

# GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

14 March 2012

# REPORT

<b>Subject Heading:</b>	JOINT MEETINGS OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEES – Chairing arrangements
<b>CMT Lead:</b>	Ian Burns, Acting Assistant Chief Executive
<b>Report Author and contact details:</b>	Ian Buckmaster, Committee Administration & Member Support Manager Tel: 2431; <a href="mailto:ian.buckmaster@havering.gov.uk">ian.buckmaster@havering.gov.uk</a>
<b>Policy context:</b>	Establishing specific arrangements for chairing joint meetings of Overview & Scrutiny Committees.
<b>Financial summary:</b>	Nothing specific
<b>Has an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) been carried out?</b>	N/A

## The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives

Clean, safe and green borough	<input type="checkbox"/>
Excellence in education and learning	<input type="checkbox"/>
Opportunities for all through economic, social and cultural activity	<input type="checkbox"/>
Value and enhance the life of every individual	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
High customer satisfaction and a stable council tax	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## SUMMARY

Occasionally it is necessary to arrange for a joint meeting of all Overview & Scrutiny Committees. In recent years, there have generally been two such meetings annually, to scrutinise the Council's budget proposals.

It would provide for a better managed approach if the Chairmen of all the Overview & Scrutiny Committees should agree in advance of the meeting which of their number should take the chair at the Joint Meeting.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Committee **RECOMMEND** to Council that the Committee Procedure Rules be amended as follows:

**Amend CPR 5(g) to read:**

- (i) Subject to (ii) following, where two more Committees meet jointly, the chair shall be taken by whichever of the Chairmen of those Committees is appointed by the Committees so to act.
- (ii) Where a joint meeting of all Overview & Scrutiny Committees is to be held, the chair shall be taken by whichever of the Chairmen of those Committees is nominated in advance by the Chairmen of all of those Committees.

**REPORT DETAIL**

1. From time to time it is necessary to arrange for a joint meeting of all Overview & Scrutiny Committees. In recent years, there have generally been two such meetings annually, to scrutinise the Council's budget proposals.
2. Customarily, the chair at such meetings has been taken by the Chairman of an Overview & Scrutiny Committee, nominated in advance of the meeting.
3. At the joint meeting held in January 2012, however, there was a challenge to the particular Chairman who had been nominated, which required to be settled by a vote (which confirmed that Chairman in the chair for that meeting).
4. Given the confusion that arose, it is suggested that the Council's Committee Procedure Rules be amended to provide a clear process for selecting the Chairman of such joint meetings.
5. For legal reasons, the joint meeting must be chaired by a Member who is an existing Member of an Overview & Scrutiny Committee, and clearly it is logical that one of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee Chairmen should perform the task.
6. It is proposed therefore that the Chairmen of all Overview & Scrutiny Committees should agree in advance of the meeting which of their number should take the chair at the Joint Meeting. The selected Chairman would be shown on the agenda paper.

**IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS**

**Financial implications and risks:**

There are no specific financial implications or risks.

**Legal implications and risks:**

There are no specific financial implications or risks.

**Human Resources Implications and risks:**

There are no apparent implications or risks.

**Equalities implications and risks:**

There are no apparent implications or risks.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

There are no background papers.