

Report to Constitution Working Group

Date of meeting: 22 September 2015



**Epping Forest
District Council**

Subject: Constitution Review - Article 6 (Overview & Scrutiny) and Overview & Scrutiny Procedure Rules

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Recommendations/Decisions Required:

- (1) That the Working Group consider proposed revisions to Article 6 (Overview & Scrutiny) of the Constitution and revised Procedure Rules for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee; and**
- (2) That, subject to recommendation (1) above, the revised Article 6 (Overview & Scrutiny) and Procedure Rules be referred to the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held on 20 October 2015, for further consideration.**

Report:

1. (Democratic Services Manager) The aim of the current review of the Council's Constitution is for the Working Group to look critically at each part of the Constitution to try and bring together and rationalise procedures against the relevant legislative background.
2. Under the current Constitution, the rules relating to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are contained in Article 6, the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, the Access to Information procedure rules and (in some way) the Council procedure rules.
3. A revised version of Article 6 (Overview & Scrutiny) of the Constitution is attached as Appendix 1 to this report for consideration by the Working Group, together with proposed revisions to the Procedure Rules for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Appendix 2). As part of its ongoing review of the Constitution, the Working Group has previously decided that where rules apply generally, they should be taken into the main rules section. Therefore in the redrafting of the rules section of the Constitution, officers have attempted to take sections into the rules. Some of what was previously contained in the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules has been inserted into the new Article 6, and the re-drafted Article also seeks to address instances of relevant procedures being spread across the Constitution, making it difficult to use.
4. It is intended to formally seek the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the proposed changes to Article 6 and the Procedure Rules, at its meeting on 20 October 2015. Any views expressed by the Committee will be reported to the next meeting of the Working Group.
5. Members are reminded to bring their copies of the Constitution to the meeting.