Report to the Finance, Resources and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee

3rd September 2015

Update from the Constitution Review Working Group



Report Author:	Julia Cleary
Job Title:	Democratic Services Manager
Email:	Julia.cleary@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk
Telephone:	01782 742227

Introduction

To provide the Committee with an update of the work being carried out by the Constitution Review Working Group.

Background

The Constitution Review Working Group last met on the 14th July 2015.

Outcomes

The following topics were considered at the meeting:

1. Procedure Rules for Committees.

The Group considered the procedure rules for Committees under Appendix 9 of the Constitution. The Group specifically considered the recent changes that had been made to section 3.1 (a) and 3.1 (b) regarding changing an earlier resolution. It was agreed that Officers would consider whether section 3.1 (b) was required and that an update be brought back to a future meeting.

2. Access to Information Rules.

The Group considered and agreed the updated access to information rules which are found at Appendix 11 of the Constitution. A copy of the document agreed by the Group is attached to this report.

3. Chief Officer Appointments, Dismissal, Review and Appeals Committee.

The Group agreed that in the future appointments to these groups should be made at Annual Council to allow Members to be adequately trained should any meetings be required.

4. Planning Committee Members' Protocol

The Head of Planning and produced an updated draft version of the Protocol and it was agreed that this be shared with the Legal Advisor from the City Council who was currently attending meetings of the Planning Committee. The Protocol would then be sent out to Members of the Group for consideration prior to the next meeting.