

Report to the Finance Resources and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee

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Recommendations from the Constitution review Working Group



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Introduction

To consider the recommendations from the Constitution Review Working Group in relation to the following:

- Members' Protocol on Planning Matters
- Substitutes on the Planning Committee

Background

An updated document relating to Members' Protocol on Planning Matters was considered by the Constitution review Working Group at a meeting held on 24th November 2015. A copy of the document is attached to this report.

Members of the Group had no comments to make in relation to the Protocol and were happy to recommend it to this meeting for consideration. Members also agreed that the protocol should be shared with the Planning Committee at its next meeting on 8th December 2015. Any comments from the Planning Committee can then be considered by this Committee at its meeting on 27th January prior to the Protocol being submitted to Full Council in February for agreement.

The Group also considered whether substitutes should be nominated for the Planning Committee. The Council's Constitution currently stated:

For every member of the Committee, there can be one substitute nominated. Any Member who is due to miss a meeting should inform the Chair of the relevant Committee at least 24 hours before the Committee is due to meet (and that it is the Member concerned who does this). At any one meeting, there should be no more than 2 substitutes per political grouping present. Training will be provided for nominated substitutes on regulatory committees. Where a Planning Committee site visit is involved, substitutes will only be allowed to attend and vote at the relevant Planning Committee if they have been on the site visit.

The Council had however resolved at its meeting in May 2015 not to appoint substitutes to the Planning Committee until the matter had been considered further by the Constitution Review Working Group.

The Group considered the issue of substitutes and were in agreement that the wording in the constitution and protocol was adequate and that if agreed by this Committee, substitutes could be appointed at the February Meeting of Full Council.