Brief for Scrutiny

Topic to be scrutinised

Review of the Constitution

Questions to be Addressed

- 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?

Outcome

- 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.

Background Materials

- 1. Previous reports to NBC Cabinet
- 2. Previous reports to the Transformation and Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee
- 3. The Constitution
- 4. New Council Constitutions Guidance Pack
- 5. Good practice examples

Evidence and Witnesses

Members, officers, partners, outside bodies as required

Method of Scrutiny

Reports to Committee, Task and Finish Groups as agreed by the Chair and Head of Central Services

Timetable

Start date: Already started Dates of meetings: As needed

Final report to Transformation Overview & Scrutiny 28th February 2012

Report to Cabinet March 2012 Report to Council May 2012

Constraints

Members to Undertake the Scrutiny

Councillor Mrs. Shenton

Members of Transformation & Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Support

Head of Central Services

Heads of Service

The Business of the Council Programme Management and support team Chief Executive

Newcastle Borough Council Corporate Plan Priority area(s)

- o Creating a cleaner, safer and sustainable Borough
- Creating a Borough of opportunity
- Creating a healthy and active community
- o Transforming our Council to achieve excellence

CfPS Objectives:

- Provides a critical friend challenge to executive policy makers and decision makers
- Enables the voice and concerns of the public to be heard
- Is carried out by independent governors who lead and own the scrutiny role
- Drives improvement in public services

Brief Approved by Overv	iew and Scrutiny	y Co-ordinating	, Committee
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Signed

Date