

Central
Bedfordshire
Council
Priory House
Monks Walk
Chicksands,
Shefford SG17 5TQ



CONSTITUTION ADVISORY GROUP

DATE: 1 April 2010

TITLE	Variations to the Constitution	ITEM NO.
REPORT OF	Head of Democratic Services	6

PURPOSE	<p>To invite the Advisory Group to endorse variations to the Constitution to reflect:-</p> <p>(a) The revised overview and scrutiny structure approved by the Council on 25 February 2010; and</p> <p>(b) The revised arrangements for appointing staff at Assistant Director level.</p>
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ORIGIN OF PROPOSAL	The variations are required as a consequence of decisions of the Council.
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RECOMMENDATION:

- (1) That the revisions made to the relevant parts of the Constitution in respect of the amended overview and scrutiny structure and changed procedure for officer appointments at Assistant Director level, as set out in the attachments to this report, be endorsed.

- (2) That the Council be recommended to approve the variation of the Council Procedure Rules to provide for “Leader’s Announcements and Communications” to be made at Council meetings.
- (3) That the Advisory Group note the latest position regarding amendment of the Constitution to reflect the revised organisational structure as a consequence of the Senior Management Review as outlined in paragraph 7.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Overview and Scrutiny Committees

1. At its meeting held on 25 January 2010, the Council agreed to delegate authority to the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with this Group, to make the necessary consequential amendments to the Constitution to reflect the new overview and scrutiny committee structure.
2. The following revised Sections of the Constitution are now enclosed:-
 - Part A1 – paragraph 3
 - Part D1 – Overview and Scrutiny Arrangements and Terms of Reference

Officer Employment

3. The Council also approved amendments concerning the appointment of officers at Assistant Director level. Members will recall that it was agreed that other than the Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer, such appointments should be made at officer level. The Monitoring Officer was authorised to amend Parts E2 (8.1.1), F4 (5.1.4), H3 (3.2.1.3) and H4 of the Constitution.
4. The following revised parts are now enclosed:-
 - Part E2 – paragraph 8.1.1 (Terms of Reference of Appointments Sub Committee)
 - Part F4 – paragraph 5.1.4 (Protocol on Member/Officer Relations)
 - Part H3 – paragraph 3.2.1.3
 - Part H4 – Officer Employment Procedure Rules

Leader's Announcements

5. Members are advised that whilst the order of business for Council meetings (Council Procedure Rules) currently provides for Chairman's announcements and urgent communications to be made at Council meetings, no similar provision exists for Leader's announcements. We have been requested to rectify this anomaly and the Group is therefore asked to endorse the variation of the Council Procedure Rules to provide for Leader's announcements and communications.

Senior Management Review

6. The Council also authorised the Monitoring Officer, after consultation with the Advisory Group, to amend the Constitution to reflect the amended Directorate structure and the allocation of functions within those Directorates once the revised structure had been ratified by the Executive.
7. As consultation upon the Senior Management Review remains on-going, it is not possible at this stage to bring forward the final amendments required. Subject to the Advisory Group's agreement, it is proposed that the Monitoring Officer, using the delegated authority from the Council referred to above, consults members of the Advisory Group via email upon those further changes.

Contact Officer Details:	Key Background Papers:
Kathrin John	None