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## **LEADERS REPORT**

To: **Constitutional Review Working Party – Thursday 28 July 2011**

By: **Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Ward: **All Wards**

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**Summary:** **To decide if amendments to the way the Leaders Report is dealt with at Council Meetings are necessary.**

### **For Decision**

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#### **1.0 Introduction and Background**

1.1 The issue of which Councillors may speak under the Leaders Report item at Council Meetings has been raised. In particular, what are the circumstances under which the Chairman would permit other Councillors to speak? This report allows the Constitutional Review Working Party to consider if changes are necessary.

#### **2.0 The Current Situation**

2.1 The current part of the Thanet District Council's constitution that deals with the Leaders Report states:

##### **"2.2 Leaders Report**

The Leader of the Council may make an oral report, not exceeding ten minutes, on key issues arising since the last meeting of Council.

The Leaders of the Opposition and any other Political Group may comment on the Leader's report, but no other Member may speak except with the consent of the Chairman. The comments of the Leaders of the Opposition and other Political Groups shall be limited each to five minutes.

The Leader has a right of reply, limited to two minutes, to any comments made on his/her report.

No motions may be moved nor resolutions passed under this item."

2.2 This wording was based on the Kent County Council rules regarding their Leaders report and subsequent checking has confirmed within their scheme no other Member may speak except with the consent of the Chairman.

2.3 In the past three years Kent County Council has never come across a situation where any Member other than the three Group Leaders has requested to speak on the Leaders Report item.

### **3.0 Corporate Implications**

#### **3.1 Financial and VAT**

3.1.1 There are no financial or VAT implications

#### **3.2 Legal**

3.2.1 If changes are made to the existing Leader's report arrangements, the Council's constitution will need to be amended.

#### **3.3 Corporate**

3.3.1 The Council's constitution such as the Leader's report fit with the Modern Council theme of the Corporate Plan.

#### **3.4 Equity and Equalities**

3.4.1 There are no equalities implications

### **4.0 Recommendation(s)**

4.1 The Constitution Review Working Party's instructions are sought.

### **5.0 Decision Making Process**

5.1 If the Working Party is minded to make a recommendation on changing the constitution regarding the Leader's report, the recommendation will then go to the Standards Committee and if they also agree, it will be recommended on to Full Council.

Future Meeting if applicable: Standards Committee	Date: 7 September 2011
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Contact Officer:	Glenn Back, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager
Reporting to:	Harvey Patterson, Corporate and Regulatory Services Manager

#### ***Annex List***

<i>None</i>	
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#### ***Background Papers***

<b>Title</b>	<b>Details of where to access copy</b>
<i>None</i>	

#### ***Corporate Consultation Undertaken***

Finance	Nikki Walker, Finance Manager – HRA, Capital & External Funding
Legal	Harvey Patterson, Corporate and Regulatory Services Manager
Communications	Justine Wingate, Corporate Information Manager