

Constitution Review: Response of the Group Leaders and Chairman of the Council to the Suggestions of the Standards Committee On considering a report by the Chief Executive,

Resolved: To note the views and suggestions of the Standards Committee and in particular to agree:-

- (i) To hold seminars for all Members of the Council on important and major topics to be discussed at future Council meetings. Such seminars would:*
 - be open to the press and public, unless confidential or exempt information (within the terms of the Local Government Act 1972) was being discussed,*
 - be held at the request of the Chairman who will also select the topic for the seminar. (Paragraphs 4 (b) and (d).)*
- (ii) To ask Cabinet Members to arrange opportunities for informal briefing on appropriate topics organised around Advisory Panel meetings (paragraph (c)).*
- (iii) To hold an extraordinary meeting of the Council on 27th April 2004 for the State of Wiltshire Debate and to ask officers to consider how the debate might be informed by views from the wider community (paragraph (e)).*
- (iv) To ask officers to explore ways of improving public involvement, (and community planning) including web access, as part of the “putting the customer first” project (paragraph (f)).*
- (v) To recognise that some questions from the public would require a scripted response, but to encourage members to adopt a more immediate and responsive style (paragraph (h)).*
- (vi) To note that an additional meeting of the Council is being arranged for the State of Wiltshire Debate, but to agree that otherwise the structure of the County Council summons is satisfactory (paragraph (i)).*
- (vii) Not to appoint independent facilitators to work with members and officers, but to encourage groups to seek officers’ briefings and discussions with the Leader on identified issues. To note that further discussion will take place between the Chairman of the Council and the Group Leaders on the Member/Officer protocol (paragraphs (l) and (m)).*