

CIVIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE31 August 2004
(6.00pm- 6.35pm)**PRESENT:** Councillors C Rosenstiel (Chair), Boyce, Hart, R Smith, Ward.**FOR ADOPTION BY THE COUNCIL****04/CIV/30 AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION**

(Background papers are included in the Council agenda pages 69-70 as the Committee had not met at the time of going to press)

The Committee noted that the Executive Councillor for Housing & Health had decided on 21 April 2004 to outsource the homelessness decision review/appeals procedure to an external agency, subject to consideration by Civic Affairs Committee, and approval by Council, of changes to the Constitution to give effect to this. The change was to remove responsibility for certain appeals from the Homelessness Appeals Committee.

Council is recommended -

To make the following changes to the Constitution (to take effect when the external agency takes on its responsibilities) -

- (a) To delete from the Constitution reference to the Homelessness Appeals Committee: (paragraph 5.7 of Part 3 – Discharge of Council Functions).
- (b) To add text to the table in Part 3, Section 3, para 3.1.2, clarifying that homelessness appeals will cease to be the responsibility of a “Regulatory/Appeals Sub-Committee”.

04/CIV/31 REVIEW OF DECISION MAKING AND SCRUTINY – STAGE 1

(Background papers are included in the Council agenda pages 71-82 as the Committee had not met at the time of going to press)

The Committee noted the recommendations of the Leader in the Record of Decision. The Head of Legal & Democratic Services advised the Committee that it had a primary role in making recommendations on the Constitution, hence the referral from the Leader.

Council is recommended -

- 1) That the principles and criteria listed in paragraph 5.6 of the report are agreed as those that should be used to shape any revised decision making and scrutiny structure for the Council.

2) That any revised decision making and scrutiny structure for the Council is designed to address the key issues arising from Member and officer consultation listed in paragraphs 6.2.1 to 6.2.8 of the report.

3) That 'efficient' in criterion 3 is defined as meaning: "A revised decision making and scrutiny system that will deliver the other 7 criteria and principles using minimum resources."

4) That in terms of resources, the starting point for a revised decision making and scrutiny structure is that it should cost no more than the existing system, and

5) That the Member Working Group consider the issues raised in Councillor Bradnack's motion to Council on 24th June 2004, work up options for a revised decision making and scrutiny structure for the Council that complies with 1), 2), 3) and 4) above, and report to Strategy Scrutiny and Civic Affairs Committees in November 2004 and to Council in December 2004 so that a preferred option can be agreed.