

Item 7 (c) – Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules

The attached report was considered by the Governance Committee, and the relevant minute extract is below:

Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules (30 January 2024, Minute 11)

Members considered the report which proposed recommendations to Council to update Appendix C and part 5 of the Constitution. Feedback was sought from Members & the Monitoring Officer following recent meetings of the Scrutiny Committee. The revisions were based on clarifying existing procedures and assisting in the running of the Council's business. The existing documents did not reflect current corporate writing style or organisational structure, and were not fully updated when changes were made to the Local Government Act 2000.

Members were asked to consider the suggestions in relation to the call-in process and Scrutiny in general as set out in the report. It was highlighted to Members that through the system of Advisory Committees, all political groups have considerable engagement in the formulation of policy and decision making.

Members discussed the proposed revision, some concern was expressed over the rationale for call-in and the feeling it would reduce the ability for Members to call-in key decisions. Members were advised that this had been clarified to avoid any further ambiguity. The rationale for call-in was clarified to relate to key decisions that were taken outside of the council's budget and policy framework, other standing orders and policies that were set out within the Constitution.

Members further discussed that the call-in procedure rules could be reviewed every 4 years following an election as it would then allow regular review as to whether the rules needed changing, with a particular focus on five cross party members required to call-in a decision. Further discussion took place on the importance of scrutiny.

Resolved: That

- a) the contents of the report and appendices including Member suggestions in paragraph five, be considered.
- b) it be recommended to Council that the attached Appendix C (Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules) and Part 5 (Scrutiny Functions) be adopted.

*Cllrs Clayton and Streatfeild requested their vote against the motion be recorded.