
MEETING	AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
DATE	26 JULY 2011
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS JEFFRIES (CHAIR), BARNES, BROOKS (VICE-CHAIR), BURTON, CUTHBERTSON, STEWARD AND SIMPSON-LAING (SUBSTITUTE)
APOLOGIES	COUNCILLORS WATSON

PART B - MATTERS REFERRED TO COUNCIL.**21. CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES.**

[See also Part A minute]

Members considered a report which proposed constitutional changes relating to the Council Procedure Rules to Financial regulations and to various protocols which are in the Constitution.

The Monitoring Officer outlined the report and asked the Audit and Governance Committee for their views prior to the changes being presented to Council.

Some Members expressed concern over the wording in paragraph 2.1 of the report which suggested that all Group Leaders had agreed to amend the rule to allow 4 rather than 5 motions to be routinely presented to Council. Certain Members felt that the blanket statement 'the mechanism has been agreed' was not entirely true but were happy to agree the recommendation.

RECOMMENDED: (i) That Council amend the Council procedure rules to allow for four rather than five motions to be routinely presented to Council.

(ii) That Council remove the following protocols and policies from the Constitution:

- Protocol on report writing
- Electronic Communications policy

- Whistle blowing policy
- Protocol on Councillor Working Groups.
- Anti Money Laundering Guidance.

(iii) That Council increase the Chief Finance Officer's authority to write off debts to sums up to and including £30,000.

REASON:

To ensure that the Constitution remains up to date and fit for purpose.

Councillor Jeffries, Chair

[The meeting started at 5.30 pm and finished at 6.45 pm].