

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
MONITORING OFFICER	AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE	15 JUNE 2017	10
PUBLIC SPEAKING REVIEW			

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY

At the meeting of the Audit and Standards Committee in January 2017 it was determined to review the arrangements for public speaking at meetings of the Council and its committees. This recommendation was put forward by INLOGOV following their review of governance arrangements within the council. The governance review had been two-fold and comprised an internal review of arrangements seeking both the views and feedback from councillor and officers alike, together with the piece of work conducted by INLOGOV.

Drawing together the feedback provided during this review, officers have provided a number of options for committee to consider. Speaking at Planning Committee was dealt with in an earlier report on the agenda.

RECOMMENDATION

The committee are requested to consider the options presented below and select an option to recommend to the council.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Audit and Standards Committee January 2017

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Spending your money in the most efficient way to achieve excellent services (Value for Money)	✓
Delivering the services that customers expect of an excellent council (Clean and Green)	✓
Working with all partners (Vibrant Economy)	✓
To make sure Fylde continues to be one of the most desirable places to live (A Great Place to Live)	✓
Promoting Fylde as a great destination to visit (A Great Place to Visit)	✓

REPORT

1. A governance review was undertaken in early 2016 by way of an online consultation with members and officers, together with a review conducted by the Institute of Local Government at the University of Birmingham ('INLOGOV'). A review of public speaking arrangements at committees was called for.
2. The Fylde Civic Awareness Group also submitted the following views for consideration;

a) *Allow public speakers to speak again on deferred items at Planning Committee – to ensure all committees hear the views (given that the committee may change)*

b) *Allow speaking on a public platform basis at Audit and Standards committee*

3. Public speaking arrangements at the Planning Committee was dealt with earlier on this agenda.

4. A number of options are presented below for the committee to consider. As arrangements for Planning Committee have been determined earlier on the agenda, the options exclude any reference to Planning Committee.

Option 1 – Status Quo

5. Option 1 would be to make no alterations to the present public speaking arrangements and simply collect all public speaking arrangements into one place in the constitution.

6. With no changes there would be public platform only at programme committees; and no more than 5 questions to be asked at Council.

7. There would also be no requirement for Public Platform speakers to pre-register and they would be able to speak on anything within the remit of the committee.

Option 2 – Pre-registration

8. Option 2 would be the same as Option 1 above but with the requirement for all Public Platform speakers to pre-register in advance of the meeting.

Option 3 – Remarks confined to Agenda items

9. Option 3 would be the same as Option 1 but with the requirement for pre-registration for public platform speakers and their remarks confined to matters under consideration on the agenda for that meeting.

Option 4 – Other Committees

10. Option 4 would be the same as either Option 1 or Option 3 above, except that the Public Platform would be extended to Audit and Standards Committee on the same basis as it applies to the programme committees.

11. Licensing Committee would not be included in the public speaking arrangements, as it has separate requirements under the Licensing Act 2003. As the Public Protection Committee considers quasi-judicial matters public speaking would not be appropriate for that particular committee together with matters concerning standards on the Standards and Audit Committee.

12. A matrix setting out the various options is shown below:

	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
Public Platform at programme committees only	✓	✓	✓	
Public Platform speakers on anything within committee remit	✓	✓		*
Public Platform speakers do not need to pre-register	✓			*
Public Platform speakers must pre-register		✓	✓	*
Public Platform speakers must confine their comments to items on the agenda			✓	*
Public Platform extended to all committees – excluding Licensing and Public Protection Committees and the Audit and Standards Committee in so far as standards matters are concerned				✓

* Option 4 can include pre-registration and/or confining members to speaking on items on the agenda.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.
Legal	There is legal no requirement to allow any form of public participation as discussed above
Community Safety	No implications
Human Rights and Equalities	Each of the options set out above is believed to comply with the council's duties under human rights and equalities legislation, including the public sector equality duty
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	No implications
Health & Safety and Risk Management	No implications

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
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BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
Research of other Local Authorities speaking arrangements		Town Hall, Lytham St Annes