



Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Scrutiny Board: Scrutiny Board (Children's Services)

Date: 10 June 2010

Subject: Changes to the Council's Constitution in relation to Scrutiny

Electoral Wards Affected:

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 This report provides the Board with information on recent amendments to the Council's Constitution, as agreed by Council on 27th May 2010, which directly relate to and/or impact on the work of Scrutiny Boards.

2.0 Background

2.1 The annual review of Scrutiny more often than not identifies a number of areas for amendment within Article 6 of the Constitution, the Scrutiny Boards' Terms of Reference and the Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules. These are either to ensure consistency in wording, to reflect legislative changes or to provide procedural clarity.

2.2 The more significant amendments agreed by Council were:

Article 6

- Additional bullet point to clarify that value for money reviews on particular services, functions or issues relating to their area of responsibility may be undertaken by Scrutiny Boards.
- Amendment to reflect the designation and duties of the Council's Scrutiny Officer .
- Amendment to the power to co-opt onto the Crime and Disorder Committee, following recent amendments to legislation,

Scrutiny Board Terms of Reference

- That there are six Scrutiny Boards achieved by the deletion of Scrutiny Board (City and Regional Partnerships). These functions will be taken up by all Boards, with the lead for City Region and Leeds Initiative resting with Scrutiny Board (Central and Corporate Functions).
- Additional bullet point to clarify that value for money reviews on particular services, functions or issues relating to their area of responsibility may be undertaken by Scrutiny Boards.

Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules

- Minor amendments and re-ordering of paragraphs to distinguish between reviews and other items of work which may result in reports and recommendations, and full Scrutiny Inquiries which involve formal terms of reference, the use of the Inquiry selection criteria and formal discussion with the relevant Executive Board Member.
- Inclusion of specific reference to “Partner Authorities”, including new powers for Scrutiny Boards to require information, reflecting legislation.¹
- Clarification that should a Member withdraw their signature from a Call In and no further signatures are obtained within the required time period, the Call In will fall.
- That substitutions are permitted for all Scrutiny Boards. Substitutes are to be drawn from the pool of Scrutiny Board Members.

3.0 Recommendations

- 3.1 In fulfilling the role and function of the Scrutiny Board, Members are requested to note the amendments to the Council’s Constitution outlined in this report.

Background Papers

- The Council’s Constitution

¹ Local Authorities (Overview and Scrutiny Committees)(England) Regulations 2009