

COUNCIL MEETING - 25 FEBRUARY 2003

**RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR DENINGTON,
CHAIR, COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP REVIEW PANEL**

STANDING ORDERS

The Review Panel has considered a draft of the revised debate Standing Orders (SO's) of the Council.

The Council's current SO's date back some years and no longer fit with the Council's new Constitution.

Although the Constitution was adopted in October 2001, there was a delay in updating the SO's whilst further legislation from the Government was awaited.

Following the publication of the Code of Conduct for Councillors in May 2002, the SO's had been redrafted by the Director of Corporate Resources, in consultation with myself and Councillor Miss Phippen.

Generally, the draft SO's follow the pattern of the previous edition, but have been updated to take account of the new Constitution and the Executive arrangements.

During the discussion of this item, Members requested that the following changes to the draft SO's, should be incorporated:-

- (a) The rewording of SO15(2)(b) (Questions from Councillors) so that it did not contradict SO9(1)(c) (Part II of Executive Councillors' Report). It was also felt that the subject of questions raised under SO15 (2)(b) should be restricted to matters which had not been discussed during the last cycle of meetings.
- (b) The words "have the discretion to" be removed from SO16(5) (Public Question Time), to require the Mayor to seek a contribution from a Ward Councillor on a ward-based issue.
- (c) An aide-memoir be included in the new SO's to remind Councillors of the meetings they were entitled to attend.

The Panel agreed that the above amendments/additions should be incorporated into the draft SO's.

A copy of the amended draft Standing Orders has been circulated to all Councillors for their comments.

The Director of Corporate Resources was authorised, in consultation with me to agree any further minor changes to the draft Standing Orders requested by Members.

It is therefore recommended that Council approve the draft debate Standing Orders.

Councillor Bryan Denington