

COUNCIL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

THURSDAY 11TH MAY 2006

REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL CONSTITUTION

ADDITIONAL ISSUES RAISED

Proposal raised by the Conservative Group

1. Area Committees

It is suggested that the arrangements for area committees should be amended to revert to the committees, including the single ward area committees which existed in 2004/05. This would mean that the area committees for 2006/07 would be [wards covered by multi ward committees indicated in brackets]:-

- Batley [Batley East & Batley West]
- Birstall & Birkenshaw
- Colne Valley [Colne Valley & Golcar]
- Denby Dale
- Dewsbury [Dewsbury East, Dewsbury South & Dewsbury West]
- Holme Valley North
- Holme Valley South
- Huddersfield North [Ashbrow, Greenhead & Lindley]
- Huddersfield South [Almondbury, Crosland Moor & Netherton, Dalton & Newsome]
- Kirkburton
- Mirfield
- Spennings Valley [Cleckheaton, Heckmondwike & Liversedge & Gomersal]

Membership would remain as in 2004/05, including the arrangements for establishing parish memberships.

That will require appropriate amendments to article 10 of the constitution.

It is recognised that some services have established working structures around the previous seven locality areas. On occasion it may be good Governance for issues to be addressed in a joint meeting of the Area Committees within each of the seven localities. This should be convened at the agreement of all the Area Chairs in that locality.

2. Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee

It is proposed that this committee change from four to five members which will require appropriate amendments to article 6 of the constitution and the overview and scrutiny procedure rules.

3. Cabinet

It is proposed to remove the current cabinet committees, with the exception of the neighbourhood renewal fund committee, which may be subject to some changed arrangements. This is a matter for the cabinet to decide and is mentioned for the information of council business committee. However, it will also mean the removal of the proposal in the report circulated with the agenda to delete the requirement for at least 12 meetings of the cabinet during the year should not be implemented and that requirement should remain.

Proposal by the Director of Finance

4. Audit Committee

The director of finance has pointed out that one new requirement of a high score on the CPA is the existence of a separate audit committee. At present the overview and scrutiny management committee carries out the audit role in a separate part of its agenda. Removing that role to a separate committee would require an amendment to the overview and scrutiny procedure rules. It would of course be possible in practice, if desired, to create the audit committee with the exactly the same membership of the overview and scrutiny management committee.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the committee consider the above proposals and decide whether they want to recommend the council at the annual meeting to accept the proposals and authorise the solicitor to the council to make any necessary or consequential amendments to the constitution in order to implement them.

JEE
10.5.06