

<p>Recommendations to Council</p> <p>on 19 April 2012</p>	<p>From: Constitution Advisory Group 23 March 2012</p>	<p>Item 11 (v)</p>
	<p>Governance Arrangements</p>	
<p>1.</p>	<p>Council is asked to approve the following recommendations, resulting in the consequential amendments to the Constitution as set out in Appendices A and B.</p>	
	<p>1. (a) that the terms of reference of the General Purposes Committee be extended to include the following additional functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) exercising the Council’s functions under Chapter 7 (sections 26 to 37) of the Localism Act 2011; and (ii) oversight of the Council’s Constitution, including approving any changes that may be required on the advice of the Monitoring Officer. <p>1. (b) that the membership of the General Purposes Committee be expanded to 12 members, of which 3 would be Executive Members;</p> <p>1. (c) that the General Purposes Committee be scheduled to meet during each committee cycle.</p> <p>(These proposed changes to the Constitution are shown at Appendix A.)</p>	
	<p>2. that the following responsibilities be delegated to the Chief Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) determining the award of any discretionary payments to employees under the Local Government Pension Scheme or the Council’s severance policy; (ii) designating an officer to be the Council’s Scrutiny Officer in accordance with section 9FB of the Local Government Act 2000, after consultation with the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Panel. <p>(These proposed changes to the Constitution are shown at Appendix B.)</p>	

	Background	
2.	The Constitution Advisory Group, at its meeting on 23 March 2012 considered proposals for revised governance arrangements. These proposals were in part a response to the provisions relating to ethical standards contained in the Localism Act 2011, but they were also intended to streamline the Council's committee structure.	
3.	The Constitution Advisory Group considered a proposal to establish an overarching Governance and Audit Committee. However, the need to maintain the independence of the Audit Committee from the Executive presented a significant constraint. As a consequence, the Advisory Group decided to recommend that the Audit Committee should be retained with its existing functions. The Advisory Group also recommended that the General Purposes Committee take on the responsibilities for promoting ethical standards as set out in the Localism Act from the point at which the Standards Committee ceased to exist (July 2012) and would also assume responsibility for oversight of the Council's constitution with the benefit of Executive Member representation.	
4.	The Advisory Group considered that the proposals as discussed at the meeting would enable more streamlined governance arrangements with Executive Member influence in place as appropriate, and areas where there was no need for Member input being delegated to the Head of Paid Service.	
5.	The proposals would result in amendments to the Constitution as set out in Appendices A and B to this report.	
Appendices	Appendix A	Part E2 paragraph 6 of the Constitution showing proposed changes - Terms of Reference of General Purposes Committee
	Appendix B	Part H3 paragraph 4 – Delegations to the Chief Executive