

HAMBLETON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report To: Audit, Governance and Standards Committee
24 September 2014

From: Director of Support Services and Deputy Chief Executive

Subject: **AMENDMENTS TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES**

All Wards

1.0 PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 introduce a requirement to amend the Council's Procedure Rules in connection with the recording of votes on budgetary matters.
- 1.2 This report suggests amendments to the Constitution to comply with the Regulations.

2.0 THE REGULATIONS:

- 2.1 The Regulations require that the minutes of certain budget decision meetings must record which Members voted in favour of a decision, against it or abstained. A 'budget decision meeting' is defined as an item where a budgetary calculation is made or a precept issued. This is only likely to affect the annual setting of the budget/Council Tax.
- 2.2 The aim of the Regulations is to make decision-making more transparent.
- 2.3 The Regulations require the Council to include the provisions in its Procedure Rules. This can be done by amending paragraph 14.5 of the Council Procedure Rules by adding a paragraph 14.5(b) as follows:
 - 14.5(b) Where any vote is taken at a Council meeting on setting the budget for the Council or issuing a precept then the minutes of the meeting will record the names of all Councillors present at the vote and how each Councillor voted (for or against) or the fact that they abstained from voting. Such votes will be on any decision to make the budget calculation required under Section 31A, 31B, 34 to 36A, 42A, 42B, 45 to 49, 52ZF and 52ZJ of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 or to issue a precept under Chapter 4 of Part 1 of the Act.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION:

- 3.1 It is recommended to Council that the Council Procedure Rules be amended as set out in paragraph 2.3 of this report.

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Background papers: None

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