

Isle of Anglesey County Council	
Report to:	Isle of Anglesey County Council
Date:	19 December 2023
Subject:	Amending the time allowed for members of the public to speak in the Planning Committee
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Nicola Roberts (Planning) and Councillor Carwyn Jones (Corporate and Customer Experience)
Head of Service / Director:	Christian Branch, Head of Regulation and Economic Development; Lynn Ball, Director of Function (Council Business) / Monitoring Officer
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Local Members:	Relevant to all

A –Recommendation/s and reason/s

To change the reference in paragraph 4.6.21.6 of the Constitution from 3 minutes to 5 minutes (that is the time that members of the public are allowed to speak in the Planning Committee).

Recommendation:

1. That the Council approves the change to 5 minutes and delegates:
 - a. To the Monitoring Officer the right to make the change to the Constitution, and:
 - b. To the Head of Regulation, the right to change any reference in guidance related to the procedure that members of the public are allowed to speak for 5 minutes.

B – What other options did you consider and why did you reject them and/or opt for this option?

The procedure for allowing members of the public to speak in the Planning Committee has been operational for a number of years. Since its inception the time allowed for public speaking at the Committee has been 3 minutes.

Recently there have been requests through the Committee to ask if the time allowed can be extended. A proposal to extend the allotted time to 5 minutes has been supported by the Political Group Leaders and the Executive.

B – What other options did you consider and why did you reject them and/or opt for this option?

The proposal to extend the time has also been subject to consultation with the Planning Committee.

Increasing the time allowed for members of the public to speak to 5 minutes will ensure consistency with the time allowed for elected members to speak in the Committee – including local members when discussing relevant applications (paragraph 4.1.15.4 of the Constitution as it is relevant to the Planning Committee through paragraph 4.1.28).

C – Why is this a decision for the Executive?

It is a requirement that a change to the Constitution is firstly considered by the Executive (paragraph 2.15.2.1 of the Constitution) before it goes to the full Council for approval.

Ch – Is this decision consistent with policy approved by the full Council?

Not applicable

D – Is this decision within the budget approved by the Council?

There will not be a direct financial impact by this change, but it could extend the time of some meetings (depending on the number of public speakers on the agenda).

Dd – Assessing the potential impact (if relevant):

1	How does this decision impact on our long term needs as an Island?	Not applicable
2	Is this a decision which it is envisaged will prevent future costs / dependencies on the Authority? If so, how?	Not applicable
3	Have we been working collaboratively with other organisations to come to this decision? If so, please advise whom.	Not applicable
4	Have Anglesey citizens played a part in drafting this way forward,	Not applicable

Dd – Assessing the potential impact (if relevant):		
	including those directly affected by the decision? Please explain how.	
5	Note any potential impact that this decision would have on the groups protected under the Equality Act 2010.	The change gives more opportunity for members of the public to present their comments to the Planning Committee.
6	If this is a strategic decision, note any potential impact that the decision would have on those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage.	Not applicable
7	Note any potential impact that this decision would have on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.	Not applicable

E – Who did you consult?		What did they say?
1	Chief Executive / Senior Leadership Team (SLT) (mandatory)	The Chief Executive is supportive of the amendment.
2	Finance / Section 151 (mandatory)	Comments included as a member of the LT.
3	Legal / Monitoring Officer (mandatory)	Co-author of the report.
4	Human Resources (HR)	N/A
5	Property	N/A
6	Information Communication Technology (ICT)	N/A
7	Procurement	N/A
8	Scrutiny	N/A
9	Local Members	Group Leaders are supportive.
10	Planning	The Planning Committee and the Planning Development Manager are supportive.

F - Appendices:
None

Ff - Background papers (please contact the author of the Report for any further information):
None

