

**Brief for Scrutiny**

<p><b>Topic to be Scrutinised</b></p> <p>Review of the Constitution.</p>
<p><b>Questions to be Addressed</b></p> <p>(1) How does the Constitution currently work?  (2) Can the existing ways of working be improved and, if so, how can they be improved?  (3) Can the information and training be provided to Members, officers, partners and the public?</p>
<p><b>Outcome</b></p> <p>(1) Examine the existing position.  (2) Review how the systems currently work to ensure that the Council makes its decisions in an efficient, effective manner.  (3) To provide a set of recommendations for implementation which seek to make the existing way we work less complicated, more efficient and more accountable whilst remaining comprehensive and lawful to ensure that these systems operate at maximum levels of efficiency and effectiveness.</p>
<p><b>Background Materials</b></p> <p>(1) Previous reports to NBC Cabinet.  (2) Previous reports to the Transformation and Resources Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee.  (3) The Constitution.  (4) New Council Constitutions Guidance Pack.  (5) Good practice examples.</p>
<p><b>Evidence and Witnesses</b></p> <p>(1) Members, officers, partners, outside bodies as required.</p>
<p><b>Method of Scrutiny</b></p> <p>(1) Reports to Committee, Task and Finish Groups as agreed by the Chair and Head of Central Services.</p>
<p><b>Timetable</b></p> <p>Start date - Already started  Dates of meetings - As needed  Final report to Transformation Overview and Scrutiny 28 February 2012  Report to Cabinet March 2012  Report to Council May 2012</p>
<p><b>Constraints</b></p>
<p><b>Members to Undertake the Scrutiny</b></p> <p>Councillor Mrs. Shenton</p>

<b>Members of Transformation &amp; Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>
<b>Support</b>  Head of Central Services Heads of Service The Business of the Council Programme Management and support team Chief Executive
<b>Newcastle Borough Council Corporate Plan Priority Area(s)</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Creating a cleaner, safer and sustainable Borough</li><li>▪ Creating a Borough of opportunity</li><li>▪ Creating a healthy and active community</li><li>▪ Transforming our Council to achieve excellence</li></ul>
<b>CfPS Objectives:</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provides a critical friend challenge to executive policy makers and decision makers</li><li>• Enables the voice and concerns of the public to be heard</li><li>• Is carried out by independent governors who lead and own the scrutiny role</li><li>• Drives improvement in public services</li></ul>
<b>Brief Approved by Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee</b>  Signed Date