

**REPORT TO COUNCIL BUSINESS COMMITTEE
ON 27.4.06
STATUS OF REPORT – PUBLIC**

AREA COMMITTEES / WARDS AFFECTED- ALL

TITLE

REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL CONSTITUTION

WHY IS IT COMING HERE? / WHAT DECISION IS REQUIRED?

To consider and refer to council proposed amendments to the constitution.

IS THIS AN URGENT ACTION APPROVED BY THE CHAIR OF SCRUTINY?

No.

KEY FACTS

The annual council meeting will as usual, need to review the constitution in the light of its operation in the current municipal year. This report deals with a number of issues and is intended to allow the Committee to consider those and to decide whether we recommend proposed changes to the annual council. Certain issues [such as terms of reference for Cabinet Committees] are for Cabinet decision, but are included in this report for information and completeness.

The attached paper sets out issues which have arisen through either practical problems, comment by members or officers, legislative change since the last annual council meeting or decisions of this Committee arising from some of the foregoing. The Committee is asked to decide whether it wishes to recommend to the annual council meeting that the proposed amendments to the relevant parts of the constitution should be made.

Where any decisions (e.g. relating to delegation of Cabinet functions) are a matter for the Cabinet, these will be dealt with by the brief Cabinet meeting immediately after Annual Council.

For information – Business Managers will be aware that an issue has recently been raised by officers in the Decision Support Unit about the possible combination of Licensing Panels with Regulatory Panels. However, it is now intended that this issue should be the subject of a later report to the Business Managers' Sub Committee, probably in June.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the proposals be accepted and submitted to the annual meeting of the council with the recommendation that they be approved and adopted and the Solicitor to the Council be authorised to make any necessary consequential amendments to the constitution.

CONSULTEES

The Chief Executive, the Director of Corporate Development and the Head of the Democratic Support Service have been consulted on these proposals and their comments have been included in the attached paper. Most of the proposals have also been considered at a meeting of group leaders and, again, comments are incorporated. One or two points are included which were not considered at that meeting, having only recently been raised. Those all reflect issues which have already been implemented and are identified in the attached paper. Various individual issues have also been discussed with relevant officers and/or members [e.g. scrutiny issues].

CONTACT OFFICER

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

None