Section 4 of the Constitution is attached as an Appendix:

Recommendation to Council:	Reason for Recommendation:
<p>1. That the speaking times in relation to motions be amended on a permanent basis to 5 minutes and 2 minutes.</p> <p>2. That the speaking time allowed for Portfolio Holders is 2 minutes.</p> <p>3. That the revisions to Section 4 of the Constitution as attached to the report are approved.</p>	<p>To revise the speaking time for motions in Section 4 of the constitution following the trial agreed by Council in November 2020.</p>

Relevant Policy (ies):	
Within Policy:	Y
Within Budget:	Y

Relevant Local Member(s):	N/A
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Person(s) To Implement Decision:	Clive Pinney
Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:	

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Background Papers used to prepare Report: