

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

13 December 2005

Report of the Monitoring Officer

Part 1- Public

Matters For Information

1 CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION

- 1.1.1 Article 15 in Part 2 of the Constitution sets out the procedure for review and revision of the constitution. Changes to the Constitution may only be approved by the full Council after consideration of a report on the proposal from the Council's Monitoring Officer. In preparing the report, the Monitoring Officer is required, amongst other things, to compare practices in this authority with those in other comparable authorities and national examples of best practice (where appropriate) and to consult the Council's other statutory officers, the Head of Paid Service and the Chief Financial Officer.
- 1.1.2 There have been four proposed changes to the constitution in recent times, which are summarised below. In each case, I am able to report that there is no legal objection to these changes being made.
- 1.1.3 The changes are as follows:
- 1) to create the post of Customer Services Manager as a Chief Officer post, as recommended by General Purposes Committee (Minute GP05/037);
 - 2) to establish a Customer Contact Advisory Board as recommended by Cabinet (Minute CB 05/082);
 - 3) to create an Audit Committee as recommended by Management Team (report to this meeting);
 - 4) the adoption of the Members' Planning Code of Good Practice as recommended by Standards Committee (Minute ST 05/013), the revised text of which is set out at **[Annex 1]** to this report.
- 1.1.4 It is **recommended** that the Chief Solicitor be authorised to make these changes to the Constitution, including any consequential amendments.

Background papers:

Nil

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Monitoring Officer