

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

COUNCIL – 8 NOVEMBER 2006

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

10. SUBSTITUTES AT MEETINGS

WARD(S) AFFECTED: None

'D' RECOMMENDATION - that (A) substitute Members be allowed on the basis of notification being given by the absent Member and not the Group Leader; and

(B) the Director of Corporate Governance be authorised to amend the Constitution accordingly.

1.0 Purpose/Summary of Report

1.1 To amend the Constitution in respect of the arrangements for substitute Members at meetings.

2.0 Contribution to the Council's Corporate Priorities/Objectives

2.1 The work of the Council's meetings supports all of the Council's priorities.

3.0 Report

3.1 Annual Council in May 2006, amended the Constitution to include provisions for substitute arrangements at meetings of the Council's committees, sub-committees and panels.

3.2 Experience has shown that a slightly more flexible approach would be helpful to ensure that Members can play as active a role as possible at formal meetings. It is suggested that the provisions be amended so that the absent Member is required to notify the Head of Democratic Services that a substitute will be attending in his/her place. There will be no requirement for the Group Leader to provide any notification.

3.3 If Council is minded to approve this, the Director of Corporate

Governance should be authorised to amend the Constitution accordingly.

4.0 Consultation

4.1 None.

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 Any arrangements for the provision of substitutes should be set out in the Council's Constitution and accord with the Political Groups Regulations 1990.

6.0 Financial Implications

6.1 None.

7.0 Human Resource Implications

7.1 None.

8.0 Risk Management Implications

8.1 None.

Background Papers

The Council's Constitution

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