

COUNCIL CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Council Constitution Committee held on Thursday, 18th July, 2013 at Addenbrooke House, Ironmasters Way, Telford

PRESENT: Councillors M.J. Smith (Chair), A.J. Eade and C.F. Smith

Also present: Councillor D.R.W. White (Chair, Scrutiny Management Board)

CCC-1 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Council Constitution Committee held on 16 April, 2013 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

CCC-2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors R.C. Evans, I.T.W. Fletcher, G.M. Green and K.R. Guy

CCC-3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

CCC-4 JOINT HEALTH SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS

The Scrutiny Group Specialist presented a report concerning two issues that required consideration to ensure that the Health Scrutiny arrangements in Telford & Wrekin had the relevant provisions for Joint Health Scrutiny Committees.

In 2009, Council decided to confer voting rights on the three independent co-opted Telford & Wrekin members of the Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC) with Shropshire Council. This related only to voting on matters relating to the re-configuration of health services within Telford & Wrekin and Shropshire at that time. Shropshire Council agreed the same voting rights for their co-optees on the JHOSC. Due to the need for further monitoring and scrutiny of service changes within the NHS, it was proposed that both Councils extend the voting rights of the co-optees to all matters considered by the JHOSC. However, this would be time-limited and reviewed every three years. A draft scheme was appended to the report.

The Council also needed to be in a position to respond to any proposed changes to NHS services that affected a wider geographical area than that covered by the current JHOSC. This could involve establishing a Joint HOSC with other local authority areas. A model adopted by several other authorities waived the requirement for political balance on any future Joint HOSC, if all other participating authorities also agreed to do this. Under these circumstances, the Chair of the Council's Health Scrutiny Committee would be the Council's representative on a Joint HOSC. If there was not agreement to waive political balance, the membership of the Joint HOSC would be appointed by the relevant Scrutiny Committee. The Chair of the Scrutiny Management Board advised that if political balance was not waived, the composition of any joint committee involving several authorities would become too large and unwieldy to be effective.

Members were satisfied that there was a good reason for waiving political balance requirements on this occasion, and that all Members should be urged to support the recommendation when it was considered at full Council.

RESOLVED – to RECOMMEND to COUNCIL

- (a) that the voting Scheme for the Co-opted Members of the Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, and the consequent changes to the Constitution, as shown in Appendix 2 of the report, be approved;
- (b) that the procedure to establish future Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committees, as set out in section 5 of the report, and the consequent changes to the Constitution, as shown in Appendix 2 of the report, be approved.

The meeting ended at 6.22 p.m.

Chairman:

Date: