

## **WILTSHIRE COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL**  
**18 MAY 2010**

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### **APPOINTMENT OF AREA BOARD CHAIRMEN AND VICE CHAIRMEN**

#### **Introduction**

1. Currently the Council's Constitution provides for the appointment of chairmen and vice chairmen of area boards after the annual meeting of council.
2. The precise provisions are as follows:-  
  
"4.8 The chair and vice-chair of each area board will be appointed immediately after the annual meeting of the council by the unitary councillors on the area board concerned."

#### **Background**

3. For 2009/10 individual meetings of all area boards were held following the first meeting of the new Council in June at different locations within County Hall. Some councillors found this process confusing and in a small number of cases there was some difficulty in resolving the issue of the election of the chairman.
4. In order to improve the process for 2010/11 it is suggested that all meetings of the area boards for the purpose of electing chairmen and vice chairmen will be held within the Council Chamber and the Chairman of the Council will manage the appointments process supported by Democratic Services.

#### **Appointments Process**

5. The suggested process is as follows:-  
  
"After the Annual Council meeting has finished, the Chairman of the Council will call to stand the members of each Area Board in turn.  
  
The Chairman of the Council will for each Area Board, call for nominations for Chairman from those councillors now standing. A councillor's nomination must be seconded to be valid. A councillor shall not be nominated in his/her absence without their written consent.

In the event of only one valid nomination being received the Chairman will declare the nominated Councillor elected.

In the case of two valid nominations the Chairman will ask for a show of hands from those councillors in favour of each councillor and declare the candidate receiving the majority of votes of the councillors present and voting, to be the winner.

In the case of an equality of votes for the two candidates, the Chairman shall draw lots to determine the winner of the election and then declare the result.

In the case of three or more valid nominations being made, the Chairman will call for a show of hands for each of the candidates. The chairman will then announce the candidate with the least number of votes and that candidate will be eliminated (in the case of a tie for the least number of votes, the Chairman shall draw lots to determine which candidate to be eliminated). A further vote shall be taken for the remaining candidates and after each vote the candidate with the least number of votes shall be eliminated until only two candidates remain and a final vote taken.

The newly elected Chairman of the Area Board shall then preside over the election of the Vice Chairman in the manner described above except that the Chairman may exercise his right to use a casting vote in the case of an equality of votes for the appointment of the vice chair. However if there are three or more candidates and there is a tie between candidates to be withdrawn, the chairman will draw lots to determine who should be withdrawn.”

6. To facilitate this process and to formalise the role of the Chairman of Council it is suggested that the constitution be amended to make it clear that the Chairman of the Council shall be a non-voting ex-officio member of each Area Board for the sole purpose of the election of Chairman in accordance with the procedure set out above.
7. This would work in all cases except the Area Board for which the Chairman is a full voting member. In this case the Vice Chairman of the Council shall be a non-voting ex-officio member of that Area Board for the sole purpose of the election of Chairman in accordance with the procedure set out above.

### **Recommendations**

- A. That the Council agrees the procedures for the election of chairmen and vice chairmen of area boards as set out in paragraph 5 of this report.

B. That the Council agrees the appropriate amendments to the Constitution to facilitate the appointments process as set out in paragraphs 6 and 7 of the report.

John Quinton  
Head of Democratic Services