

# **Report to Constitution Working Group**

**Date of meeting: 26 January 2016**



**Epping Forest  
District Council**

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**Subject:** Constitution Review - Article 6 (Overview & Scrutiny)

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## **Recommendations/Decisions Required:**

**That the Working Group consider a proposed addition to Article 6 (Overview & Scrutiny) of the Constitution.**

## **Report:**

1. (Democratic Services Manager) At its meeting on 22 September 2015, the Working Group considered a review of Article 6 of the Constitution and the procedure rules relating to Overview and Scrutiny and the operation of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The revised Article and procedure rules were subsequently agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 20 October 2015.
2. Article 6 of the Constitution contains a procedure for the consideration and reporting on executive decisions that are 'called-in' by members of the Council, setting out how the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (or a delegated Select Committee or Task and Finish Panel) should deal with call-in matters. This procedure also makes provision for consideration to be given to the 'Withdrawal or modification of a call-in', whereby a meeting is held with the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee prior to the call-in being considered by the Committee (if necessary), in order to discuss the possibility of reaching agreement on removing any objections to the decision subject of the call-in.
3. This procedure was introduced as a result of the last (2013) review of the Council's overview and scrutiny arrangements and has recently been exercised for the first time, at the request of the lead member to a call-in and the relevant Portfolio Holder. In order for this process to be conducted effectively, a brief procedure note was developed in relation to the handling of matters related to these formal arrangements for discussion to be held on the potential for withdrawal or modification of a call-in, based on the existing arrangements applied by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to the handling of call-in requests where this initial stage is not requested.
4. The procedure note is attached as an appendix to this report and incorporates feedback arising from the recent instigation of this process for the first time. The Working Group is requested to consider whether this procedure should be incorporated within Article 6 of the Constitution, as part of the existing protocol for the administration of call-in requests.