
CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES: PROPOSED WRITTEN REPORT TO COUNCIL BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

To: **Standards Committee – 16 September 2014**

By: **Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Ward: **N/A**

Summary: To consider amendments to the constitution arising from the recommendation by the Constitutional Review Working Party that Council receives a written report from the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel at each of its ordinary meetings

For Decision

1.0 Introduction and Background

1.1 When the report on a possible review of council procedure rules, particularly in relation to opportunities for backbench Members' participation at meetings of full council, was considered by the Working Party on 1 May 2014, it was AGREED TO RECOMMEND to Standards Committee:

1.1.1 (a) THAT no change to the Council Procedure Rules affecting Members' participation at meetings of full Council is made at the present time;

(b) THAT a written report for information be received at each ordinary meeting of Council from the Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Panel, providing that such reports were not open for debate.

1.1.2 THAT, prior to submitting recommendations at No. 1 above to the Standards Committee, a report be brought to the Constitutional Review Working Party, outlining the necessary constitutional changes.

2.0 The Current Situation

2.1 It was the view of the Constitutional Review Working Party of 2 September when this issue was discussed, that the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel should introduce a written report to every meeting of Full Council. This report would update Council on the work undertaken by the Panel since the last meeting of Full Council; the report will be for information only and would not be subject to comment or debate.

2.2 The Constitutional Review Working Party agreed:

"That the Working Party recommends to Council that the amendments to the Council Procedure Rules as outlined at Annex 1 be approved"

2.3 The Committee may wish to consider whether the proposed new Council Procedure Rule 16.0, as set out at Annex 1, should be added to the constitution to enable written reports to be received by Council from the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

3.0 Corporate Implications

3.1 Financial and VAT

3.1.1 None apparent

3.2 Legal

3.2.1 Any change in council procedures should be reflected in the constitution

3.3 Corporate

3.3.1 Written reports to Council by the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel should result in a greater awareness by all Members of scrutiny activities being undertaken, and the role of overview and scrutiny in general.

3.4 Equity and Equalities

3.4.1 None apparent

4.0 Recommendation(s)

4.1 THAT the Standards Committee recommends to Council that the amendments to the Council Procedure Rules, as outlined at Annex 1 or otherwise as it sees fit, be approved.

5.0 Decision Making Process

5.1 Recommendations of the Standards Committee are referred to Council for final decision.

Future Meeting if applicable:	Date:
Council	2 October 2014

Contact Officer:	<i>Glenn Back, Democratic Services & Scrutiny Manager, ext 7187</i>
Reporting to:	<i>Paul Cook, Interim Director of Corporate Resources, ext 7617</i>

Annex List

Annex 1	Suggested amendments to Council Procedure Rules (new CPR 16)
---------	--

Background Papers

Title	Details of where to access copy
None	

Corporate Consultation Undertaken

Finance	<i>n/a</i>
Legal	<i>n/a</i>