

CONSTITUTIONAL PANEL

MEETING, 18TH MAY, 2010

Present – Councillors Morris (Chairman), Mrs Thomas, Ashcroft, Hayes, Peel and J Walsh.

Councillor Morris in the Chair

10. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd November, 2009 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

11. PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION

The Director of the Chief Executive's Department submitted a report that reminded members that the Council at its meeting in December, 2009 had agreed to adopt the strong leader model of governance in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 Act.

As a consequence of the above and other provisions of the Act amendments had been made to the Constitution which were highlighted in the document and members approval was sought for the amendments to be submitted to the Annual Meeting of the Council.

Resolved – That the report be approved for submission to the Council's Annual meeting.

12. THE COUNCIL'S PROPOSED PETITION SCHEME

The Director of the Chief Executive's Department submitted a report that informed members that The Local Democracy Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, required every Local Authority from the 15th June, 2010 to have adopted a "petition scheme" which set out how it would deal with petitions, and by the 15th December, 2010, every Local Authority must have an on-line petition facility, under which anyone may set up a petition on the Authority's website, and other petitioners may "sign up" to the petition on line.

Resolved – That the report be deferred and that the Council be requested to delegate authority to the Panel to approve the Scheme by 15th June, subject to the Director of the Chief Executive's Department clarifying the issues now raised.

13. APPOINTMENTS AND CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES

The Director of the Chief Executive's Department raised a number of issues with members regarding the appointments to be made at the Annual Council meeting on 19th May, 2010.

Resolved (i) That the issues now raised be incorporated into the reports to be submitted to the Annual meeting.

(ii) That the Assistant Director Policy, Performance and Partnerships be the designated Scrutiny Officer in accordance with the provisions of Section 31 of the Local Democracy Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 and that the Council's Constitution be amended accordingly.