

**Constitutional Reporting-Substitute Scheme for Disabled Members**

**REPORT TO COUNCIL**



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| <b>DATE</b>          | <b>27/09/2023</b>   |
| <b>PORTFOLIO</b>     | <b>Leader</b>   |
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**PURPOSE**

1. To consider a scheme to allow the appointment of substitute members to Committees by disabled members.

**RECOMMENDATION**

2. To consider approval of a limited substitute scheme to Committees as set out at Appendix 1.
3. Subject to approval of the scheme, to approve the additions to the Constitution required to give effect to the decision – set out at Appendix 2.

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

4. To respond to a request from Cllr Hurt to consider allowing the limited appointment of substitute members to committees by disabled members in order to maximise attendance at meetings where that members absence is as a result of their disability.

**SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS**

5. At the MSSWG meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2023, Members considered whether they agreed in principle that a limited substitution scheme related to disability might be appropriate.
6. Members agreed with the principle, and requested that a scheme be drafted and brought back to the group for consideration. Members considered the scheme at their meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> September and agreed that the scheme should be considered by Full Council.
7. The scheme set out proposes use of the definition of the term 'disability' taken from the Equality Act 2010:  

"P has a physical or mental impairment and the impairment has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on P's ability to carry out normal day to day activities".
8. Appendix 2 to this report shows the proposed amendments into the Council Procedure Rules, Part 4.1 of the Constitution (pages 1 and 18-19).  
The Scheme set out at Appendix 1 will be inserted in its entirety as Section 25, points 1 – 11. Section 23 Application to Committees and sub-Committees will be amended to read:  

23. All of the Council Rules of Procedure apply to meetings of full Council. Only Rule 9 applies to meetings of the executive. Only Rules 4-9, 10.5, 14.1, 14.2, 14.4, 14.6, 14.7, 14.8, 14.10, 14.11, 14.12 and 14.13, 16-21 **and 25** (but not Rule 20.1 and 20.2) apply to meetings of committees and sub-committees.

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| <b>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION</b> |
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24. None.

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| <b>POLICY IMPLICATIONS</b> |
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25. None.

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| <b>DETAILS OF CONSULTATION</b> |
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26. Member Structures Working Group, People & Development, Cllr Martyn Hurt.

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| <b>BACKGROUND PAPERS</b> |
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27. None.

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| <b>FURTHER INFORMATION</b>                    |
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