

COUNCIL MEETING – 15TH DECEMBER 2016

Extract from the Minutes of the Constitution Committee meeting on 24th November 2016

23 NOMINATION OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES

The Committee considered proposals to simplify the process for the nomination of Members to the Council's committees.

Group Whips had indicated that the formalities and delays associated with the need to report to Council each time a change to a committee membership was required was unduly burdensome. The proposals in the report sought to simplify the process by requiring that the memberships of the Council's committees and sub-committees be established and changed, where required, by way of notification to the Head of Governance and Democratic Services by the Leader or Whip of the political group in question. This would include nominations to chairmanships and vice-chairmanships. The approach would provide more flexibility for the political groups, their Leaders and Whips, and for the officers involved in administering the Council's decision-making arrangements, but would not dilute the fundamental legal requirement that the composition and term of office of each committee and sub-committee be agreed by Council.

The Annual Council meeting would continue to agree the numerical composition and term of office of each committee and sub-committee.

RESOLVED

That it be recommended to Council that

1. except for the Council's Cabinet and Cabinet committees and sub-committees, nominations to the Council's committees, sub-committees and decision-making bodies, and changes to such nominations, shall be notified to the Council by the Council's political Group Leaders or Group Whips, in accordance with the relevant numerical allocations made by Full Council to the committee, sub-committee or decision-making body in question;
2. such nominations or changes to nominations shall be made to the Head of Governance and Democratic Services in writing or by email, and shall thereafter be published on the Council's website;
3. Council note that the legislative requirements set out in the Legal Implications section of the report will not be affected by the recommendations of the report, and that the existing arrangements shall continue, by which the Council's Annual General Meeting agrees the political group or groups which will hold the

chairmanships and vice-chairmanships of the Council's committees, sub-committees and decision-making bodies; and

4. the Director of Legal Services, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Constitution Committee, be authorised to make such changes to the Council's Constitution as he considers are necessary to give effect to the wishes of Council.