

HAMBLETON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report To: Council
18 September 2012

From: Director of Corporate Services

Subject: AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION – ELECTION OF CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES

All Wards

1.0 PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND:

1.1 The purpose of this report is to recommend an amendment to the Constitution concerning the rules governing the election of Chairmen of Committees.

2.0 COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES:

2.1 Part B of the Council Procedure Rules apply the rules to Committee meetings. Rule 23 governs the election of Chairmen of Committees and Rule 23.2 provides that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council shall not be eligible for election as Chairman or appointment as Vice-Chairman of any Committee. Whilst the Chairman of the Council is expected to be politically neutral and it is therefore appropriate that the Chairman of the Council continues to be prohibited from becoming a Chairman or Vice-Chairman of a Committee, the Vice-Chairman of the Council's role is much more limited and it is considered appropriate to amend the rules to allow the Vice-Chairman of the Council to be the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of a Committee. This change may be of particular value following the next District Council election when the number of Councillors and therefore Members eligible to be Chairmen of Committees, is reduced to twenty eight.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION:

3.1 That Rule 23.2 of the Council Procedure Rules is amended to enable the Vice-Chairman of the Council to be appointed as Chairman or Vice-Chairman of any Committee.

MARTYN RICHARDS

Background papers: None

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