



COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY, 17 DECEMBER 2025

Late Item(s)

Summary of Rules of Debate

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Council Meeting

WEDNESDAY 17 DECEMBER 2025
AT 7.15 PM IN THE CIVIC SUITE, PATHFINDER
HOUSE, ST MARY'S STREET, HUNTINGDON
PE29 3TN

SUMMARY OF RULES OF DEBATE

No Speeches until Motion is Moved and Seconded

No speeches to be made after the mover has moved a proposal and explained the purpose of it until the motion has been seconded.

The Chair has Right to Require Motion in Writing before it is discussed

When seconding a motion or amendment, a member may reserve their speech until later in the debate

Content and Length of Speeches

Speeches must be directed to the question under discussion or to a personal explanation or point of order and not exceed 5 minutes without the consent of the Chair. This does not apply to the member of the Cabinet with executive responsibility in presenting the annual budget statement and statutory and non statutory plans to the Council.

When a Member May Speak Again

A member who has spoken on a motion may not speak again whilst it is the subject of debate, except to speak once on an amendment moved by another member, to move a further amendment if the motion has been amended since he/she last spoke, if his/her first speech was on an amendment moved by another member, to speak on the main issue, in exercise of a right of reply, on a point of order and by way of personal explanation.

Amendments to Motions

An amendment to a motion must be relevant to a motion and will either be to refer a subject of debate to the Cabinet, Overview and Scrutiny Panel, committee or panel, to leave out words, to leave out words and insert or add others; or to insert or add words, as long as do not have the effect of negating the motion before the Council.

Only one amendment may be moved and discussed at any one time.

If an amendment is not carried, other amendments to the original motion may be moved.

If an amendment is carried, the motion as amended takes the place of the original motion. This becomes the substantive motion to which any further amendments are moved.

If an amendment has been carried, the Chair will read out the amended motion before accepting any further amendments, or if there is none, put it to the vote.

Alteration of Motion

A member may alter a motion of which he/she has given notice with the consent of the meeting, signified without discussion, and for one without notice with the consent of the seconder and meeting.

Withdrawal of Motion

A member may withdraw a motion which he/she has moved with the consent of both the meeting and the seconder.

Right of Reply

The mover of a motion has a right to reply at the end of the debate on the motion, immediately before it is put to the vote. If an amendment is moved, the mover of the original motion has the right of reply at the close of the debate on the amendment, but may not otherwise speak on it. The mover of the amendment has no right of reply to the debate on his or her amendment.

Motions which may be moved during debate

When a motion is under debate, no other motion may be moved except the following procedural motions: withdraw a motion, amend a motion, proceed to the next business, that the question be now put, adjourn a debate, adjourn a meeting, exclude the public and press in accordance with the Access to Information Rules; and not hear further a member named under Rule 20.3 or to exclude them from the meeting under Rule 20.4.

Closure Motions

A member may move, without comment, the following motions at the end of a speech of another member: proceed to the next business, that the question be now put, to adjourn a debate, or adjourn a meeting.

Point of Order - A member may raise a point of order at any time. The Chair will hear them immediately. A point of order may only relate to an alleged breach of these Council Rules of Procedure or the law.

Personal Explanation

A member may make a personal explanation at any time to resolve any apparent misunderstanding in the present debate. The ruling of the Chair will be final.