

COUNCIL	AGENDA ITEM. 12(i)
14 DECEMBER 2016	PUBLIC REPORT

REVIEW OF CONSTITUTION – SCRUTINY PROCEDURE RULES

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S
FROM : COUNCILLOR PETER HILLER, CHAIR OF COMMITTEE REVIEW GROUP
It is recommended that Council approves changes to the Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules (Part 4 Section 8) and consequential amendments to Article 11 of the Constitution, to take effect from 1 January 2017 (Appendix 1 and 2).

1. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 Council at its annual meeting on 23 May 2016 agreed to set up a Committee Review Group to review the committee structure. Council at its last meeting agreed revised scrutiny arrangements and requested that the Scrutiny Procedure Rules be reported to this meeting.

2. BACKGROUND (AND CONSULTATION)

- 2.1 Council on 12 October, upon the recommendation of the Committee Review Group, agreed:
- (a) a revised scrutiny structure and terms of reference;
 - (b) changes to the Council’s scrutiny arrangements in relation to pre-scrutiny and call in; and
 - (c) other proposed changes to the constitution.
- 2.2 These changes are reflected in the Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules in **Appendix 2**.
- 2.3 It agreed the establishment of the following four committees to take effect from 1 January 2017:
- (a) Children and Education Scrutiny Committee
 - (b) Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee
 - (c) Health Scrutiny Committee
 - (d) Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee.
- 2.4 As reported to the last meeting of Council, the Parish Council Liaison Committee was consulted on 21 September on the new proposed scrutiny structure and how the Council might better mainstream rural affairs within its existing decision making structure following the Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities being disbanded. The Committee asked for further time for consultation. It was also consulted on proposals to strengthen its role. It was agreed that proposals regarding the role of rural councillors within the structure would be incorporated in the Scrutiny Committee Procedure rules and be brought back to this meeting.
- 2.5 Following consultation with the Parish Council Liaison Committee and the Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities, the Committee Review Group propose the following changes to the draft Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules (**Appendix 2**).
- (a) That at least one non-voting co-opted position be reserved for a Parish Councillor from a rural area and one substitute member to be decided by the Parish Council Liaison Committee (see para 3.2).

- (b) That the Scrutiny Committee can invite a further Parish Council member to become a non voting co-opted member (see para 3.2).
- (c) That the annual work programme of the Scrutiny Committees must take account of matters which affect the rural area (see para 4.1).
- (d) In implementing their work programme, Scrutiny Committees should ensure that the Parish Council Liaison Committee has been consulted on matters related to predominately rural or Parish Council issues (see para 4.5).

2.6 As a result of the proposed changes agreed at the last meeting, there is also a consequential amendment to Article 11. This clarifies that the budget and major framework are not key decisions as these decisions are reserved to Council.

3. IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Finance Implications – There are no financial implications.
- 3.2 Legal Implications – These are contained within the report.
- 3.3 Equalities Implications – There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report.

4. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- 4.1 All background documents used in the drafting of this report have been public documents and are largely referred to within the report.

5. APPENDICES

- 5.1 Appendix 1 – Decision Making, Part 2, Article 11
- 5.2 Appendix 2 – Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules, Part 4 Section 8