

Report to: Council
Date of Meeting: 20th August 2020
Public Document: Yes
Exemption: None
Review date for release None



Subject: **Temporary Rules of Procedure (COVID-19)**

Purpose of report: This report follows the adoption of the Temporary Rules of Procedure (COVID-19) using urgency provisions in the officer's delegated powers. Members were notified of the decision and provided with a copy of the Rules at the time.

The decision making record (see Appendix 1) acknowledges that in the normal course of events making changes to the Council's procedural rules would require a decision of Council because they are contained in the Constitution. The record explains why it wasn't possible to bring these temporary arrangements before Council at the time but does confirm that they would be presented to Council for ratification at the first opportunity.

Since their adoption there does not appear to have been any issues with the operation of the Temporary Rules of Procedure and therefore it is recommended that Council confirm that they will continue in operation until 7th May 2021 in line with the expiration of the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

Should Government extend these Regulations and / or permit a more flexible approach to meetings going forward then the appropriateness of the Council's Procedural Rules will be reviewed as appropriate.

Recommendation: **That Council agree the continued use of the Temporary Rules of Procedure until 7th May 2021.**

Reason for recommendation: To ensure the membership are content with the Temporary Rules of Procedure governing remote meetings as the rules were adopted using urgency powers.

Officer: Henry Gordon Lennox, Monitoring Officer

Portfolio Holder: Portfolio Holder Democracy and Transparency

Financial implications: There are no financial implications arising.

Legal implications: As detailed in the report and appended decision making record. No further comment is required.

Equalities impact: Low Impact

Climate change: Low Impact

Risk: Low Risk

Links to background information: Senior Officer Urgent Decision – Temporary Rules of Procedures (COVID-19)

Link to [Council Plan](#): Outstanding Council and Council Services