

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

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| 1. | Meeting: | Council |
| 2. | Date: | 20th May, 2011 |
| 3. | Title: | Constitution |
| 4. | Directorate: | Chief Executive's |

5. Summary

At the meeting on 27th April, 2011, the Council approved changes to the role and function of Overview and Scrutiny in Rotherham. Following this, the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules have been amended.

6. Recommendations

That the revised Overview and Scrutiny Procedures and the amended wording to Article 8 of the Constitution be approved.

7. Proposals and Details

At its meeting on 27th April, 2011, the Council approved Minute C203 relating to the role and function of Overview and Scrutiny in Rotherham – “improving lives, improving places”. Following this decision, amendments are necessary to the Council’s Constitution and to the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

Principal changes concern the replacement of the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee and five Scrutiny Panels with a new Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and four Overview and Scrutiny Select Commissions. The suggested Terms of Reference for the new Board and Commissions are set out at Schedules 1 and 2 to the Rules.

The further change is that call-ins which relate to an education function will in future be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, in place of the former Children and Young Peoples’ Services Scrutiny Panel. In the event of such a call-in, the co-opted education representatives would be invited to the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board where the call-in will be considered.

Amendments to Article 8 of the Constitution and amended Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules are attached to this report for approval. References elsewhere in the Constitution to the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee and to Scrutiny Panels will be amended to take account of the revised arrangements.

8. Finance

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

There is a need for the Council’s Constitution to be amended to reflect the revised Overview and Scrutiny arrangements which were agreed by the Council at its last meeting. The Constitution and supporting documents should be regularly updated to reflect changes in legislation and changes in Council Governance.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The changes take account of the findings and recommendations of Scrutiny Review into the role and function of Overview and Scrutiny in Rotherham. The review concluded that Overview and Scrutiny was a valuable part of the governance arrangements of the Council and had widespread support from Members and officers. However, scrutiny needed to be different, both in approach and arrangements in light of the changing local government landscape.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Report to Cabinet, 6th April, 2011 – The Role and Function of Overview in Scrutiny in Rotherham..Future Arrangements.

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