



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

17 March 2008

Agenda Status: PUBLIC

Directorate:

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Report Title	CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW
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1. Summary

This report considers proposed changes to the Constitution suggested by the Constitutional Review Working Party. The report is not seeking Full Council's approval to constitutional changes at this stage, but a further report containing relevant drafting will be brought to Full Council on 28 April 2008.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Council is asked to note and comment on the deliberations of the Constitutional Review Working Party contained in Appendices 1 and 2.
- 2.2 To delegate to the Chief Executive, in consultation with group leaders and the Constitutional Working Party, the drafting of appropriate amendments to the Constitution, such drafting to be brought back to Full Council for approval on 28 April 2008.

3. Report Background

- 3.1 Council, on 17 November 2007, requested the Council's Cabinet to reconvene the Constitutional Working Party with proportional representation (2-2-1) to review the Council's Constitution. Full Council's resolution required the following to be considered:
 - 3.1.1 permitting the public to speak at full Council on any item listed on the agenda;
 - 3.1.2 allowing Councillors more time to question portfolio holders in full Council;
 - 3.1.3 extending the guillotine to provide adequate time for business;
 - 3.1.4 reducing the deadline for submission of written questions from five clear working days;

- 3.1.5 reducing the deadline for submission of Motions from twelve calendar days;
 - 3.1.6 other possible constitutional amendments that the Monitoring Officer, Overview and Scrutiny or the Constitutional Review Working Party consider worthy of consideration.
- 3.2 Cabinet considered Full Council's request on 7 January 2008 and agreed the setting up of the Constitutional Review Working Party (CRWP) on the terms required by Full Council. The following members form part of the CRWP:
- Cllr David Perkins (Chair); Cllr Keith Davies; Cllr David Palethorpe; Cllr Michael Hill; Cllr Brian Markham and Cllr Hollis as an observer.
- 3.3 The CRWP met on a number of occasions and formulated its proposals. This report outlines the deliberations of the CRWP which are attached as Appendices 1 and 2
- 3.4 There are two aspects to the CRWP's deliberations, those directly addressing Council's resolution. These are presented in the report as Appendix 1. Then there are those that consider wider aspects that go beyond Full Council's resolution. These are presented as Appendix 2.
- 3.5 This report is not, at this stage, seeking to make changes to the Constitution. Full Council's view are being sought on the amendments to the Constitution proposed by the CRWP, and Full Council is being asked to delegate to the Chief Executive in consultation with the group leaders and the CRWP the drafting of appropriate amendments to be brought to the April 28 Full Council meeting.

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Resources and Risk

None specifically arising from this report.

4.2 Legal

These are contained within the body of the report

4.3 Other Implications

None specifically

5. Background Papers

FJF file – Constitution file

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