

## Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING:	Council
MEETING DATE:	15 September 2011
TITLE:	<b>Policy Development and Scrutiny Panels - Role of Vice Chairs</b>
WARD:	ALL
<b>AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM</b>	
<b>List of attachments to this report:</b>	
1. Overview and Scrutiny Rules showing proposed changes	

### **1 THE ISSUE**

1.1 As requested by Council at its May meeting, to put forward proposals concerning the role of Vice-Chairs of Policy Development and Scrutiny Panels.

### **2 RECOMMENDATION**

Council is asked to:

2.1 Note any views expressed by Chairs and Vice-Chairs at their meeting on 12 September; and

2.2 Approve the proposed changes outlined in Appendix 1 or such other changes as Council may decide.

### **3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 There are none.

### **4 CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

4.1 None directly relevant

### **5 THE REPORT**

5.1 Council, at its meeting in May, resolved as follows:

“To instruct the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with Group Leaders, to review the Overview & Scrutiny rules and other aspects of the Constitution with a view to identifying appropriate mechanisms to ensure the optimal involvement of Vice-Chairs in the conduct of Overview & Scrutiny business and report thereon to the next meeting of Council. “

5.2 Discussions are to be held with Group Leaders and Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Panels in early September.

5.3 The proposed amendments to the relevant constitutional rules attached as Appendix 1 are the only aspect of the Constitution which requires amendment.

5.4 The Constitution uses the term ‘overview and scrutiny’ to describe the function; however, where it refers to Panels, the term ‘Policy Development and Scrutiny’ is used.

5.5 An update will be given to Council at the meeting on any proposals arising from consultation and discussion.

### **6 RISK MANAGEMENT**

6.1 No risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, as it is not relevant.

### **7 EQUALITIES**

7.1 There will be no impact on persons with protected characteristics.

### **8 CONSULTATION**

8.1 Policy Development & Scrutiny Panels’ Chairs and Vice-Chairs; Group Leaders; Section 151 Finance Officer; Chief Executive; Monitoring Officer

8.2 Consultation was carried out by email and at meetings.

### **9 ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN REACHING THE DECISION**

9.1 None applicable.

### **10 ADVICE SOUGHT**

10.1 The Council's Monitoring Officer (Divisional Director – Legal and Democratic Services) and Section 151 Officer (Divisional Director - Finance) have had the opportunity to input to this report and have cleared it for publication.

<b>Contact person</b>	Vernon Hitchman, Monitoring Officer, ext 5171
<b>Background papers</b>	None
<b>Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format</b>	