



REPORT OF THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

JOINT MEETINGS OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEES – Chairing arrangements

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.

Customarily, the chair at such meetings has been taken by the Chairman of an Overview & Scrutiny Committee, nominated in advance of the meeting. At the joint meeting held in January 2012, however, some confusion arose over the chairing arrangements and, in consequence, the Governance Committee suggest that the Council's Committee Procedure Rules be amended to provide a clear process for selecting the Chairman of such joint meetings.

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.

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 show on the agenda paper.

The Committee RECOMMENDS to Council that the Committee Procedure Rules (CPR) 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.