

CORPORATE SELECT COMMITTEE
23 May 2022
Public & Local Member Questions

Agenda item 6	Member Question Time
6.1	<p>Question from Cllr A Kemp</p> <p>These changes bring the spectre of a democratic deficit from NCC affecting this Division again, like 10 years ago, when I was first elected : (a) the proposed ban on questioning Cabinet Members in Council on their portfolios could prevent public accountability on major infrastructure projects like West Winch Bypass; (b) placing non-aligned member Motions at the back of the queue at every Council Meeting would unfairly discriminate against residents' causes in the 10% most deprived area in England, South Lynn (c) discretion at Cabinet to refuse "non-local" questions could impede stopping the Wisbech Incinerator or the QEH rebuild campaign. Can the Committee do a reality-check for democracy?</p>
	<p>Response from the Chair, Cllr Ed Colman</p> <p>It is the role of the Corporate Select Committee to support the Cabinet and Council in ensuring good governance and at least annually they will review the content and operation of the Constitution to ensure that it remains fit for purpose as set out in the current Constitution. As part of this governance process the Committee are being asked today to consider draft proposals for comments and suggested amendments on the proposed changes to the Constitution before it is taken to full Council for approval on 19th July. There will be an opportunity for all Councillors to debate and consider the draft proposals in full Council but four Constitution workshops have also been set up between now and then and members are encouraged to attend these and provide further comments and views. A dedicated email address constitution@norfolk.gov.uk has been set up to allow any Member unable to attend one of these Workshops to forward any comments and all received will be available for Members to access and view on the Councillor Portal. We will ensure that the issues raised by Cllr Kemp today are included in this process.</p> <p>If the Committee agree today it is proposed that an updated report on the outcomes from the workshops and any comments received are reported to this Committee when it next meets on 11th July. Any final comments from the Committee and the workshops will then be reported to full Council on 19th July for when all Members consider the report. A copy of the timeline outlining this process is attached and has been circulated to the Committee.</p>

Constitutional amendments – working timetable

