

**Title: Reviewing the Constitution - Role of the
Standards Committee**

**Reporting Officers: Tim Darsley
Monitoring Officer**

**Nicola Mathiason
Head of Legal and Democratic Services**

Purpose

To set out the role which the Standards Committee has in reviewing the Constitution.

Background and Key Issues

Part of the Standards Committee's role is to monitor the operation of the Constitution and recommend any changes to the Council (Article 9.04)

Article 15 sets out the process in more detail. Where the Standards Committee is of the opinion that there should be changes to the Constitution it can either refer the proposed change to the Monitoring Officer to make the changes (where that change is within the Monitoring Officer's powers – see below) or it can recommend the proposed change to Council, at the same time referring it to the Cabinet to enable the Cabinet to make representations.

The Standards Committee's function is further clarified in Article 1.05 which states that:

- Any proposed changes to the Council's Executive arrangements are not required to be considered by the Standards Committee. The Standards Committee can, however, make recommendations on these Executive arrangements if it so wishes (Article 15.02 page 76). The Executive arrangements include Articles 1-16 of the Constitution Executive functions, the Executive Procedure rules and the Scrutiny Procedure rules.

- The role of the Monitoring Officer is to make changes to the Constitution to keep it factually up to date, to make amendments to give effect to decisions of the Council and the Cabinet and to take account of any changes of fact and law but not so as to alter any executive arrangements.

The Chief Executive, the Monitoring Officer and the Chief Finance Officer can also make recommendations to the Standards Committee in relation to corporate governance for the purpose of any amendments to the constitution.

Recommendation

The Standards Committee is asked to consider how it wishes to carry out its role of monitoring and reviewing the constitution.