

Report to Constitution and Members Services Scrutiny Standing Panel



Date of meeting: 25 June 2013

Subject: Vice Chairman of Council – Appointment Review

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Committee Secretary: Mark Jenkins Ext 4607

Recommendations/Decisions Required:

To consider the scope of a review of the appointment process for the Vice Chairman of Council.

Report:

1. At the annual meeting of the Council it was agreed that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be asked to undertake a review of the process for the nomination to and appointment of the Vice Chairman of Council. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has delegated that review to this Panel.

2. The currently agreed procedure resulted from the Council approving a motion in April 2007 (minute 97 – 24.4.2007) which forms the basis of a section from Article 5 of the Constitution as follows:

“Election of Chairman of the Council and Appointment of Vice-Chairman of Council

The individual elected to the office of Chairman of Epping Forest District Council shall be elected on merit, without regard to party affiliation.

The appointment of the Vice-Chairman of the Council shall also be on the basis of merit and without regard to party affiliation in accordance with the following provisions:

- (a) Nominees for the office of Vice-Chairman of the Council should submit a nomination form signed by not less than 12 District Councillors drawn from at least two political groups
- (b) Nominees for Vice-Chairman of the Council may be drawn from any political group or any independent member serving on the Council;
- (c) The process of agreeing a nomination for Vice-Chairman of the Council shall be co-ordinated by the Leader of the Council in consultation with independent members and the Leaders of all political groups and notified each year to the Appointments Panel for consideration and onward recommendation to the Annual Council meeting;
- (d) It is expected that the person nominated under this article and appointed by the Council as Vice-Chairman of the Council shall normally become the Chairman of the following Council year;
- (e) It shall be open to the Council to suspend the operation of the appointment process at any Annual Council meeting if this is in the best interests of the Council.

Such suspension shall, however, only be agreed if 65% of the Council membership support a motion to that effect.”

3. Members are asked to give guidance on the scope of the review of the constitutional requirement so that further work can be undertaken on the matter in time for reporting back to the Council.