

**COUNCIL  
27 OCTOBER 2004**

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**PUBLIC SPEAKING IN RELATION TO PLANNING MATTERS  
(Constitution Review Group)**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 At its meeting on 27 September 2004 the Constitution Review Group considered a report on progress being made by a member working group preparing proposals for public participation at meetings of the Planning & Highways Committee. This report requests the Council to amend the Constitution to enable the Planning & Highways Committee to adopt public speaking arrangements at its meetings.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 **That paragraph 9.2 of part 4.1 of the Council's Constitution (Council Procedure Rules) be amended by adding "and the Planning and Highways Committee" after "The Licensing and Safety Committee", thus enabling the Planning and Highways Committee to develop and adopt a scheme for public speaking at its meetings.**

**3. ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS**

Section 151 Officer

- 3.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Borough Solicitor

- 3.2 Nothing to add to the report.

Access Implications

- 3.3 The proposal promotes public access and the Council Chamber is accessible to all.

**4. SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 4.1 On 24 September 2003 the Council approved revised constitutional arrangements for the Licensing and Safety Committee and the Planning and Highways Committee. The Council accepted a recommendation to amend the constitution to allow the Licensing and Safety Committee to adopt its own arrangements for public speaking at its meetings. The report left room for proposals for public speaking at the Planning and Highways to be developed at a later date.

- 4.2 The Planning and Highways Committee has subsequently established a member working group to investigate and develop proposals for a public speaking scheme. The working group will soon present its proposals to the Planning and Highways Committee.

- 4.3 The Constitution does not currently provide for public speaking at any meetings other than the Council meeting and for the Licensing and Safety Committee to make its own arrangements. The Constitution Review Group is submitting this recommendation to the Council to effect a change to the Constitution to enable the Planning and Highways Committee to receive and adopt the report of its working group and to implement a scheme for public speaking at its meetings. It is anticipated that subject to the Committee's approval, a scheme could be introduced in early 2005. This would be for an initial trial period of six months to enable the arrangements to be evaluated and, if necessary, refined in the light of experience of their operation.

Background Papers

07 Report to Constitution Review Group – 27 September 2004

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