

Council – 6th July 2009

Amendments to the Constitution

1. Summary of report

The reports set out proposed amendments to the Constitution in relation to membership of the Appointments Board, Council procedure rules in relation to member substitutions at Committees and the remits of Social Care and Inclusion and Regeneration Scrutiny and Performance Panels.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That approval be given to the membership of the Appointments Board as set out in Part 3.2, paragraph 9 of the Constitution to be amended to read:

“7 Members of the authority as determined by the Council, usually to be chaired by the Leader of the Council.”

- 2.2 That approval be given to the amendment of paragraph 24 of the Council procedure rules set out in Part 4.1 of the Constitution to read as follows:

“All of the Council rules of procedure apply to meetings of the Council. None of the rules apply to meetings of the Executive. Only rules 4.2, 4.3, 5-9, 11, 14-16, 18-22 (but not rule 21.1) apply to meetings of Committees and Sub-Committees.”

- 2.3 That approval be given to the deletion of strategic housing matters from the remit of the Social Care and Inclusion Scrutiny and Performance Panel and its inclusion in the remit of the Regeneration Scrutiny and Performance Panel.

3. Report detail

3.1 Appointments Board – membership

The membership of the Appointments Board which was agreed at Annual Council on 20th May 2009 contained an anomaly which is not found in any other Committee of the Council as it allows for the inclusion of non-voting Councillors for appointments other than that of the Chief Executive.

Members who have been invited to attend meetings of the Board in that capacity have questioned the necessity for this practice to continue. The present text in Part 3.2 of the Constitution reads as follows:

“Membership

7 Members of the authority as determined by the Council.

(Note: For appointments other than Chief Executive, the membership of the Appointments Board to include as non-voting Members, the relevant portfolio holder from the Cabinet and a nominee of the Labour Group.)”

3.2 Council procedure rules

Paragraph 24 of the Council procedure rules set out in the Constitution explains the application of the rules in so far as they apply to meetings of the Council and details those paragraphs which apply to Committees and Sub-Committees. Paragraphs 4.2 and 4.3 of the rules explain substitutions to Committees but are not included within paragraph 24 as applying to Committees. This is clearly an oversight and needs to be rectified.

3.3 Scrutiny and Performance Panels

The remit of the Social Care and Inclusion Scrutiny and Performance Panel which was approved by the Council at its Annual Meeting includes responsibility for strategic housing matters. In order to better reflect changes in the structure of service areas it would be more appropriate for strategic housing matters to be included within the remit of the Regeneration Scrutiny and Performance Panel.

Background papers - Nil

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Signed:

Chief Executive

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