



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

27 February 2006

Item No.

Directorate:
Finance, Governance & Citizens

Mario Abela

Author/Contact Officer:

Francis Fernandes
Solicitor to the Council

**POLITICAL STRUCTURES AND
MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS**

Recommendations

That Council notes progress on the Constitutional Review Working Party's consideration of matters referred to it .

Background

On 23 January 2006, Council considered a report entitled "Political Structures and Miscellaneous Matters". A copy of the report is attached at Appendix 1.

Recommendations 1 to 3 of the Political Structures and Miscellaneous Matters report were not agreed and were referred to the Constitutional Review Working Group (CRWG) for consideration with the requirement that the CRWG's proposals be then referred to the Improvement Board.

This report updates Council on the current position.

The CRWG met on 8 February 2006 and carefully considered the issues raised in the original report and a number of additional issues. The main points discussed are indicated in bullet point form attached at Appendix 2.

Given the complexity and importance of the issues, the CRWG did not consider that it had sufficient time to properly consider and report to the Improvement Board and Council on its proposals within the timescales required by Council.

A verbal update on the discussions and progress was given to the Improvement Board by the Chair of the CRWG on 16 February 2006.

The CRWG will provide proposals in relation to the mechanism for delegated decision-

making; the format of Full Council meetings and some miscellaneous matters to the Full Council meeting on 27th March 2006.

The CRWG will then continue with its work reviewing the whole constitution and will report to Council in due course.