

## **COUNCIL CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE**

### **Minutes of a meeting of the Council Constitution Committee held on Wednesday, 15th June, 2011 at 5.00 p.m. in the Civic Offices, Telford, Shropshire**

**PRESENT:** Councillors K.S. Sahota (Chairman), A.J. Eade, I.T.W. Fletcher, G.M. Green and R.J. Sloan

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Councillor D.R.W. White (Chairman of Scrutiny Management Board)

#### **CCC-1      MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the meeting of the Council Constitution Committee held on the 22nd February, 2011 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

#### **CCC-2      APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillor R.C. Evans, F.R. Picken

#### **CCC-3      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

#### **CCC-4      CHANGES TO THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION TO REFLECT NEW SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS**

The report of the Head of Governance requested that the Committee endorse changes to the Council's Constitution in respect of the new Scrutiny arrangements and recommend those changes to Full Council. The proposed changes had been recommended to the Committee by Scrutiny Management Board who had met informally on 6 June 2011. Councillor D.R.W. White, Chairman elect of Scrutiny Management Board, presenting the report, told the Committee that key elements of the proposed changes were:

- Streamlining of relevant sections of the Constitution in line with the Council's objectives of modernising the Constitution and improving efficiency
- Retaining the key principles and core elements of Scrutiny within the constitution but operational and process elements of the Scrutiny function would be removed from the Constitution and set out in the Scrutiny Handbook.
- Allowing Governance arrangements for Scrutiny to be set out in the Constitution whilst giving flexibility for changes to be made to the operating structure and processes without the requirement to update the Constitution
- Decisions about Scrutiny structure and processes would be determined by Scrutiny Management Board in consultation with the Scrutiny Assembly

- Scrutiny Management Board would be responsible for the co-ordinating of all aspects of the Scrutiny work programme and for scrutiny of decisions called in.

Councillor I.T.W. Fletcher proposed a number of amendments to the proposals which were seconded by Councillor A.J. Eade. Councillor Fletcher had some concerns that the proposals did not require Full Council to approve changes to Scrutiny structures and processes. He felt that it would be more appropriate for Council to approve any changes recommended by Scrutiny Management Board before any changes were enacted. Councillor D.R.W. White told the Committee that wherever possible changes would be reported to Council for noting. He added that if the changes were implemented and Members felt they were not working effectively then this could be reviewed.

Following a discussion, the Committee agreed to recommend to Council the proposed constitutional changes put forward by Scrutiny Management Board with the following amendments:

- Section 5, Scrutiny Procedure Rules, Section 3.6. The following words were added: “Changes will be reported back to the next full Council meeting”.
- Section 5, Scrutiny Procedure Rules, Protocol for Call-in, Section 14.9. Deleted the words “a Chairman of a Scrutiny Committee” and replaced with “the Chairman of an appropriate Scrutiny Committee”.
- Section 5, Scrutiny Procedure Rules, Non-application of Call-in and Urgency, Section 15.1. The words “Speaker “and “Deputy-Speaker” deleted and replaced with the words “Chairman of the Scrutiny Management Board” and “Vice-Chairman of the Scrutiny Management Board”.

**RESOLVED** – that Full Council be recommended to approve the changes to the Constitution proposed by Scrutiny Management Board, attached at Appendix A, subject to the following amendments

- (a) **Section 5, Scrutiny Procedure Rules, Section 3.6. The following words were added: “Changes will be reported back to the next full Council meeting”.**
- (b) **Section 5, Scrutiny Procedure Rules, Protocol for Call-in, Section 14.9. Deleted the words “a Chairman of a Scrutiny Committee” and replaced with “the Chairman of an appropriate Scrutiny Committee”.**
- (c) **Section 5, Scrutiny Procedure Rules, Non-application of Call-in and Urgency, Section 15.1. The words “Speaker “and “Deputy-**

**Speaker” deleted and replaced with the words “Chairman of the Scrutiny Management Board” and “Vice-Chairman of the Scrutiny Management Board”.**

The meeting ended at 5.25 p.m.

**Chairman:** .....

**Date:** .....