

CIVIC AFFAIRS

30 January 2013

6.00 - 6.45 pm

Present: Councillors Boyce (Chair), Rosenstiel (Vice-Chair), Marchant-Daisley, Herbert and Benstead

Officers Present:

Chief Executive – Antoinette Jackson
Head of Human Resources – Deborah Simpson
Head of Legal Services – Simon Pugh
Democratic Services Manager – Gary Clift
Electoral Services Manager – Vicky Breading
Committee Manager – Martin Whelan

FOR ADOPTION BY THE COUNCIL**13/5/CIV Developer Contributions, Area Committees and Project Appraisals - Amendment of the Constitution**

The committee received a report from the Head of Legal Services proposing changes to the constitution to enable area committees to be consulted on, and to consider, project appraisals for capital schemes for which area committees were responsible.

The Head of Legal Services informed the committee that Councillor Dryden, as Chair of South Area Committee had suggested an amended form of wording to that recommended in paragraph 3.4 of the report. This, in two instances, meant deletion of the phrase “provided that relevant Ward Councillors have been consulted where appropriate” and its replacement by “provided that relevant Ward Councillors are always consulted”. The Head of Legal Services said that he saw no objection to this.

Councillor Herbert expressed concern about the number of changes made to the Constitution within a short period of time relating to procedures for Area Committees, and to an excessive level of detail. Councillor Herbert also asked for consideration to be given to simplifying the Constitution. The Head of Legal Services expressed sympathy with the objective stated but said that the proposed changes were needed to make the scheme of delegation to officers work properly for area committee capital schemes.

Resolved to recommend to the Council:

- i. (5 votes to 0) to accept the wording suggested by Councillor Dryden
- ii. (2 votes to 0) to amend the Constitution as follows:
 1. Amend the first paragraph of Section 9.3.1 of Part 3 by the insertion of the words shown in bold italics:

Subject to Section 9.3.1A, in the case of new capital schemes, the following approvals (together with approval to the necessary budget provision) must be obtained before any scheme may proceed.

2. Add new section 9.3.1A to Part 3:

In the case of new capital schemes, responsibility for which has been delegated to Area Committees by the Executive, the following approvals (together with approval to the necessary budget provision) must be obtained before any scheme may proceed.

- **For schemes where the estimated cost is £15,000 and below:** once included in the Area Committee's programme, may proceed without further committee consideration, provided that relevant Ward Councillors provided that relevant Ward Councillors are always consulted.
- **For schemes where the estimated total cost is over £15,000 and up to £75,000:** a capital project appraisal and procurement report proforma must be completed and referred to the relevant Area Committee Chair, Vice Chair and Opposition Spokes for approval. The schemes may then proceed without Area Committee consideration, provided relevant Ward Councillors provided that relevant Ward Councillors are always consulted.
- **For schemes where the estimated total cost is over £75,000:** a capital project appraisal and procurement report pro-forma must be completed for consideration and approval by the relevant Area Committee.