

<b>Recommendation to Council on 30 January 2014</b>	<b>From: General Purposes Committee on 20 January 2014</b>	<b>Item 10(ii)(c)</b>
	<b>Proposed Amendments to the Constitution – Planning Matters</b>	
1.	Council is asked to approve the following recommendation:-	
	<b>that the proposed amendments to the Constitution at Parts E2, H3 and the Ethical Handbook, as set out at Appendices A, B and C to this report, be approved in order to give effect to the decision agreed by the General Purposes Committee.</b>	
	<b>Background</b>	
2.	The General Purposes Committee considered a report of the Chairman of the Development Management Committee which set out a number of proposed amendments to the latter's current composition, procedures and approach to reaching decisions. Members noted that the purpose of the amendments was to increase the focus and business-like approach of the Development Management Committee.	
3.	The Chairman of the Development Management Committee introduced his report and explained the reasons behind the proposed amendments. Full discussion then took place, during which the Chairman of the Development Management Committee responded to various queries and comments. Consideration was also given to any additional changes that were suggested.	
4.	Members acknowledged in full the benefits that would arise from amending the processes and membership of the Development Management Committee and indicated their support for the approach set out before them.	
5.	The following amendments were then approved by the Committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) that site visits should normally be held for all planning applications to be determined by the Development Management Committee, unless otherwise agreed by the Chairman or Vice-Chairman;</li> <li>b) that all members and nominated substitute members of the Development Management Committee should attend site visits;</li> <li>c) that the number of members on the Development Management Committee should be reduced from 18 to 13, with effect from the beginning of the 2014/15 municipal year;</li> <li>d) to note that the Constitution required the call-in of planning applications for determination by the Committee through use of a</li> </ul>	

	<p>proforma, stating a valid planning reason, and that this would be enforced from the beginning of the 2014/15 municipal year;</p> <p>e) that all Development Management Committee members and substitute members would be expected to undertake annual accredited training by an external trainer, starting in 2014/15;</p> <p>f) that any planning applications submitted by senior officers of the Council (Heads of Service, Assistant Directors, Directors, and the Chief Executive) or officer in the Development Management Team would routinely be determined by the Development Management Committee, however minor, and not through an officer's delegated powers.</p>						
6.	Members were aware that it was also necessary to recommend to Council that the Constitution be amended to give effect to the Committee's decisions.						
<b>Appendices</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="491 853 683 1039">Appendix A</td> <td data-bbox="683 853 1369 1039">Tracked Changes Between the Existing and Proposed Committee Terms of Reference - Development Management Committee (Part E2 of the Constitution).</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="491 1039 683 1225">Appendix B</td> <td data-bbox="683 1039 1369 1225">Tracked Changes Between the Existing and Proposed Scheme of Delegation by the Council and the Executive to Directors and Other Officers (Part H3 of the Constitution).</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="491 1225 683 1366">Appendix C</td> <td data-bbox="683 1225 1369 1366">Tracked Changes Between the Existing and Proposed Members' Planning Code of Good Practice (Part 2 of the Ethical Handbook).</td> </tr> </table>	Appendix A	Tracked Changes Between the Existing and Proposed Committee Terms of Reference - Development Management Committee (Part E2 of the Constitution).	Appendix B	Tracked Changes Between the Existing and Proposed Scheme of Delegation by the Council and the Executive to Directors and Other Officers (Part H3 of the Constitution).	Appendix C	Tracked Changes Between the Existing and Proposed Members' Planning Code of Good Practice (Part 2 of the Ethical Handbook).
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