

CONSTITUTION & ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE: 18TH OCTOBER 2004

MINUTE 35: AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Decision

- (1) That item 3.1 of report DLS4 – Access to members of recordings of Council meetings be set aside and that the PC in the Members Lounge have the recording of the Council meetings installed in order that all members can have access to a recording of the meeting and that the number of members requesting copies of the recording of council meetings be monitored.***
- (2) That the Constitution & Accounts Committee recommend to Council that Rule 16 procedure in the Constitution be amended from “seek the agreement of the relevant DSP Chairman” to “notify in writing” the Chairman of the relevant DSP and this be indicated prior to the start of a Cabinet meeting.***
- (3) That the Constitution & Accounts Committee recommend to Council that Article 7 of the Council’s Constitution be amended to include the following:***

7.7 Consideration of reports from external auditors. The Cabinet to be responsible for the initial consideration of reports from the Council’s external auditors with pertinent items being forwarded to the relevant Development and Scrutiny Panel.

Members had before them report DLS4 which had been submitted by the Corporate Manager Democratic and Legal Services. The report considered three amendments to the Council's Constitution. Following a discussion with the Member Services Manager and Councillor Carpenter, the Corporate Manager Democratic & Legal Services proposed that the item concerning recordings be set aside at present, as he proposed that the PC in the Members Lounge be installed with the relevant software so that members could access the recordings of the Council meetings from that PC and he would monitor the number of members then asking for a copy of the recordings. The second item concerned special urgency provisions and Rule 16. He referred to a recent incident where an urgent decision was required and Rule 16 had been invoked however difficulties had arose in complying with Rule 16 and it was suggested that an amendment to be rule be made. The third change related to reports for external auditors and where they should go initially.

Members agreed with the proposed amendments with the addition that relevant reports from the external auditors should also go to the appropriate Development and Scrutiny Panel.