

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION:
ARTICLE 7 - SELECT COMMITTEES**

1. Article 7 of Part 2 of the Constitution sets out the terms of reference and specific remits for each of the Council's Select Committees, and states that the number of committees will vary from time to time as agreed by the Council. Following a review of the effectiveness of the existing Select Committee structure, it is proposed that the number of Select Committees should be reduced from seven to six and that the role of the Council Overview & Scrutiny Committee in relation to the other committees should be clarified. This report sets out the proposed changes for the Council's approval.

Reduction in the number of Select Committees

2. Under the existing structure, overview and scrutiny of the children's and education services is carried out by two Select Committees, Children & Families and Education. There has inevitably a degree of overlap between the work of these two committees and, although they had successfully carried out joint reviews when appropriate, it is felt that there would be greater clarity and a stronger focus if there was a single committee responsible for both Children's Services and Education Services. The Council is therefore asked to agree to reduce the number of Select Committees from seven to six by merging the existing two committees to form a new Children & Education Select Committee.

Council Overview & Scrutiny Committee

3. The Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee was created in June 2011 with the remit of reviewing performance, finance and risk information for all Council services and performing an advisory role in relation to the work programmes of the Select Committees. It is felt that the effectiveness of the Committee would be enhanced if its role is clarified and strengthened, and it is proposed that the remit of the Committee should be revised so that it has a clear lead responsibility for the Council's overview and scrutiny function, including approval of the work programmes of Select Committees, and a stronger corporate focus.
4. A revised version of Article 7, setting out the revised terms of reference for the Council Overview & Scrutiny Committee and the remits of the Select Committees, is set out in the attached Annexe.

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That the Council approve the merger of the existing Children & Families and Education Select Committees to form a new Children & Education Select Committee.
- (b) That the revised Article 7 of the Constitution, as set out in Annexe 1, be approved.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS:

None
