

REPORT TO	ON
Council	24 July 2019



TITLE	REPORT OF
Reporting to Full Council of the outcome of meetings of the Governance, Scrutiny and Standards Committees	Interim Monitoring Officer

Is this report confidential?	No
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### PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To suggest a minor amendment to the Constitution to revert to former practice with regard to the reporting of the outcome of meetings of the Governance, Scrutiny and Standards committees

### RECOMMENDATIONS

2. That Council agree that at future Council meetings the Chairs of Governance, Scrutiny and Standards committees should provide brief reports summarising the outcomes of any meetings of their respective Committees that have been held in the preceding time period – the minutes of those meetings should no longer be considered by full Council
3. That authority be granted to the Interim Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Chair of Governance Committee to make all necessary changes to the Constitution to effect this change in practice

### CORPORATE PRIORITIES

4. The report relates to the following corporate priorities:

Excellence and Financial Sustainability	X
Health and Wellbeing	
Place	

Projects relating to People in the Corporate Plan:

People	
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## **BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT**

5. The proposal is to make a relatively minor change in procedure at full Council meetings – this reflects a number of criticisms that have been voiced by Members.

## **PROPOSALS (e.g. RATIONALE, DETAIL, FINANCIAL, PROCUREMENT)**

6. The practice for many years in this Council was for the Chairs of Governance and Scrutiny committees to present brief reports to Full Council outlining the outcome of any relevant meetings that have taken place and reporting on any progress/action taken in their respective areas. Members then had the opportunity to ask questions.
7. A couple of years ago this practice was discontinued. Instead what happened was that minutes of those Committees were reported to full Council. This is the current practice. The Council Procedure Rules (Part 4A in the Constitution) reflect this. For example para 2.1 X states (referring to the functions of full Council): “Receive the minutes of Scrutiny, Governance and Standards Committees and give members the opportunity to ask questions.” Para 9 of the same rules also deals with this issue.
8. At previous Council meetings this practice has been criticised by a number of members. Also confusion has been caused in the past about whether the minutes in question needed to have been signed off by the relevant committee before Council could consider their contents. Of course it is not for Council to formally approve such minutes.
9. Accordingly the Leader of the Council has articulated the wish that we should revert to our former practice of the Chair producing a brief report of the activities of the relevant committee and members then having the right to ask questions.
10. For the sake of clarity it is proposed to treat Standards Committee in exactly the same way as Governance and Scrutiny committees.

## **CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT AND OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION**

11. The Chairs of Governance, Scrutiny and Standards have been consulted with.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

12. There are no financial implications arising from this report

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

13. Please see the Monitoring Officer comments below.

## **AIR QUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

14. There are no Air quality implications

**COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER**

15. There are no issues or concerns that need to be raised from the point of view of the Statutory Finance Officer.

**COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER**

16. The change proposed is a relatively minor change in practice. In effect it is a question of going back to a practice that prevailed in this Council for a number of years. There are no concerns from a legal perspective with such a change. The Constitution will need to be amended to reflect this. Ordinarily such a change would be taken through Governance Committee first. However, given how relatively minor the proposed change is – and the fact that it is going back to a practice which will be widely understood – it is considered appropriate to bring the report directly to Full Council.

**THERE ARE NO OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

**There are no background papers to this report**

**There are no appendices to this report**

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