

Scrutiny Committee: Constitutional and Procedural Changes Update.

The Constitution Review Group made the following alterations to the proposed changes circulated in advance of the Scrutiny Committee's meeting:

Part 4.1 (Procedure Rules) p. 19

The following proposed paragraph has been DELETED:

25.5 Partnership Boards are not subject to these Procedure Rules but will follow the Partnership Protocol. Council will decide if it wishes to send any representatives and who they shall be, but not determine the Terms of Reference of the Board.

The following proposed paragraph has been amended to read as follows:

256.1 Committee Agenda

Committee Agenda for Committees, Sub-Committees, panels, boards and working parties will be set by issued in consultation with **the Chairman and Lead Officers.**

Part 2 (Article 9 – The East Northamptonshire Standards Committee) p. 17

The following paragraph has been amended to read as follows:

9.03 Key Role and Function

The East Northamptonshire Standards Board will have the following roles and functions...

- i) the exercise of these functions in relation to the town and parish councils ~~wholly or mainly~~ in East Northamptonshire and the members of those town and parish councils.

Part 4.4 (Scrutiny Procedure Rules) p. 6

The proposed alterations to the Call-In procedure (paragraph 14.3) have been withdrawn.

Terms of Reference of Committees and Sub-Committees: Area Plan Working Parties p.19

The following paragraphs have been amended to read as follows:

1. The ~~two three~~ **two** Area Plan Working Parties:

- (a) The Rural North Oundle and Thrapston Area Plan Working Party (RNOT)
- (b) The ~~Three~~ **Four** Towns Area Plan Working Party
- (c) ~~The Raunds Area Plan Working Party~~

are set up to support the Planning Policy Committee's work programme and to guide the preparation of Local Development Documents known respectively as:

- (a) The Rural North, Oundle and Thrapston Plan
- (b) The ~~Three~~ **Four** Towns Plan
- (c) ~~The Raunds Area Plan~~

which, together with the North Northamptonshire Core Spatial Strategy and any supplementary planning documents based on this, form the Local Development Framework for East Northamptonshire.

2. The Working Parties will respectively comprise:

RNOT Area Plan WP	5 Members of the Planning Policy Committee and up to 2 additional Members of the Council to be co-opted, as required
Four Three Towns Area Plan-WP	9 Up to 15 Members drawn from full Council with the option to add Members nominated by the Leader of the Council as required Planning Policy Committee and up to 1 additional member of the Council to be co-opted, as required
Raunds Area Plan WP	7 Members drawn from full Council of the Planning Policy Committee *

The Constitution Review Group also proposes the following additional amendments to the Constitution:

Leader and Deputy Leader as Ex-Officio Members of policy committees and their sub-committees:

Part 2 (Article 6 – The Council Leader) p. 11

6.03 Role of the elected Leader

The Leader of the Council will have the following roles, rights and responsibilities, in addition to those set out in Article 2.03

- (a) to be the local authority's principal public spokesman;
 - (b) to give clear leadership to the Council and the community;
 - ~~(c) to attend, speak and vote at any meetings of the Policy Committee;~~
 - (c) to report as necessary to the Council;
 - (d) to be the councillor of first choice to represent the Council at Member level meetings with other local authorities and with other organisations; and
 - (e) to act as the principal contact for the Chief Executive in seeking views and taking soundings at the political level across all groups.
- and, subject to political balance rules,**
- (f) **To serve as an ex-officio member of the policy committees and their sub-committees (with voting rights) unless he signifies that he does not wish to serve.**

The Leader of the Council may not be the Chairman of the Council, a member of the Scrutiny Committee or any sub committee, working party, or panel set up by the Scrutiny Committee.

6.04 Deputy Leader of the Council

The Council ~~will~~ may, at the Annual Meeting, elect a Deputy Leader to act in the notified absence of the Leader, such notice to be given in writing by the Leader to the Chief Executive. ***Subject to political balance rules, the Deputy Leader shall serve as an ex-officio member of the policy committees and their sub-committees (with voting rights) unless he signifies that he does not wish to serve.***

Part 4.1 (Procedure Rules) p. 18

23.3 The appointment of members to any sub-committee, panel, **board** or working party shall be in accordance with legislative or regulatory requirements for the representation of political groups. ***Subject to this, the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council shall be ex-officio members of the policy committees and their sub-committees (with voting rights), unless they signify they do not wish to serve.***

The Terms of Reference of the Policy and Resources, Planning Policy, Personnel Sub-Committee and Finance Sub-Committee will be amended to include the following statement:

Subject to political balance rules, the Leader and Deputy Leader shall serve as ex-officio members of this committee (with voting rights) unless they signify that they do not wish to serve.

Members' Allowances Scheme:

Part 6 (Members' Allowances Scheme) p. 2

- 1.11 No Members will be able to have access to the pensions scheme in ~~2006/07~~ but this will be kept under review for consideration in future years.
- 1.15 The scheme and sums payable are subject to review by the Independent Panel ~~prior to May 2008 at the latest.~~

FURTHER PROPOSED ADDITION:

Schedule 2 of **Part 6 (Members' Allowances Scheme) p. 4**

It is proposed that the following bullet point be add to the travel and subsistence scheme:

“There is an entitlement to reimbursement of travelling and subsistence expenses when a Councillor...

- ***Undertakes duties in order to discharge the role of Champion or Lead Member as set out in Articles 2.07 and 2.08 of Part 2 of the Constitution, provided the duties have been sanctioned by the Leader of the Council beforehand and notified to the Democratic Services Manager.***”