



COUNCIL - 7TH MARCH 2017

SUBJECT: ANSWER TO QUESTION RECEIVED UNDER RILE OF PROCEDURE 10(2)

Electronic Voting - to the Cabinet Member for Human Resources and Governance from Councillor Mrs Blackman

Under the Council's Standing Orders 15.2 Electronic Voting it states,

'For Meetings of the Full Council in the Council Chamber, voting will be by electronic voting. Should the electronic voting system be unavailable or breakdown, voting will be undertaken by a show of hands as outlined in paragraph 15.4 below. The section then goes on to describe how electronic voting will be undertaken.'

Some time ago Councillors did start to use the Electronic Voting system.

Why has it stopped and, when will it be reintroduced?

It is only right and proper that the electorate can look up how their Ward Members, voted on every issue.

RESPONSE FROM COUNCILLOR MRS C. FOREHEAD CABINET MEMBER FOR HUMAN RESOURCES AND GOVERNANCE

The electronic voting system had to be replaced when the webcasting system was introduced as it was discovered there were technical and incompatibility issues with the two systems. In order to resolve this it was agreed to replace the voting system and this was trialled at a few Council meetings in order for members to become familiar with the system. It was then decided to use the system at a Full Council meeting.

Unfortunately there were significant issues for Members using this system at the meeting and Members expressed a lack of confidence in the system. Members were therefore advised that the new electronic voting system would not be used as further testing and training on the system was required, decisions would be made by a show of hands.

This was subsequently discussed at Democratic Services Committee where Members sought reassurance that the use of the system would be revisited at a later date following further training for Members. Members were assured that reverting to a show of hands satisfied the test of openness and transparency as this can be clearly seen by the public in attendance.

The intention is to offer further training to all members following the AGM with a view to re-introducing the system, once Members are confident in the accuracy of the voting and in using the system.