

Appendices

1 and 2



**NORTHAMPTON**  
**BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Item No.

[

Ward All

**Name of Meeting:** COUNCIL  
**Meeting Date:** 27 November 2006  
**Directorate:** Governance Resources and Improvement  
**Corporate Manager:** Director John Whiteoak  
**Agenda Status:**

<b>Report Title</b>	Adoption of Council Constitution
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### **Purpose of the Report**

To seek adoption of the Council's new Constitution.

### **Recommendations**

1. To adopt the Constitution set out in Appendix 2 to this Report, for immediate implementation.
2. To authorise the Solicitor to the Council to make any typographical amendments to the Constitution as approved and to issue copies to all Councillors and relevant members of staff.
3. To note that the planning protocol (Part 5) and the Members Allowance Scheme (Part 6) will be subject to revision at a later date once the Standards Committee has considered the former and the Remuneration Panel has considered the latter parts of the Constitution.

### **Background**

At its meeting on 28 September 2006, Council considered a report by the Constitutional Review Working Group which recommended a number of amendments to the Council's current Constitution. A copy of the Constitutional

Review Working Group's paper is, for ease of reference, attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

The various changes agreed by Council have now been incorporated in the Constitution presented for adoption. This is attached as Appendix 2 to this report.

### **Key points to note are as follows**

#### **Part 3**

Council delegated authority to the Leader of the Council to prepare a Scheme of Delegations. This Scheme has now been incorporated into this part of the Constitution, with its related protocol incorporated in the Protocol section of the Constitution (Part 5).

#### **Part 4**

Changes have been made to the rules of procedure to enable the introduction of the various changes put forward by the Constitutional Review Working Group, as agreed by Council at its September meeting. Briefly the changes introduce a new public and Councillor Question Time and various changes to motions. Changes to allow portfolio holder presentations and questions have also been introduced together with a Guillotine to enable the Council meeting to end at 10.30 pm. Certain restrictions have been introduced in relation to members of the public's ability to address full Council on motions.

The contract procedure rules have been amended to reflect best practice and to add clarity to the procurement process to enable Council's interests to be protected.

#### **Part 5**

The Constitution now contains various new protocols. These include protocols introduced by Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Leader to accompany the Leader's Scheme of Delegations, previously approved by Council.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee has suggested changes to the Constitution to enable members of Parliament to address the Planning Committee on relevant items without having to compete with members of the public for a slot. The planning protocol in this part of the Constitution has been slightly amended to enable the above.

There is a need for the whole planning protocol to be revisited to reflect best practice and to reflect various legislative changes since the Constitution was initially drafted. The Standards Committee is, as part of its work plan, scheduled to consider and advise on the planning protocol and as soon as this has happened a new planning protocol will be brought to Council for adoption.

**Part 6**

This part, which contains the members allowance scheme has not been amended because the Remuneration Panel is still scheduled to consider aspects of the scheme . It is anticipated that this will be concluded very shortly and a revised Part 6 will be brought to Council for adoption.

**Part 8**

Various organisational changes have resulted in new structures and hence new officer titles. Changes to the delegations have been made to reflect the changes and to rationalise the Officer's Scheme of Delegations.

**Background Papers**

Constitutional file FJF, various government circulars