

**EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL
NOTES OF A MEETING OF CONSTITUTION AND MEMBERS SERVICES SCRUTINY
PANEL
HELD ON TUESDAY, 17 MARCH 2015
IN COMMITTEE ROOM 1
AT 7.00 - 9.35 PM**

Members Present: Mrs M Sartin (Chairman), A Watts (Vice-Chairman), J Lea, Mrs M McEwen, Mrs C P Pond, C C Pond, D Stallan, Mrs J H Whitehouse and G Waller

Other members present:

Apologies for Absence: J Philip and S Weston

Officers Present S G Hill (Assistant Director (Governance & Performance Management)), S Tautz (Democratic Services Manager) and M Jenkins (Democratic Services Assistant)

44. MEETING RECONVENED

Following the adjournment of the meeting held on the 3 March 2015 at 9.32p.m., the meeting reconvened on the 17 March 2015 at 7.00p.m.

45. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (COUNCIL MINUTE 39 - 23.7.02)

It was noted that councillor C C Pond was substituting for Councillor S Weston.

46. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest made pursuant to the Member's Code of Conduct.

47. TERMS OF REFERENCE / WORK PROGRAMME

The Panel's Terms of Reference and Work Programme were noted.

48. CONSTITUTION REVIEW - COUNCIL PROCEDURAL RULES

The Panel received a report regarding the Constitution Review – Council Procedural Rules from the Assistant Director (Governance and Performance Management) and undertook their review following the adjourned meeting on 3 March at Item 13 Motions – On Notice.

The Panel progressed through to Item 26 Application to the Executive, Committees and Sub-Committees and completed the subsequent sections concerning Substitute Members, Political Group Representatives, Minority References, Reports and Petitions.

In addition the Panel requested a further report in respect of the rules regarding 17.4 and 17.5 concerning Recorded Votes. This concerned the recent amendments to the

law which stipulated that all votes were recorded in respect of agreeing Council budgets.

RECOMMENDED:

- (1) That the Constitution Review – Council Procedural Rules be recommended to the Council; and
- (2) That a report be submitted to the Panel regarding rules 17.4 and 17.5 that concern the making of recorded votes in respect of Council budgets.

49. REPORTS TO BE MADE TO THE NEXT MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

There were no reports forthcoming from this meeting to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

50. FUTURE MEETINGS

This was the last meeting of the Panel in its current guise as a scrutiny panel. From May 2015 it would become the Constitution Working Group reporting directly to the Council. The Chairman thanked members of the Panel and officers for their work and support during the Panel's existence. Councillor D Stallan echoed these sentiments, particularly as he had served a year as Panel Chairman.

It was advised that the first scheduled meeting date of the Working Group was 30 June 2015, which it was felt, was too wide a gap in time for effective continuity in carrying on the work of amending the Constitution. It was agreed to arrange an earlier meeting date in late May or June 2015.