

## **COUNCIL CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE**

### **Minutes of a meeting of the Council Constitution Committee held on Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> January at 6.20 p.m. in the Civic Offices, Telford, Shropshire**

**PRESENT:** Councillors S.M. Kelly (Chairman), R.K. Austin, E.J. Carter, A.J. Eade, G.M. Green, J.M. Seymour, C.F. Smith and V. Tonks

#### **CCC-16      MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the meeting of the Council Constitution Committee held on the 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2010 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

#### **CCC-17      APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None.

#### **CCC-18      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

#### **CCC-19      REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION**

The Head of Governance gave a verbal and powerpoint presentation on the proposed restructuring and reformatting of the Council's Constitution to meet both the requirements of the Strong Leader and Cabinet model, as adopted by the Council at its meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2010, the Localism Bill, and of producing a more 'user-friendly' document.

He outlined the proposed structure of the Constitution, which would be formatted and available in an electronic format. In doing so he stressed the need for transparency so that users could clearly understand the Council's decision making processes.

With the regard to the Strong Leader and Cabinet model, he sought the Committee's views on the decision making powers of the Leader and to whom these could be delegated. This was linked to a proposal to revise terms of reference and delegated powers whereby committees and appropriate officers would have delegated authority to make all decisions apart from those specifically retained for member decision.

The Committee welcomed the proposal to simplify the Constitution and more easily accessible by users. Council A.J. Eade said that he had some reservations with regard to delegating decision making powers to the Leader of the Council and requested that the Constitution be drafted to allow these powers to be delegated to the Cabinet and provide the necessary safeguards. In addition Councillor E.J. Carter requested that the Constitution be drafted to show the way in which the Cabinet worked in conjunction with the Leader. The Head of Governance responded that he would consider these points and circulate a note to all members of the Committee setting out his proposals. However, he cautioned Members that it might be difficult

to limit the powers of the Leader in this way. However he would look into this and report back to members.

Councillor C.F. Smith commented that the current proposals on the operation of the Strong Leader and Cabinet model were still not detailed and asked the Head of Governance to seek further information.

**RESOLVED – that comments made by the Committee be taken into account in the drafting of the revised Constitution.**

The meeting ended at 6.40 p.m.

**Chairman:** .....

**Date:** .....