

REPORT OF THE CONSTITUTION REVIEW WORKING GROUP No. 01/2010-11 COUNCIL 18 OCTOBER 2010

Chair:
Councillor Clare Kober

INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report to full Council arises from the report entitled “Amending the Constitutional Provisions on Membership of the Standards Committee and its Sub-Committees”. With the approval of the Monitoring Officer, on the basis that the Constitution Review Working Group (CRWG) is not a formal Committee set up under Local Government legislation, we did not meet in person but circulated the report for comment and approval.

ITEM FOR DECISION

- 2.1 Amending the Constitutional Provisions on Membership of the Standards Committee and its Sub-Committees (Appendix A)
 - 2.1.1 The report to CRWG at Appendix A attached a report to the Standards Committee at Appendix B which was approved by that Committee on 10 June.
 - 2.1.2 The purpose of the report was to recommend changes to the provisions in the Constitution about the membership of both the main Standards Committee and its Sub-Committees with a view to creating greater flexibility about membership while at the same time expressly ensuring compliance with the national Regulations.
 - 2.1.3 The changes for the main Committee are set out at paragraph 2.1 in Appendix A. The main point is that there will no longer be a prescribed number of Councillors or independent members but only the rule derived from the Regulations that at least one quarter of the Committee’s membership must be independents. The actual text changes to the terms of reference of Standards Committee are set out at Appendix 1.
 - 2.1.4 The changes for the Sub-Committees are set out at paragraph 3.1 in Appendix A. The main point is to create greater flexibility about the number and type of Members serving on the Assessment and the Review Sub-Committees. There will now be 3 to 5 Members with an independent as Chair.
 - 2.1.5 The Standards Committee wished to ensure that so far as practicable, and having regard to the relevant Regulations and Guidance, every Sub-Committee will include two councillors each from a different party group. This goes beyond the basic legal requirement which is at least one Councillor with no necessity for “political balance”. The views of the Standards Committee are incorporated in the actual text changes

to the terms of reference of the Standards Sub-Committees set out at Appendix 2.

WE RECOMMEND:

That the changes to the membership of the Standards Committee and its Sub-Committees set out in Appendices 1 and 2 to this report be adopted as amendments to the Council's Constitution at Part 2, Article 9 (main Committee) and Part 3, Section C (Sub-Committees).