



Report To:	Full Council
Date:	2 nd March 2026
Subject:	Constitution Amendment - Council Procedure Rule 11 – Questions by Members
Purpose:	To consider recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in respect of varying Council Procedure Rule 11 – Questions by Members
Key Decision:	N/A
Portfolio Holder:	N/A
Report Of:	John Medler, Assistant Director – Governance and Monitoring Officer
Report Author:	John Medler, Assistant Director – Governance and Monitoring Officer
Ward(s) Affected:	N/A
Exempt Report:	No

Summary

This report presents feedback and recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 10th February 2026 which considered varying Council Procedural Rule 11 – Questions by Members.

Recommendations

That in accordance with recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee the Council resolves:

1. To amend Council Procedure Rule 11.2 (Questions on Notice at Full Council) to state that a Member of the Council may submit one question only to Full Council per meeting.

2. That this amendment shall take effect at the conclusion of the Full Council Meeting on 2nd March 2026.
3. That the Monitoring Officer be authorised to update the Constitution and any associated guidance documents accordingly to give effect to the amendment.

Reasons for Recommendations

The recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are presented to Full Council in compliance with constitutional requirements.

Other Options Considered

The Council could choose not to approve the Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommendations.

1. Background and report

- 1.1 At the Council Meeting on 12th January 2026 the Council considered the following motion on notice to vary Council Procedure Rule 11 – Questions by Members:

COUNCIL NOTES:

That the current Council Procedure Rules permit Members to submit more than one question to Full Council within a single meeting cycle.

That recent meetings have demonstrated that multiple questions from the same member can extend proceedings, reduce time available for wider debate, and limit opportunities for other members to participate.

That ensuring fair and balanced participation from all elected Members is essential to the effective functioning, transparency and efficiency of Full Council Meetings.

Therefore, Council resolves

1. *To amend Council Procedure Rule 11.2 (Questions on Notice at Full Council) to state that a Member of the Council may submit one question only to Full Council per meeting.*
2. *That this amendment shall take effect at the conclusion of the Full Council Meeting on 12th January 2026.*
3. *That the Monitoring Officer be authorized to update the Constitution and any associated guidance documents accordingly to give effect to the amendment.*

- 1.2 Following a point of order being raised during the meeting it was clarified that before approving any changes to its Constitution the Council would be required to consider a report prepared by the Monitoring Officer. The Monitoring Officer's report is attached at Appendix 1.
- 1.3 Furthermore the Council's Constitution requires that a motion on notice which proposes to vary the Council Procedure Rules must be considered by a Committee of the Council who shall make a recommendation back to the next ordinary meeting of the Council in relation to the motion.
- 1.4 To comply with these Constitution requirements the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 10th February 2026 considered the motion on notice and the Monitoring Officer's report. At the meeting it was clarified that the proposed variation to Council Procedure Rule 11 as set out in the motion could take effect from the conclusion of the Full Council Meeting on 2nd March 2026.
- 1.5 During debate the following points were made in support of limiting the number of questions on notice at Full Council meetings:
 - Questions had been used by members to make personal attacks against other members and were often not relevant to the business of the day.
 - Alternative mechanisms existed for Members to ask questions to Portfolio Holders, Committees and Cabinet.
 - Other Councils had adopted rules to limit the number of questions on notice at Full Council meetings.
 - The proposal would encourage members to focus on a key question rather than a series of questions and would make good use of time in Council Meetings.
- 1.6 During debate the following points were made against limiting the number of questions on notice at Full Council meetings:
 - Questions were already required to be submitted in advance to the Chief Executive who in turn ensured they were relevant to Council business.
 - A lack of attendance by Cabinet Members at Committee Meetings in the past 6 months had reduced the opportunity to ask political questions other than through Full Council meetings.
 - It was appropriate for members of opposition groups to ask questions of the administration.
 - Multiple questions from the same member had not extended proceedings, reduced time available for wider debate nor limited the opportunities for other members to participate in the meeting as claimed in the motion and this was evidenced by the duration of Council meetings which had regularly finished well within the 3-hour cut off time period.
- 1.7 Following debate the Committee resolved to recommend the following to the Full Council:
 1. *To amend Council Procedure Rule 11.2 (Questions on Notice at Full Council) to state that a Member of the Council may submit one question only to Full Council per meeting.*

2. *That this amendment shall take effect at the conclusion of the Full Council Meeting on 2nd March 2026.*
3. *That the Monitoring Officer be authorized to update the Constitution and any associated guidance documents accordingly to give effect to the amendment.*

2. Conclusion

- 2.1 The Full Council is now asked to consider the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as set out in this report to vary Council Procedure Rule 11.

Implications

South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership

None

Corporate Priorities

None

Staffing

None

Workforce Capacity Implications

None

Constitutional and Legal Implications

As contained in the report and Appendix 1.

Data Protection

None

Financial

None

Risk Management

None

Stakeholder / Consultation / Timescales

As set out in the report.

Reputation

None

Contracts

None

Crime and Disorder

None

Equality and Diversity / Human Rights / Safeguarding

None

Health and Wellbeing

None

Climate Change and Environment Impact Assessment

None

Acronyms

None

Appendices

Appendices are listed below and attached to the back of the report:

Appendix 1 Monitoring Officer Report

Background Papers

Background papers used in the production of this report are listed below: -

Document title

Where the document can be viewed

The Council's Constitution [\(Public Pack\)Agenda Document for Constitution, 28/01/2026 00:00](#)

Chronological History of this Report

Name of Body

Date

Council	12 January 2026
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	10 February 2026

Report Approval

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