

## **Report to Council**

**Subject:** Proposed amendment to the Constitution: Recorded votes at budget meetings

**Date:** 3 March 2014

**Author:** Council Solicitor and Monitoring Officer

### **1. Purpose of the Report**

To seek approval for an addition to the Procedural Standing Orders in the Constitution to comply with the provisions of the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014.

### **2. Background**

2.1 The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 came into force on 25 February 2014. These Regulations amend the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) Regulations 2001, which specify those provisions to be incorporated into the Council's Procedural Standing Orders and require that votes at key budget decision meetings are recorded. The Council is required to modify its standing orders as soon as reasonably practicable after the day on which the 2014 Regulations came into force to reflect this new requirement.

### **3. Proposal**

3.1 It is proposed that the following is added to the Council's Procedural Standing Orders in the Constitution:

*"17.03 Immediately after any vote is taken at a budget decision meeting of the Council there must be recorded in the minutes of the proceedings of that meeting the names of the persons who cast a vote for the decision or against the decision or who abstained from voting."*

3.2 The proposed change falls within Standing Order 29 which states:

*“29. Variation and Revocation of the Constitution*

*Any motion to add to, vary or revoke the Articles of the Constitution, Procedural Standing Orders, Standing Orders relating to Contracts, Standing Orders for Dealings with Land and Standing Orders relating to staff except for the amendment of financial limits and other amendments appropriate to give effect to changes in officers’ duties, responsibilities and titles, shall, when proposed and seconded, stand adjourned without discussion to the next ordinary meeting of the Council.”*

Consequently, the changes to the Standing Orders cannot be agreed straightaway.

**4. Resource Implications**

None arising from this report.

**5. Recommendation**

**It is recommended that:**

- 5.1 the Council approves the adoption of the Standing Order requiring that votes at key budget decision meetings are recorded as set out in the report.
- 5.2 the Council Solicitor and Monitoring Officer is authorised to make the appropriate amendments to the Constitution to incorporate the Standing Order.