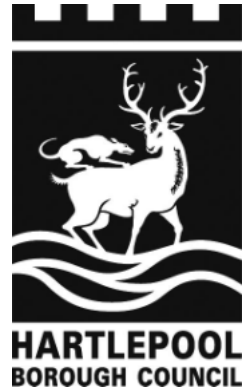


CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE AGENDA



Friday 27 August 2010

At 2.00 pm

in Committee Room 'C', Civic Centre, Hartlepool

MEMBERS: CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE:

The Mayor, Stuart Drummond

Councillors: Aiken, C Akers-Belcher, Cook, Gibbon, Griffin, James, Morris, Preece, Richardson, Simmons.

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**
- 3. MINUTES**
 - 3.1 To confirm the minutes of the Constitution Committee held on 16 July 2010
 - 3.2 To receive the minutes of the Constitution Working Group held on 13th August 2010 (*to follow*)
- 4. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS ARE URGENT**

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

16 July 2010

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor: Marjorie James (In the Chair)

Councillors: Martyn Aiken, Christopher Akers-Beldher, Rob W Cook, Steve Gibbon, Sheila Griffin, George Morris, Arthur Preece and Chris Simmons.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.2 (ii) Councillor Peter Ingham was in attendance as substitute for Councillor Carl Richardson.

Officers: Peter Devlin, Chief Solicitor
Amanda Whitaker, Democratic Services Team Manager
Angela Hunter, Principal Democratic Services Officer

6. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from The Mayor, Stuart Drummond and Councillor Carl Richardson.

7. Declarations of interest by Members

None.

8. Minutes of the Constitution Committee – 11 June 2010

Confirmed.

9. Matters Arising

A discussion ensued on minute 5, decision 2) ii) in relation to the amendment to the membership of the General Purposes (Appeals and Staffing) Committee. The amendment referred to the additional two executive members which form part of the membership of the Committee for decisions relating to early retirement. It was recommended and subsequently agreed by Council that these two additional executive members should be ex-officio non-voting members of the Committee. It was brought to Members' attention the usual membership of the General Purposes (Appeals and Staffing) Committee always included an executive member. It was therefore considered that in line with the amendment

noted above, any executive member included as part of the membership of the Committee should be ex-officio non-voting members of that Committee. A further discussion ensued on the possible involvement of the executive member in earlier decisions which related to the decision being considered by the Committee. A number of options for administering the membership of the Committee were suggested, including the Chair of the Committee using discretion on whether the executive member should be entitled to vote on the decisions being considered by the Committee. The Chief Solicitor was requested to present the options available to members in view of their concerns noted above in relation to the membership and voting rights of the General Purposes (Appeals and Staffing) Committee.

Decision

That the Chief Solicitor provide a report to the next Constitution Working Group exploring the options available to Members in relation to the membership and voting rights of the General Purposes (Appeals and Staffing) Committee.

10. Minutes of the Constitution Working Group – 2 July 2010

Received.

11. Summary of the Coalition Government's Legislation Programme *(Chief Solicitor)*

The Chief Solicitor presented a report which summarised the principles of the coalition government's legislative programme "Freedom, Fairness and Responsibility" as covered in the Queen's Speech on 25 May 2010. A discussion ensued on the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill and the implications of the implementation of directly elected individuals to hold the Police to account. The Chief Solicitor confirmed that the new arrangements would involve close working with neighbouring authorities. It was acknowledged that there was a lot of information included within the new legislation and the Chief Solicitor indicated that further reports would be submitted to the Constitution Working Group and Constitution Committee as and when it became available.

Decision

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded at 2.40 pm

CHAIR