

MEETING**CONSTITUTION, ETHICS AND PROBITY COMMITTEE****DATE AND TIME****WEDNESDAY 16TH NOVEMBER, 2016****AT 7.00 PM****VENUE****HENDON TOWN HALL, THE BURROUGHS, LONDON NW4 4BQ**

Dear Councillors,

Please find enclosed public questions and responses for the above meeting.

Item No	Title of Report	Pages
1.	PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS	3 - 6

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Constitution, Ethics and Probity Committee

16 November 2016

Item 5 – Public Questions and Comments

Note

At the meeting, a time period of up to 30 minutes, is available for public questions and comments in total. If they wish the questioner at the meeting may ask one supplementary question to the original question, which will be answered without discussion. The supplementary question must be relevant to the original question put to the Chairman.

Qn. No	Item No	Raised By	Question Raised	Answer
1.	Agenda Item 7 – Constitution Review – Appendix A – Public Participation and Engagement Rules	Andrew Dismore AM	How many questions have been asked since the 2014 Local Council election: a) at the Hendon Residents’ Forum by the MP for Hendon? b) at the Chipping Barnet Residents’ Forum by the MP for Chipping Barnet? c) at the Finchley and Golders Green Residents’ Forum by the MP for Finchley and Golders Green?	a) 0 b) 0 c) 0

AGENDA ITEM 5

2.	Agenda item 7- Constitution Review – Appendix I, Article 12 – Review and Revisions	John Dix	Where the revision states “Where minor amendments to the Constitution are required, the Monitoring Officer is authorised to make the necessary changes following consultation with the Chairman of the Constitution, Ethics and Probity Committee”, who defines what is a “minor” amendment and how can the public be made aware of such changes to the constitution if they take place outside of this committee?	<p>If the Monitoring Officer proposed to make a minor amendment using this delegated authority he / she would be required consult with the Chairman of the Constitution, Ethics & Probity Committee. The Chairman would be able give direction as to what is and is not a minor amendment and whether the use of the delegation was appropriate or whether committee approval was required instead. An example of a minor amendment would be to update the officer post titles in the Constitution such as those proposed in items 19. and 20. of the Constitution Review report.</p> <p>Any changes made by the Monitoring Officer using his / her delegated authority could be reported to the Constitution, Ethics & Probity Committee for information to ensure that there was a complete publicly available audit trail of changes made to the Constitution.</p>
3.	Agenda Item 7 – Constitution Review – Appendix A – Public Participation and Engagement Rules	Andrew Dismore AM	How many questions have been raised by me at all residents’ forums since the 2014 Local Council election?	<p>Hendon Residents Forum = 44</p> <p>Chipping Barnet Resident Forum = 5</p> <p>Finchley and Golders Green Residents Forum = 10</p> <p>Total = 59</p>
4.	Agenda Item 7 – Constitution Review – Appendix A – Public Participation and Engagement Rules	Andrew Dismore AM	What other speaking rights does the Member of the London Assembly for Barnet and Camden have at Council meetings beyond that of another member of the public?	The Public Participation and Engagement Rules do not provide any additional speaking rights for the Member of the London Assembly for Barnet and Camden or Barnet MP’s over and above those of another member of the public.

5.	Agenda Item 7 – Constitution Review – Appendix A – Public Participation and Engagement Rules	Andrew Dismore AM	If local Members of Parliament do not raise issues at the resident’s forums, but the London Assembly Member does who is likely to be affected by banning these individuals from raising concerns on behalf of their residents?	MP’s, as Mr Dismore may remember, tend to raise issues via letters or e-mail to the Council. Mr Dismore’s questions to Resident’s Forums have already annoyed residents. A well-known political activist from the left complained at the last Finchley & Golders Green Residents Forum on 26 October 2016 that he had asked five questions. As he knows, there are plenty of other ways he can raise questions with the council.
6.	Agenda Item 7 – Constitution Review – Appendix A – Public Participation and Engagement Rules	Andrew Dismore AM	If the Council plans on gagging local elected representatives, do you have plans to prevent members of the public being able to speak, or raise issues too?	No-one would attempt to gag Mr Dismore. He is merely being asked to make representations via letter and e-mail as the vast majority of people do.

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