

REPORT OF THE CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

A. REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS (MEETING PROCEDURE RULES)

Introduction

1. This report concerns proposed changes to the Council's Standing Orders (Meeting Procedure Rules), a procedural motion on the proposals having been moved and seconded at the last meeting of the Council to meet the requirements of Standing Order 36.

Background

2. At the last meeting of the Council approval was given to recommendations set out in a report of the Constitution Committee on various changes to the Council's Constitution. The report included proposed changes to Standing Orders (Meeting Procedure Rules).
3. Any motion to add, vary or revoke Standing Orders must, having been proposed and seconded, stand adjourned without discussion to the next ordinary meeting of the Council. Accordingly, at the last meeting of the Council such a motion was duly moved and seconded.
4. Appendix A to this report sets out the proposed change to Standing Order 35 which currently places responsibility on the Scrutiny Commission to review the adequacy of the response to a petition should this be requested by a petitioner. Members will be aware that following changes made to the petition scheme in 2017 the majority of petitions are now dealt with at officer level and not at Scrutiny Committees. Also, a petition can be received by a Regulatory body. The change therefore provides for a centralised system for dealing with concerns regarding how a petition has been handled whether by an officer or a Scrutiny or Regulatory body.

(A motion to the following effect, moved by Mr Rushton and seconded by Mrs Taylor, stands adjourned from last meeting:

That the changes to Standing Order 35 (7) (The Meeting Procedure Rules), as set out in Appendix A to this report, be approved.)

**N J Rushton
Chairman**

Background Papers

[Leicestershire County Council Petitions Scheme](#)

Report of the Constitution Committee to the County Council on 1 December 2021 – Review and Revision of the Constitution -
<http://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=134&MIId=6480&Ver=4>

Appendices

Appendix A – Proposed change to Standing Order 35

APPENDIX A**PROPOSED CHANGE TO STANDING ORDER 35 – PETITIONS AT THE COMMISSION, BOARDS OR COMMITTEES**

Amend Standing Order 35(7) to read:

“If the petition organiser feels unhappy with the way their petition was handled he/she can request that the Council review the steps taken in response to the petition. The petition organiser should contact Democratic Services and provide an explanation of the reasons why the way the petition has been dealt with is not considered to be adequate. The Council will consider the request and respond accordingly within 10 working days.”

The purpose of this amendment is to provide a centralised system for considering concerns regarding the handling of a petition and to reflect that petitions cannot only be submitted to a scrutiny body.