

## **EXETER CITY COUNCIL**

**EXECUTIVE  
30 SEPTEMBER 2008**

**COUNCIL  
14 OCTOBER 2008**

### **REVISION OF STANDING ORDERS**

#### **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To consider the recommendations of the Standing Orders Working Group in relation to the revision of the Council's Standing Orders.

#### **2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Following the Notice of Motion agreed at the Annual Meeting of Council on 13 May 2008 requesting a review of the Council's Standing Orders, the Standing Orders Working Group was established and met on three occasions. The Group comprised the following representatives of the four political groups:-

Councillor David Morrish (elected Chair)  
Councillor Coates  
Councillor Edwards  
Councillor Mrs Henson  
Councillor Hobden  
Councillor Martin  
Councillor Newton

- 2.2 The Assistant Chief Executive, Head of Legal Services and Member Services Manager supported and advised the Group.

#### **3 RECOMMENDATIONS OF STANDING ORDERS WORKING GROUP**

- 3.1 In considering the scope and timescale for their task, the Working Group was mindful that, following the outcome of the Boundary Committee review, any successor authority would be likely to require a more comprehensive review of the Constitution. The Group agreed, therefore, to restrict its current exercise to a review of those Standing Orders which the members identified as being in more urgent need of revision.
- 3.2 The overriding principles which steered the group in reviewing Standing Orders were:
- clarification of purpose and simplification of wording
  - a desire to promote open and fair democratic processes
  - acknowledgement of the opportunities afforded by electronic communication.
- 3.3 The recommendations of the Working Group, which were unanimously agreed, are set out in Schedule A to this report. In relation to Standing Order 39 regarding the election of the Chair and Deputy Chair of Committees, the Group agreed to put forward two possible options for consideration by Executive and Council.

- 3.4 Whilst the Standing Orders Working Group agreed to restrict their review principally to those Standing Orders most in need of revision, during the course of their work two amendments were also proposed to the Scrutiny Procedure Rules in Part 4 of the Constitution to reflect current practice and for reasons of practicality. Approval is sought to these additional amendments which are identified in the attached schedule.
- 3.5 Approval of the revised Standing Orders proposed by the Group and set out in the Appendix will require consequential changes to other parts of the Constitution for the purpose of consistency. It is proposed that delegated authority be given to the Assistant Chief Executive to approve consequential changes of this nature.

**4 RECOMMENDED:-**

- (1) To consider the recommendations of the Standing Orders Working Group set out in the attached schedule and recommend to Council accordingly;
- (2) To delegate authority to the Assistant Chief Executive to make any necessary consequential amendments to the Constitution arising from these recommendations.

COUNCILLOR DAVID MORRISH  
CHAIR, STANDING ORDERS WORKING GROUP

4 September 2008

**Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1972 (as amended)**  
**Background papers used in compiling this report:-**

None