



Report of the Chief Executive

Full Council

Date: 6 April 2011

Subject: Recommendations from General Purposes Committee

Electoral Wards Affected:

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Executive Summary

1. This report sets out recommendations to full Council from the General Purposes Committee at its meeting on 23 March 2011 relating to amendments to the Council's Policy Framework, set out in Article 4.
2. The amendments reflect the changes to the city's partnership and planning framework considered by the Executive Board in December 2010. They bring consistency to these arrangements, and ensure that all of the city's strategic partnership plans are subject to full Council approval.
3. General Purposes Committee recommends full Council to approve the amendments set out in this report and the attached appendix, with effect from the new municipal year 2011/2012.

1.0 Purpose Of This Report

- 1.1 This report presents recommendations to full Council from the General Purposes Committee for amendments to the Constitution. Amendments are recommended to the Policy Framework set out in Article 4 , together with consequential amendments.

2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 General Purposes Committee is authorised to consider proposals to amend the Constitution. At its meeting on 23 March 2011, the General Purposes Committee considered an item about proposed amendments to the Policy Framework of Article 4 – Full Council. This report sets out the recommendations from General Purposes Committee relating to this item.

3.0 Main Issues

- 3.1 The report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Planning, Policy and Improvement) to the General Purposes Committee set out a number of proposed amendments to Article 4, which sets out the policies and plans that are approved by full Council. Consequential amendments to the Constitution as a result of the proposed amendments were also detailed.
- 3.2 A number of changes to the city's partnership and planning framework, endorsed by Executive Board on 15 December 2010, impact on the Council's Policy Framework. These include the production of City Priority Plans, (to replace the Leeds Strategic Plan), aligned to the Strategic Partnerships.
- 3.3 In addition, there have been changes to legal requirements in relation to the plans and policies the Council which is required to have in place, as set out in the report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Planning Policy and Improvement).
- 3.4 General Purposes Committee considered the report which explained the impact of these various changes and the Council's revised planning framework. The following table shows the specific changes proposed to Article 4 and appendix 1 to this report sets out the document with amendments shown:

Article 4 - Current Budget and Policy Framework	Article 4 - Revisions to Budget and Policy Framework
Sustainable Community Strategy	This is the Vision for Leeds, so for transparency, it is proposed to remove the reference to the Strategy and refer explicitly to the Vision for Leeds.
Leeds Strategic Plan	To remove as this has been replaced by the 5 City Priority Plans.
Children and Young Peoples' Plan	To remain, but amend position to reflect that it is no longer statutory, and to indicate that this plan also fulfils the legal requirement to produce a Youth Justice Plan. In addition it will incorporate within it the Children and Families City Priority Plan.
Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy (CDRS)	This will be fulfilled by the Safer and Stronger Communities Plan, which will also incorporate the Safer and Stronger Communities City Priority Plan.

Article 4 - Current Budget and Policy Framework	Article 4 - Revisions to Budget and Policy Framework
Health and Well Being Plan	To be removed and replaced by the Health and Wellbeing City Priority Plan.
Economic Development Strategy	To replace with the Sustainable Economy and Culture City Priority Plan.
Leeds Housing Strategy	To replace with the Regeneration City Priority Plan.
Climate Change Strategy	Remove as this will be covered within the Sustainable Economy and Culture City Priority Plan.

- 3.5 General Purposes Committee resolved to recommend to full Council that Article 4 be amended as set out in appendix 1 to this report, to be of effect from the new municipal year 2011/2012
- 3.6 The Committee also recommended other consequential amendments, as follows, to be of effect from the new municipal year.
- 3.7 Firstly, amendments are recommended to reflect the replacement of the Leeds Strategic Plan by City Priority Plans. In particular, the following documents require the removal of the term “Strategic Plan” or “Leeds Strategic Plan”, as applicable, and insertion in its place of the term “City Priority Plans”:
- Part 1 Summary and Explanation
 - Article 1 – The Constitution
 - Area Committee Procedure Rules footnote 4
 - Roles of Members and Officers in Decision Making
 - Code of Corporate Governance
- 3.8 Secondly, amendments are recommended to the terms of reference of Scrutiny Boards, - except for Scrutiny Board (Health) - which currently refer to the Leeds Strategic Plan. The General Purposes Committee recommended that that item 1(g) in each of the terms of reference be amended to read as follows:
- 3.9 “To review outcomes, targets and priorities within any relevant City Priority Plans and to make such reports and recommendations as it considers appropriate;”
- 4.0 Implications For Council Policy And Governance**
- 4.1 It is in accordance with good governance principles to update the Constitution to ensure that it is fit for purpose.
- 5.0 Legal And Resource Implications**
- 5.1 There are no legal or resource implications arising from the proposed amendments to the Constitution.
- 6.0 Conclusions**
- 6.1 The amendments reflect the changes to the city’s partnership and planning framework considered by the Executive Board in December 2010. They bring

consistency to these arrangements, and ensure that all of the city's strategic partnership plans are subject to full Council approval.

7.0 Recommendations

- 7.1 General Purposes Committee recommends full Council to approve amendments to the Policy Framework in Article 4 –as set out in the appendix to this report.
- 7.2 General Purposes Committee also recommends full Council to approve the consequential constitutional amendments set out in paragraphs 3.7 and 3.8 of this report.

8.0 Background Papers

- 8.1 Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Planning, Policy and Improvement) to the General Purposes Committee, 23 March 2011.
- 8.2 Draft minutes of the General Purposes Committee, 23 March 2011.