

Item 7 (c) – Changes to the Council’s Constitution

The attached report was considered by the Governance Committee on 10 July 2014, the relevant minute extract is below:

Governance Committee - 10 July 2014 (Minute 5)

The Chief Planning Officer presented a report that advised Members that the District Council could be a consultee on planning applications. It was identified that the current constitution did not sufficiently involve Members in the preparation of the Council’s response and did not contain provision for Members to call consultation responses to Development Control Committee for their consideration.

The report presented two amendments which allowed for the responses to be called to Development Control Committee if there was time or for the Chief Planning Officer to seek the Local Ward Member, Leader and other relevant portfolio Holders and Deputies views if requested by a Member.

Members discussed whether this would apply to other consultations such as the change in status of a school or the re naming of a school, and if Development Control Committee was the appropriate committee for a decision of this type. It was mooted as to whether it would be a Portfolio Holder Decision or whether it would go to Cabinet to decide and then recommend to Council. It was agreed that officers should investigate and report back to the committee and report the consequences of the issue to Cabinet.

It was agreed by Members that the second amendment needed to specify that it was when time frames did not allow and therefore the wording, ‘when timeframes do not allow’ needed to be included after the closed bracket.

Public Sector Equality Duty

Members noted that consideration had been given to impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Resolved: That it be recommended to Council, subject to the additional wording in the second paragraph, that the proposed amendments to the Constitution be agreed.