



REPORT OF THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Recent applications of the Constitution have identified a need for two small amendments to delegated powers would assist the delivery of the Council's work.

Staff, other than solicitors, can appear on behalf of the Council at various Tribunals only if they have been duly authorised to do so. While the Assistant Chief Executive has a general delegation to authorise Council staff to appear in Courts and Tribunals, representation of the Council at the Valuation Tribunal on Council Tax support matters is a specialist task and the Governance Committee considers that the Head of Customer Services would be best placed to know which staff were suitably knowledgeable and experienced to represent the Council in Tribunal proceedings.

The Committee accordingly now RECOMMENDS to the Council that the following amendments to the Constitution and to practice be adopted.

- 1. That the Head of Customer Services be delegated the power to authorise staff in the particular circumstances relating to council tax issues.**
- 2. Part 3.6.2 - Head of Customer Services be amended by:**

Adding, after (h) (iii) a new paragraph (iv) to authorise staff to represent the Council on all matters relating to council tax support appeals in the Valuation Tribunal service. Current paragraph (iv) will then be renumbered (v).