

CONSTITUTION WORKING PARTY

Meeting: 14 May 2009

At: 2.00pm

PRESENT

Councillors Peter Burns, Martin Candler, Sue Derbyshire, Bryan Leck, John Pantall, Peter Scott, Ann Smith and David White.

Also in attendance

Craig Ainsworth	-	Head of Area Governance & Partnerships, Chief Executive's Directorate
Steve Callender	-	Scrutiny Manager, Chief Executive's Directorate
Mike Halsall	-	Head of Legal, Business Services Directorate
Mike Iveson	-	Head of Committee Services, Chief Executive's Directorate
Louise Richardson	-	Head of Policy & Scrutiny, Chief Executive's Directorate
Chris Braithwaite	-	Democratic Services Officer, Chief Executive's Directorate

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

RESOLVED - That Councillor Sue Derbyshire be elected Chair of the Working Party until the next Annual Council Meeting.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

RESOLVED - That Councillor David White be appointed Vice-Chair of the Working Party until the next Annual Council Meeting.

Councillor David White in the Chair

3. MINUTES

The minutes (copies of which had been circulated) of the meeting held on 26 March 2009 were approved as a correct record.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

5. COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION

A representative of the Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy & Governance) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) providing the Working Party with draft guidance on the operation of the 'Councillor Call for Action' (CCfA) provisions being introduced by the Local Government Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 with the view to the creation of a new protocol within the Constitution under Part 5 – Codes and Protocols.

RESOLVED – That the Council Meeting be recommended to approve the inclusion within the Constitution of a new protocol to provide guidance for members with regard to 'Councillor Call for Action'

Councillor Sue Derbyshire in the Chair

6. SCRUTINY PROCEDURE RULES – PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

A representative of the Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy & Governance) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) requesting the Working Party to consider changes to the Constitution necessary as result of provisions within Part V of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and Police and Justice Act 2006 being brought into force.

RESOLVED – (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy & Governance) be referred to the Adults & Communities Scrutiny Committee for consultation.

(3) That the Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy & Governance) be requested to submit a report with regard to the terms of reference of the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee to a future meeting of the Working Party.

7. TRAINING FOR MEMBERS DETERMINING PLANNING APPLICATIONS

A representative of the Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy & Governance) attended the meeting to provide an oral report requesting guidance from the Working Party following the adoption of the Working Party's recommendation that training for Members determining Planning Applications be made mandatory by the Council Meeting on 16 April 2009.

RESOLVED – (1) That the Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy & Governance) be requested to ensure that all Councillors who had not received training in determining planning applications undertake training before the cycle of Area Committee meetings the week commencing 15 June 2009.

(2) That the arrangements for possible refresher training for all members determining planning applications be referred to the Members Learning & Development Group.

8. AGENDA PLANNING AND FUTURE MEETINGS

RESOLVED – That the next meeting of the Working Party take place on Friday, 5 June 2009 at 3.00pm.

The meeting closed at 3.15pm.