

The recommendation set out on page D1 of the agenda seeks to provide the Chief Executive with delegated authority to make temporary adjustments to the arrangements for meetings of Council and its Committees if it is necessary to respond rapidly and appropriately to any sudden changes in the public health situation in the coming months. It is conceivable that some of these changes could, in certain circumstances, require modification of aspects of the Council's constitutional arrangements. This renews delegations previously confirmed by Council at intervals during the pandemic.

While certain very specific decisions on the form of a local authority's governance, such as whether the Council shall operate an Executive or Committee system, cannot be delegated by Council, not every decision made in connection with the governance of an authority has to be determined by the full Council. It is therefore lawful to delegate powers to amend aspects of the Constitution. However, for the avoidance of doubt, it is recommended that the delegation proposed within the report be formally incorporated in a new temporary Procedure Rule which would itself form part of the Council's Constitution until the end of the current Municipal Year.

On this basis it is proposed that the recommendation be slightly amended to read;

*The Committee is asked to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL that:*

*The provisions set out below be incorporated in the Council's Procedure Rules for a time limited period expiring at the end of the 2021/22 Municipal Year;*

*i) the Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer, the Director of Public Health, the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition, be authorised to make any temporary adjustments to the arrangements for meetings of Council and its Committees as may be required in the interests of public safety where the urgent need arises between meetings of Council; and*

*ii) Any such adjustments approved under the above delegation which have the effect of temporarily modifying aspects of the Constitution be subject to subsequent review at the next meeting of Council.*