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## Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate Governance)

Council

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> January 2009

Subject: Recommendations of the General Purposes Committee

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**Electoral Wards Affected:**

**Specific Implications For:**

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

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### Executive Summary

- 1 This report sets out recommendations to Council from the General Purposes Committee.
2. The principal recommendations to Council are to:
  - amend the Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules in order to ensure that all Scrutiny Board recommendations are submitted to Executive Board
  - amend the Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules in order to require original signatures on the Call In request form

#### 1.0 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report sets out recommendations to Council from the General Purposes Committee in relation to:
  - amending the Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules in order to ensure that all Scrutiny Board recommendations are submitted to Executive Board
  - amending the Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules in order to require original signatures on the Call In request form

#### 2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 The General Purposes Committee is authorised to consider proposals to amend the constitution and make recommendations about this to Council.

2.2 At its meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> November 2008, the Committee met to consider

- the processing of Scrutiny Board recommendations
- the Call In arrangements

### **3.0 Main Issues**

#### The processing of Scrutiny Board recommendations

3.1 The Head of Scrutiny and Member Development presented a report detailing the current arrangements for managing Scrutiny Board recommendations and provided options for change. In the majority of cases Scrutiny Board recommendations are made to Directors.

3.2 As it could not be evidenced that Directors consulted with relevant Executive Members, the General Purposes Committee recommended that all Scrutiny Board recommendations be submitted to the Executive Board for consideration. This would ensure that Executive Board Members were aware of, and considered all Scrutiny Board recommendations.

#### Signatures to the Call In request

3.3 The Head of Scrutiny and Member Development submitted a report proposing an amendment to the Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules in order to require original signatures on the Call In request.

3.4 To avoid decisions being Called In by Members who were not fully aware of the issues involved, the General Purposes Committee recommended that the Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules be amended in order to require original signatures on the Call In request form.

#### Amendments to the Scrutiny Board procedure Rules

3.5 To implement these recommendations, the General Purposes Committee recommends Council to approve the amended Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules attached as appendix 1 to this report.

### **4.0 Implications For Council Policy and Governance**

4.1 The Council's Scrutiny arrangements are one of the key parts of the Council's governance arrangements. This review of Scrutiny Board procedures will ensure that the arrangements will be more efficient and transparent.

### **5.0 Legal and Resource Implications**

5.1 Under Article 15 of the Constitution, these amendments to the Constitution must be approved by full Council, after consideration by the General Purposes Committee.

5.2 The Monitoring Officer can make any additional consequential amendments under her delegated authority set out in Article 15.

## **6.0 Recommendations**

- 6.1 Council is recommended by the General Purposes Committee to resolve to:
- a) require original signatures on the Call In request form;
  - b) ensure that all Scrutiny Board recommendations are submitted to Executive Board; and
  - c) approve the Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules, as amended in appendix 1 to this report.,

### Background Papers

Reports to the General Purposes Committee 20<sup>th</sup> November 2008