

APPENDIX A

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION RELATING TO THE SCRUTINY REFERENCE GROUP

Delete Article 6.05 and substitute the following:-

“6.05 Chairman of Scrutiny Commission.

The Chairman of the Scrutiny Commission will be the Leader of the largest opposition group.

6.06 Call-in Procedure

The Call-in procedure described in the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules in Part 4E of this Constitution requires that at least one person who is either the Chairman or a Spokesman of the Scrutiny Commission should concur with it being invoked.”

6.07 Scrutiny Reference Group

In addition to the Scrutiny Commission and the other standing overview and scrutiny committees there will be a Scrutiny Reference Group with a membership determined by mutual agreement between the political groups. The Scrutiny Reference Group will not constitute an overview and scrutiny committee but will meet informally and in private. The role of the Scrutiny Reference Group will be to consider matters relating to the overall management and operation of overview and scrutiny and the work programme of the Scrutiny Commission.

Consequential amendments

Part 1 – Summary and Explanation

Amend paragraph 18 to read as follows:-

“18. In addition to the standing overview and scrutiny committees, there is also a Scrutiny Reference Group of senior members involved in overview and scrutiny. The Reference Group will not constitute a formal committee but will meet informally to facilitate the work of overview and scrutiny.”

Part 4E – Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules

1. Amend Rule 14(d) to read as follows:

“(d) During that period, the Chief Executive shall call-in a relevant Key Decision for scrutiny by a relevant overview and scrutiny committee only if so requested in writing by any five members of the Scrutiny Commission, at least one of whom must be either the Chairman or a Spokesman of the Scrutiny Commission. The written request shall include a cogent explanation of the reasons for the call-in.

2. Amend Rule 15(e) to read as follows:-

“(e) Since the call-in procedure can only apply to Key Decisions which should feature in the Executive’s Forward Plan, the need for urgent action could be discussed beforehand by the Leader of the Council and the Chairman of the Scrutiny Commission.”