

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Constitution Committee

Date of Meeting: 2nd June 2011
Report of: Democratic and Registration Services Manager
Subject: Questions at Council meetings

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 This report invites the Committee to review the arrangements for questions at Council meetings.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Committee decide whether further consideration should be given to the constitutional arrangements for questions at Council meetings and, if so, how this should be arranged.

3.0 Financial Implications

- 3.1 No financial implications arise from any change to the Constitution which may result from this process.

4.0 Legal Implications

- 4.1 Any recommendation of the Constitution Committee which would result in constitutional change would be referred to Council for final decision.

5.0 Risk Management

- 5.1 No risks would appear to arise from any change to the Constitution which may result from this process.

6.0 Background

- 6.1 Following comments made by the Mayor at the Annual Council meeting, and discussions with officers, the Chairman agreed that a report should be considered at the first meeting of the Committee of the new Municipal Year.
- 6.2 Concerns were expressed at the Annual Council meeting about the way in which the item permitting questions to be asked of Chairmen and Cabinet Members was used. The Mayor commented that efforts should be made by Members who have legitimate questions to resolve these personally before the Council "question-time" facility is used.

- 6.3 There are a range of recommendations which could be made to Council, if the Committee were minded to do so. However, the Committee might feel it appropriate to seek the views of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee before forming a view as to whether constitutional change may be needed.

7.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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