

Recommendation to Council on 14 April 2011	From: Constitution Advisory Group	21 March 2011
	Co-optees on the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
1.	Council is asked to approve the following recommendations:-	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that Part D1 of the Constitution relating to Membership, Substitutes and Quorum of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee be amended as set out in Appendix A to this report. 	
	Background	
2.	The Constitution Advisory Group at its meeting on 21 March 2011 considered a report by the Committee Services Manager which proposed amendments to the Constitution with regard to the parent governor co-optees on the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.	
3.	<p>The meeting noted that the term of office for existing parent governor co-optees expired in May 2013 but that, in view of the forthcoming Council elections, it was felt timely to examine various issues relating to the co-optees' membership of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the starting time and length of the term of office • the eligibility of parent governor co-optees to serve for more than one consecutive four year period • the possible representation of Academies by a specific parent governor co-optee • the strengthening of the requirement to attend Committee meetings. 	
4.	Following consideration Members were of the opinion that the term of office for parent governor co-optees should run for a four year period concurrently with that of Members of the Council. The Group was aware that if a new four year term of office was not introduced in May 2011 it would require action to be taken in 2013, when the current term of office expired. However, the parent governor co-optees could then only be appointed for a two year period before the next Council elections took place in 2015. Members were of the opinion that the matter should not be delayed and the opportunity should be taken to introduce a new four year term of office from May 2011.	
5.	The Group acknowledged that preventing an individual's eligibility to serve as a parent governor co-optee for not more than one	

	consecutive period of four years would encourage a regular influx of fresh views and opinions. However, concern was also expressed that the knowledge and experience accrued by the co-optees would all be lost at the same time. The Group was therefore of the opinion that existing co-optees should be allowed to stand for re-election and re-appointment again should they wish.	
6.	Members noted the evolving relationship between the Council and schools and were of the opinion that, given these circumstances, it would be better to retain flexibility of representation rather than formally appoint a parent governor co-optee to solely represent Academies.	
7.	The Group acknowledged that it would not be possible to amend the requirement to attend Committee meetings beyond that expected of Members of the Council. It was also felt that, if necessary, non-attendance at meetings could be raised with the relevant parent governor co-optee by the Chairman of the Committee.	
Appendices	Appendix A	Sets out the section of the Constitution showing how it would change if Council approves the recommendations