



Committee and date  
Council  
24 September 2009

Item No  
**13**  
Public

## REPORT OF THE POLITICAL STRUCTURES MONITORING GROUP

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### 1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report relates to two separate issues concerning the powers and also the arrangements for the Backbenchers' Group.

### 2.0 Recommendations

It is recommended:

- 2.1 That the additional paragraph referred to in paragraph 3.4 below be added to the Executive Procedures Rules immediately after paragraph 2.5(3).
- 2.2 That the present arrangements for the Backbenchers' Group be codified by the inclusion of the protocol attached at Appendix 1 to the report in Part 5 (Codes and Protocols) of the Council's Constitution.

## REPORT

### 3.0 Agenda for Cabinet Meetings

- 3.1 The Executive Procedure Rules provide for:

- any Cabinet member via the Proper Officer; and
- any Scrutiny Committee or the Council; and
- any non-executive member via the Leader to require an item to be included on the Cabinet Agenda.

- 3.2 However, none of these arrangements currently provide the Backbenchers' Group with the opportunity to require items to be added to Cabinet agendas.

- 3.3 In recognition of the importance and benefit of this body to the Council, the Conservative Group is requesting that this omission should be addressed.

It is suggesting that the following additional paragraph be added between paragraphs 2.5 (3) and (4) of the Executive Procedure Rules (Who can put items on the Executive Agenda):

“Any non executive member may require that an item is placed on the next available meeting of the Executive, so long as the item has previously been agreed by a meeting of the Backbenchers’ group. Items for Cabinet agreed by the Backbenchers’ group will be presented to Cabinet by the Chairman of the group, or his/her nominated representative.”

#### **4.0 Formalisation of the Role of the Backbenchers’ Group**

- 4.1 The Conservative Group, has recognised that the present arrangements relating to the Backbenchers’ group have been excluded from the Council’s Constitution.
- 4.2 Accordingly, it is requesting that these arrangements be formalised by their inclusion within Part 5 (the section relating to Codes and Protocols) of the Constitution.
- 4.3 An example of the proposed style and content of the new protocol is set out in Appendix 1 to this Report.

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| <b>List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)</b><br>None |
| <b>Human Rights Act Appraisal</b><br>The recommendations contained in this report are compatible with the provisions of the Human Rights act 1998.          |
| <b>Environmental Appraisal</b><br>N/A   |
| <b>Risk Management Appraisal</b><br>N/A   |
| <b>Community / Consultations Appraisal</b><br>N/A   |
| <b>Cabinet Member:</b><br>Keith Barrow  |
| <b>Local Member</b><br>All  |
| <b>Appendix</b>   |

Draft Protocol

**List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)**

**Human Rights Act Appraisal**

The recommendations contained in this report are compatible with the provisions of the Human Rights act 1998

**Environmental Appraisal**

**Risk Management Appraisal**

**Community / Consultations Appraisal**

**Cabinet Member**

**Local Member**

**Appendices**