

## MUNICIPAL YEAR 2010/2011 REPORT NO. 71

**MEETING TITLE AND DATE:**

Council – 22 September  
2010

**REPORT OF:**

Director of Finance and  
Corporate Resources

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<b>Agenda – Part:</b>	<b>Item: 10</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Proposed changes to the Council's Constitution	
<b>Wards:</b> Not Ward specific	
<b>Cabinet Member consulted:</b> Councillor Taylor	

### 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report sets out proposed changes to the Council's Constitution agreed by the Governance Review Group (GRG) at their meeting on 9 September 2010. The issues considered by GRG and the recommendations to Council are highlighted below.

### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

To approve the following changes to the Council's Constitution:

- 2.1 That paragraph 13.2 (g) (vi) of the Opposition Business Procedure within the Constitution should be amended to read:

“The debate should contain specific outcomes, recommendations or formal proposals.”

- 2.2 That a new paragraph 13.2 (g) (ix) be inserted in the Opposition Business Procedure to read:

**RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL** that

- 3.2 Paragraph 13.2 (g) (vi) of the Opposition Business Procedure within the Constitution be amended to read:

“The debate should contain specific outcomes, recommendations or formal proposals.”

- 3.3 That a new paragraph 13.3 (g) (ix) be inserted in the Opposition Business Procedure to read:

“If requested by the Leader of the Opposition or a nominated representative, a vote will be taken.”

**4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

To leave the Constitution unchanged.

**5. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

To agree recommended changes to the Constitution to clarify the position regarding voting in Opposition Business.

**6. COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND CORPORATE RESOURCES AND OTHER DEPARTMENTS**

**6.1 Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications.

**6.2 Legal Implications**

The Constitution sets out how the Council operates within legal requirements.

It is necessary to review the documents periodically to reflect changes in circumstances or to introduce more effective working practices as

## **8.2 Growth and Sustainability**

An effective Constitution ensures that the priorities of growth and sustainability can be fairly and properly debated.

## **8.3 Strong Communities**

An effective Constitution ensures that the priority of developing strong communities can be fairly and properly debated.

# **9. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

The Constitution ensures that fair rules of debate are operated and that the Council operates to high standard of performance.

## **Background Papers**

None