



GA.11 15/16

**Governance and Audit
Committee**

23 June 2015

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Subject: Proposed Amendments to the Constitution

Report by:

Director of Resources

Contact Officer:

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Purpose / Summary:

To advise of proposed amendments to the Constitution particularly in relation to budget management by the Prosperous Communities Committee.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That Members support the proposed amendments to the Constitution and RECOMMEND them to full Council for adoption with immediate effect.

IMPLICATIONS

Legal:

Financial : FIN/ REF/...../16
None directly arising from this report.

Staffing :
None directly arising from this report

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :
None

Risk Assessment :
None

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities :
None

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:
*Wherever possible please provide a hyperlink to the background paper/s
If a document is confidential and not for public viewing it should not be listed.*

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

Yes

No

Key Decision:

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

Yes

No

1 Introduction

- 1.1 During the annual review of the Constitution concerns were raised about the current Committee Structure and that the wording of the two main Policy Committees' Terms of Reference could make decision making a lengthy process at times, with some decisions requiring "sign off" by both Policy Committees.
- 1.2 It was initially believed that this matter could be resolved without changing the constitution however after consulting with our legal advisors it became clear that some minor changes were necessary.
- 1.3 The Terms of Reference for the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee includes "the control and management of resources including land, property, finance and staff to the further the Council's objectives"
- 1.4 It is proposed that as part of this remit the Corporate Policy and Resources (CPR) Committee be permitted to assign a specific budget (which **must have** already been approved by them) for a specific purpose, to the Prosperous Communities Committee for the services quoted in their Terms of Reference.
- 1.5 In practice this would work as follows: -

If there was project to support a youth housing scheme, the CPR Committee would set an advanced budget of £75k assigned to Prosperous Communities Committee to spend as it sees fit to deliver the objective. Thereby negating the need to recommend their proposals back to the CPR Committee for funding as is currently the case.
- 1.6 If subsequently the project required further funding then this would need to be reported back to the CPR Committee in order to make a further decision as to whether or not to further investment (grant an additional budget).

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 It is therefore recommended that the following amendments be made to the Constitution to facilitate the above.

- (a) Terms of Reference for the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee

Item 2 be amended to read "the control and management of resources, including land, property, finance and staff to further the Council's objectives **including the delegation of specific budgets to the Prosperous Communities Committee for a specific purpose, for the services quoted in their Terms of Reference**"

- (b) Terms of Reference for the Prosperous Communities Committee

Additional Term of Reference be included to read "**to manage any budget assigned to the Committee by the Corporate Policy and Resources in relation to the service areas listed under item 4**"