

Report to the Council

Committee: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 27 September 2011

Chairman: Councillor R Bassett

Item:

COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES – REPORTS ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS AND FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

RECOMMENDING:

(1) That Council Procedure Rule 2 be amended by substituting the existing paragraph (ix) with the following:

“(ix) receive from Council representatives written reports circulated in advance with the agenda for the meeting concerned on the business of joint arrangements and external organisations and to receive answers to any questions on those bodies which may be put without notice “

and by adding the following new rule (to be numbered (x)):

“(x) request written reports from representatives on joint arrangements and external organisations for future meetings;

and that the following sub paragraphs of Rule 2 be renumbered accordingly.

Report:

1. We received a report from the Constitution and Member Services Scrutiny Standing Panel on outside organisations. Council Procedure Rule 2 sets out the order of business at ordinary Council meetings, paragraph (ix) of which states that the Council will:

"receive reports about and receive questions and answers on the business of joint arrangements and external organisations".

2. The Panel had noted that the nature of the report (whether oral or written) was not specified. The Panel's attention was drawn to reports by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairman and Portfolio Holders at Council meetings under Rule 2 (viii) which are required to be in writing and therefore circulated with the Council agenda. This is because under Rule 11.1, those reports can be the subject of questions without notice by other Councillors.

3. The Panel felt that these reports should be in writing and circulated in advance of Council meetings and open for other Councillors to ask questions on them without notice. As an adjunct to this, they also recommended that each Council agenda should have provision for members to request similar reports for future meetings.

4. We accepted the Scrutiny Standing Panels proposals as set out in the above recommendation at the commencement of this report and commend them to Council.