

Appendix A

Summary of comments received regarding Rule 2.4 'Questions to the Executive and Committee Chairs' pilot scheme (listed in the order received):

- The trial procedure was suitable as it was and would be better implemented once it had been embedded into practice.
- The question should stay as a clarification question and not be changed back to a supplementary question during the trial. A specific question is given to a specific answer, and better phrasing of a question would help. If the member answering the question gives an ambiguous answer, then a clarification question is needed.
- Supplementary questions would revert the procedure back to the previous position but with 30 minutes instead of 15 minutes. There was concern that this could result in skeleton questions in writing followed by extensive supplementary oral questions, which could be difficult to police and to keep to the subject.
- There was support for the number of Portfolio Holder reports published with the agenda. There was also a wish for dialogue which was considered valuable at this time owing to the much-reduced Member-to-Member contact time caused by the pandemic.
- Clarity was required over when and how the three categories of question would be taken e.g. (i) pre-written ones with published, written answers, (ii) questions on the written reports and (iii) urgent questions on other topics.
- There were also comments of support for the reintroduction of a supplementary question, rather than one of clarification.
- The Chair must have discretion to allow an extension of the 30 minute question time, or a mechanism introduced that allowed the answering of unasked questions.
- There must be the opportunity for questions to be asked that have not been given advance notice.
- The extension of the time allocated to the Question & Answer (Q&A) session from 15 to 30 minutes had been welcomed. However, there were a number of comments which desired more “live” questioning, which would not require questions on notice.
- There should be a facility for both written Q&As to allow for more detailed answers – which do not need to be read out in the meeting but should be published in the minutes - and for ‘dynamic’ or ‘live’ Q&As during the meeting.