

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek approval of proposed amendments to the Nottinghamshire County Council Constitution.

Information and Advice

2. A revised Constitution was adopted at County Council's annual meeting in May 2012 following the change to a Committee System. Some minor changes have been adopted since then. As the new Committee system has been in place for a year, it is felt appropriate to make some further changes to the process and meeting structure to better manage the business of the Council. Following discussion with the Leader of the Labour Group the amendments proposed are listed below.
 - (a) Meetings of Full Council will in future start at 10.30am and not 10.00am
 - (b) Removal of paragraph 27 of Part B – Procedure Rules for Committee and Sub-Committee Meetings (p5-16). This removes the reference to Committee members being able to speak once on any motion. This will enable a full exchange of views to take place in committee and sub-committee meetings.
 - (c) Economic Development Committee to be reclassified as a Band A Committee (P6-67) and the frequency of meetings increased to match other Band A Committees. This recognises the importance of achieving economic growth in the county to secure and create employment.
 - (d) Administration Committee and Early Years & Young People's Sub Committee to be dissolved and all references removed from the Constitution.
3. The current responsibilities of the Early Years & Young Peoples Sub-Committee would be re-allocated to the Children & Young People's Committee.
4. It is proposed that the current responsibilities of the Administration Committee be reallocated as follows:-
 - a) Approving all Councillor attendance at conferences, seminars and training events, including any expenditure incurred - the relevant Committee

- b) Officer travel outside the UK – operational decision by Corporate Director with a quarterly report to the relevant Committee
- c) Approving appointments to outside bodies – Policy Committee determines the list with appointments made following consultation with Majority Group Business Manager. Committees decide which Outside Bodies to receive regular updates as part of their work programme
- d) Approving the level and nature of support services for County Councillors including IT – operational decision by Corporate Director of Policy Planning Community Services
- e) Authorising hospitality to be offered by the County Council except where the cost is to be covered by the Chairman of the County Council's individual budget – Policy Committee
- f) Responsibility for resolving any issues arising from the Members' Allowances Scheme – Policy Committee

Other Options Considered

- 5. Make no changes to the Constitution. This was not felt to be appropriate as it was thought changes were needed to improve effectiveness.

Reason for Recommendation

- 6. To enable the committee system to operate more effectively and to recognise the importance of economic growth to the future of the county.

Statutory and Policy Implications

- 7. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, the public sector equality duty, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Constitution be amended as set out in the report.

Mick Burrows
Chief Executive

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Jayne Francis Ward
 0115 9773478
jayne.francis-ward@nottsccl.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments (SLB 08/05/2013)

8. Full Council is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report; it is responsible for adopting and changing the Council's Constitution.

Background Papers

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

The Council's Constitution is published on its website -

<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/thecouncil/plans/councilplansandpolicies/>

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All