

15.2 Subject of debate

The Leader will liaise with the Leaders of the political groups to agree where possible the topic of the debate. Where agreement cannot be reached the topic will be put to the vote at the Council meeting prior to the quarterly debate.

15.3 Chairing of debate

The debate will be chaired by the Mayor.

15.4 Results of debate

The results of the debate will be:

- (i) disseminated as widely as possible within the community and to agencies and organisations in the area; and
- (ii) considered by the Leader in proposing the budget and policy framework to the Council for the coming year.

16. Previous Decisions and Motions

16.1 Motion to rescind a previous decision

Except in the case of a motion moved in pursuance of a recommendation by the executive or by a Committee a motion or amendment to rescind a decision made at a meeting of Council within the past six months cannot be moved unless the notice of motion is signed by at least five members.

16.2 Motion similar to one previously rejected

Except in the case of a motion moved in pursuance of a recommendation by the executive or by a Committee a motion or amendment in similar terms to one that has been rejected at a meeting of Council in the past six months cannot be moved unless the notice of motion or amendment is signed by at least five members. Once the motion or amendment is dealt with, no one can propose a similar motion or amendment for six months.

17. Voting

17.1 Majority

Unless this Constitution provides otherwise, any matter will be decided by a simple majority of those members voting and present in the room at the time the question was put.

17.2 Mayor casting vote

If there are equal numbers of votes for and against, the Mayor will have a second or casting vote. There will be no restriction on how the Mayor chooses to exercise a casting vote notwithstanding Rule 17.6.

17.3 Methods of voting

Unless a recorded vote is demanded under Rule 17.4 the vote will be taken by any one of the following means:

- (a) by utilising an electronic voting system; or
- (b) by show of hands; or
- (c) if there is no dissent, by the affirmation of the meeting.

17.4 Recorded vote

If not less than one-fifth of the members present and entitled to vote at the meeting demand it, the names for and against the motion or amendment or abstaining from voting shall be recorded and entered into the minutes. The method of undertaking the recorded vote will be by use of the electronic voting system unless unavailable in which case the vote will be recorded manually.

17.5 Right to require individual vote to be recorded

Where any member requests it immediately after the vote is taken, their vote will be so recorded in the minutes to show whether they voted for or against the motion or abstained from voting.

17.6 Voting on appointments

The vote will be taken in respect of each candidate for appointment separately. Members will vote for only one of the candidate(s). When the electronic voting system is used voting will be by means of pressing the yes button. A gross error check will be undertaken to ensure that only 1 vote has been registered by each Member.

If there are more than two people nominated for any position to be filled and there is not a clear majority of votes in favour of one person, then the name(s) of the person(s) with the least number of votes will be taken off the list and a new vote taken. The process will continue until there is a majority of votes for one person.

The Mayor's casting vote will not apply.