

PLEASE NOTE VENUE

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE AGENDA



1st June 2007

at 2.00pm

**Training Room 1, Belle Vue Community, Sports and Youth Centre,
Kendal Road, Hartlepool**

MEMBERS: CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE:

The Mayor, Stuart Drummond

Councillors Brash, Fenwick, Flintoff, James, A Marshall, J Marshall, Preece,
Richardson, Simmons and Young

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

3. MINUTES

- 3.1 To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Constitution Committee held on 30th March 2007 (to follow)
- 3.2 To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Constitution Working Group held on 18th May 2007 (to follow)

4. ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION

- 4.1 Briefing Paper – Chief Solicitor

5. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS ARE URGENT

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

1st June 2007



Report of: Chief Solicitor

Subject: Briefing Paper

Members are referred to the attached report for information and comment.

CONSTITUTION WORKING GROUP / COMMITTEE

CHIEF SOLICITORS BRIEFING PAPER

1st June 2007

Constitution Working Group Work / Committee Programme 2007/08

At the first meeting on the Constitution Working Group in the 2006/07 Municipal Year, the Working Group approved a work programme for the coming year. Members might consider it appropriate to take the same course for 2007/08. The topics agreed by Members be considered by the Working Group in the following order of priority are set out in Table 1 below. Progress on items in the approved work programme was affected by the introduction of additional topics during the course of the year, and these are shown in table 2. Generally these have been items that have been accepted as requiring speedy consideration.

Table 1

| Approved Work Topic | Current position |
|---|--|
| 1. Council Procedure Rules - submission of late reports to Council | Uncomplete – responses to invitation to groups to comment incomplete |
| 2. Response to Member Enquiries | Completed – amendments to Constitution approved |
| 3. Hon. Aldermen & Freeman | Completed – process for election approved by Council |
| 4. Contract Scrutiny Panel | On-going – review of remit of CSP proposed |
| 5. Local Strategic Partnership | On-going – further report required |
| 6. Reporting Mechanisms – Standards and General Purposes Committees | Further report required |
| 7. Ward Surgeries | Not reached in programme |

Table 2

| Additional Work Topic | Current Position |
|--|---|
| 1. Member Questions at Council | Not considered following initial reference |
| 2. Procedure for Decision Making Route for Scrutiny Final Reports | Completed – procedure approved and changes incorporated in Constitution |
| 3. Proposed Selection Criteria – Dealing with Non-Mandatory Scrutiny Topic Referrals | Completed – procedure approved and changes incorporated in Constitution |
| 4. Review of Financial Procedure Rules | Completed – procedure approved and changes incorporated in Constitution |
| 5. Chairman – Absence from Council | Completed Chief Solicitor report noted |
| 6. Participation of children and young | Completed – procedure approved and |

| | |
|--|--|
| persons in Childrens Services Scrutiny | changes incorporated in Constitution |
| 7. Extraordinary Meetings of Council | Completed - Approved changes to be considered by Council |
| 8. Designation of Substitutes | Completed - Approved changes to be considered by Council |
| 9. Statement of Services | On-going further report required |

Members will note that a number of topics require to be progressed – in Table 1, items 1, 4, 5 and 7, and in Table 2, items 1 and 9. Presumably, Members would wish these items to form the core of this year's programme. At the meeting of the Working Group on 19th March 2007 it was resolved "That a further report be submitted to the Constitution Working Group in the new municipal year to examine the day and timing of ordinary Council meetings". Members may also have suggestions as to further topics which they would wish to consider.