

ADDENDUM TO ITEM 16

REPORT OF THE CONSTITUTION REVIEW WORKING GROUP – No. 1/2009-10

COUNCIL 18 MAY 2009

IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS

Additional comments concerning Public Consultation on new Executive arrangements

The consultation process for executive arrangements would be overseen by the Communications and Consultation Unit. As stated in **paragraph 2.6** of the report appended to Constitution Review Working Group covering report, if the Council chooses to hold a referendum on revised executive arrangements as part of the consultation process, the proposed route map attached at **appendix 2** would be amended to provide for this following such a decision being taken by the Council. Responses to the first stage consultation which closes on the 13th July 2009 will be analysed to ascertain whether there is sufficient public appetite / support for a referendum. If so, the second stage consultation process would be revised accordingly at the full Council meeting of 20th July 2009.

As stated in paragraphs 2.7 and 7.2 of the report appended to the Constitution Review Working Group report, should the council at any stage receive a petition from the local electorate that met the current 5% threshold for a mayoral petition as set out in the Local Government Act 2000, the Council would be statutorily obliged to hold such a referendum and bare the cost of this.

Chief Financial Officer Comments

The cost of the consultation (not including any referendum option) can be met from within existing resources and would be approximately £10,000. The costs would cover the following:

- Corporate service including: management of consultation, press releases, web page, web questionnaire, Haringey People articles
- Design of leaflet, printing, distribution
- Mailing to Partners and Community Voluntary Sector Groups
- 25 days work to fulfil questionnaire design, recording, inputting and managing responses and report writing

A referendum is in many ways less complex than other forms of election, but the investment in public awareness would be higher. If the Council chose to hold a referendum as part of its consultation process, the costs of this including publicity would be borne entirely by the authority. As an order of cost based on the last local, GLA and European Elections the costs range between £246,000 to £285,000 for which additional financial provision would need to be made.

The Electoral Services manager and the Consultation Manager were consulted on the financial and resource implications concerning the consultation plan.