

Committee:	Standards Committee	Agenda Item No.:	9.
Date:	4 th January 2012	Category	*
Subject:	Constitutional Changes to arrangements for Scrutiny Committees and revised Scrutiny Procedure Rules.	Status	Open
Report by:	Solicitor to the Council		
Other Officers involved:	Chief Executive Officer Head of Customer Services and Performance		
Director	Chief Executive Officer		
Relevant Portfolio Holder	Not applicable – this relates to a Constitutional matter.		

RELEVANT CORPORATE AIMS

STRATEGIC ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT – Continually improving our organisation by recognising the changes flowing from the Strategic Alliance.

TARGETS

None

VALUE FOR MONEY

This improves efficiency and is therefore a better use of tax payers money.

THE REPORT

As members are aware, this Council and North East Derbyshire District Council have formed a Strategic Alliance. As part of the arrangements for the Strategic Alliance, a Joint Chief Executive and 4 Joint Directors have now been appointed.

Current arrangements for the 3 Scrutiny Committees require the attendance of a Director, the Scrutiny Policy Officer and a Finance and a Legal Representative. Members of the Scrutiny Management Board have raised whether it is necessary to have this level of officer attendance and whether it could be changed.

In addition, the Scrutiny Management Board has requested a general review of the working arrangements of the scrutiny function. This is timely as the Scrutiny and Performance Officer post is currently vacant and scrutiny resources are therefore limited. Suggestions will be made to a future Scrutiny Management

Board with the aim of any changes being agreed prior to the commencement of the new corporate year.

ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

It is recommended that the requirements for the attendance of the Directors at Scrutiny meetings be ended in accordance with members' wishes and that the Scrutiny Committees be attended by the Head of Customer Service and Performance or the Solicitor to the Council together with the Scrutiny and Performance Officer or nominated representative until the post is filled. Representatives of the Finance and Legal Departments will attend as and when necessary at the discretion of the relevant Head of Service

This arrangement should be reviewed once the scrutiny arrangements have been further reviewed.

Attached to this report is a revised draft of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules for consideration. These contain other minor changes which make no substantive change to the arrangements or which reinforce the way the scrutiny function operates. The changes are shown on "track changes".

IMPLICATIONS

Financial : None

Legal : The Scrutiny Procedure Rules form part of the Constitution and therefore are required by law to be kept up to date.

Human Resources : As in the report.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 1. that members approve the deletion of the requirement for Directors to attend the 3 Scrutiny Committees**
- 2. that members recommend to Council the approval of the revised Scrutiny Procedure Rules.**

ATTACHMENT: **Y – draft Scrutiny Procedure Rules below**
FILE REFERENCE: **None**
SOURCE DOCUMENT: **Constitution**