

CONSTITUTION WORKING PARTY

Meeting: 5 November 2009
At: 2.00pm

PRESENT

Councillor Sue Derbyshire (Chair) in the Chair; Councillor David White (Vice Chair); Councillors Shan Alexander, Peter Burns, Bryan Leck, John Pantall, Peter Scott and Mike Wilson.

Also in attendance

Barry Khan	- Service Director (Legal & Property), Business Services Directorate
Laureen Donnan	- Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy & Governance), Chief Executive's Directorate
Craig Ainsworth	- Head of Area Governance & Partnerships, Chief Executive's Directorate
Chris Braithwaite	- Democratic Services Officer, Chief Executive's Directorate

1. MINUTES

The minutes (copies of which had been circulated) of the meeting held on 16 September 2009 were approved as a correct record, subject to the inclusion of Councillor Mike Wilson in the list of Councillors present, and the removal of the duplicate entry of Councillor David White from the same list.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

3. NEW GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

The Service Director (Legal & Property) submitted a report (copies of which were circulated) requesting the Constitution Working Party to consider amending the Constitution's Scheme of Delegation to refer to the new Senior Leadership Arrangements following the decision of the Appointments Committee on 24 September 2009 to confirm new Senior Leadership Arrangements.

RESOLVED – That the Council Meeting be recommended to authorise the Monitoring Officer to make any necessary changes to the Constitution to reflect the decision of the Appointments Committee regarding the new Senior Leadership Arrangements.

4. ITEMS INCLUDED AT THE REQUESTS OF MEMBERS ON AGENDA FOR AREA COMMITTEE MEETINGS – REVIEW OF PROCEDURE

The Service Director (Legal & Property) submitted a report (copies of which were circulated) requesting the Working Party to consider the existing arrangements for placing items on the agenda for Area Committees in light of the changes to the Constitution following the inclusion within the Constitution of guidance about what should be considered a suitable subject for a Councillor Call for Action (CCfA).

A discussion took place with regard to the potential for the Constitution to be amended to require Members including items on Area Committee agendas to provide further information on the item in order to allow the correct officer to attend the meeting and be properly prepared. Members also expressed concern that the existing arrangements may allow the inappropriate discussion of legal issues at public meetings.

RESOLVED – That the meeting of Area Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs be requested to consider whether any amendments to the Constitution are necessary with regard to the arrangements for placing items on Area Committee agendas.

5. WARD BASED FUNDING – PROTOCOL

The Service Director (Legal & Property) submitted a report (copies of which were circulated) asking the Working Party to consider a proposed protocol for Ward Based Funding.

RESOLVED – That the meeting of Area Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs be requested to consider the proposed protocol for Ward Based Funding.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members were reminded that the next meeting of the Working Party was scheduled to be held at 2.00pm on Thursday 10 December 2009.

The meeting closed at 2.58pm.