

Meeting: COUNCIL
Portfolio Area: Council-wide
Date: 26th NOVEMBER 2003

THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION 2003
(Chief Executive's Department)

Author – Ian Gourlay Ext.No. 2203
Lead Officer – Bill Welch Ext.No. 2304
Contact Officer – Ian Gourlay Ext.No. 2203

1 PURPOSE

To approve proposed revisions to the Council's Constitution.

2 RECOMMENDATION

That the revised and updated version of the Council's Constitution, circulated separately, be approved.

3 BACKGROUND

The third version of the Council's Constitution was published in July 2002. The revised and updated fourth version, copies of which have been circulated to Members under separate cover, incorporates both major and minor amendments, as well as some additional sections. The major changes are outlined below.

4 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED COURSE OF ACTION AND OTHER OPTIONS

4.1 Changes to the text of the Constitution are indicated by a vertical line in the left hand margin of the document circulated separately.

4.2 Major changes include:

- Alterations to reflect the Council's revised Political Structure for 2003/04, including the updated Standing Orders approved at Annual Council on 21st May 2003.
- A replacement Scheme of Delegations to Officers, as approved at the Council meeting held on 17th September 2003 (Pages C15 – C18).
- Addition of a section detailing the Executive Portfolio areas (Pages C19 – C24).
- Addition of a Protocol on Member/Officer relations (Pages E13 – E18).
- Alterations to reflect the temporary departmental re-organisation approved at the Council meeting held on 17th September 2003.

- 4.3 At the time of writing this report, there is some uncertainty as to when the report on the Independent Panel's review of the Members' Allowances Scheme will be ready for the Council's consideration. There may be a report on the matter elsewhere on the Agenda for this Council meeting. However, in view of this uncertainty, the Constitution submitted for approval includes the version of the Members' Allowances Scheme adopted in November 2001. In the event of the Council approving a revised scheme, this will be incorporated in the 2003 version of the Constitution.

5 IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct implications arising from this report.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- The Council's Constitution – third version – July 2002

APPENDICES

- The Council's Constitution – fourth version – November 2003 –circulated separately.