

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> April 8 2009	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Council Assembly
<b>Report title:</b>		Urgent motion and amendment – Foreknowledge of council assembly motions	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Strategic Director of Legal and Democratic Services	

## **URGENT MOTION**

**MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR CHRIS PAGE** (seconded by Councillor Robert Smeath)

### **Foreknowledge of council assembly motions**

1. Council assembly notes that the Liberal Democrat and Conservative Groups have, as a matter of routine, been passed Labour Group motions by council officers before the distribution of the agenda and have therefore had foreknowledge of other members' council assembly motions.
2. Council assembly notes that this practice has started since 2002, when the last Labour administration was in power.
3. Council assembly believes that this is a shameful example of the Liberal Democrat and Conservative groups misusing council resources to gain political advantage.
4. Council assembly believes that officers should not have offered this advantage and that by accepting it, as the incumbent administration, the executive have jeopardised the independence of council officers. It believes that this is just the most recent in a string of actions that have undermined council assembly and its ability to hold the executive to account.
5. Council assembly calls on the leader of the council to unreservedly apologise for this behaviour and guarantee that it will not happen again.
6. Council assembly calls on the constitutional steering panel to review the deadlines for council assembly and the standing orders.

### **REASON FOR URGENCY**

The motion concerns procedures associated with council assembly, therefore it is vital that this issue is resolved before the next meeting.

### **REASON FOR LATENESS**

Awareness of the practice only came about following the motions deadline.

## AMENDMENT

**Moved:** Councillor Nick Stanton  
**Seconded:** Councillor Michelle Holford

In paragraph 1, **delete** all from “notes that” to end of sentence, and **insert:**

“as evidenced by council standing orders from 2000, cabinet members, and then executive members, have been involved in drafting concurrent advice to council assembly motions for the last 9 years and that to assist in this, such members received notice of council motions 1 week before the distribution of the main agenda.”

**Delete** paragraphs 2-5

**Insert** new paragraph 2 as below:

“Council assembly notes with regret that this practice was continued – as a result of an oversight – following the discontinuation of concurrent advice, which came into effect in November 2008.”

### NOTES:

1. Prior to debating the late motion and amendment the following council assembly procedure rules would need to be suspended:
  - Notice for motions to be delivered (CAPR 2.9 (3)).
  - Notice for amendments to be delivered (CAPR 2.9 (4)).
2. If the motion or the amendment are agreed, any proposals will be submitted to the constitutional steering panel for consideration.

## BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Member Motions	Town Hall Peckham Road London SE5 8UB	Constitutional Team 020 7525 7228

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Ian Millichap, Constitutional Team Manager
<b>Report Author</b>	Lesley John, Constitutional Officer
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