APPENDIX A

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION OF LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL JULY 2012

<u>ITEM</u>	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	EXPLANATION
PART 1 - SUMMARY AND EXPLANATION	In paragraph 2, delete reference to Articles 9 and 9A and add the following:- "The Corporate Governance Committee (Article 9)" Amend paragraph 3 to read as follows:- "3. The County Council is composed of 55 county councillors elected every four years. County councillors are democratically accountable to residents of their electoral division. The overriding duty of county councillors in their representational role is to the whole community, but they have a special duty to their constituents, including those who did not vote for them. The County Council has adopted a Code of Conduct dealing with the conduct that is expected of members when acting in that capacity." Amend paragraph 16 to read as follows:- "16. Social Services Authorities such as the County Council are required to establish arrangements to review and	Redistribution of functions. To reflect changes in the law.
	scrutinise matters relating to Health Services in the Authority's area and to make reports and recommendations." Amend paragraph 19 to read as follows:-	

<u>ITEM</u>	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	EXPLANATION
	"19. Scrutiny Committees allow citizens to have a greater say in County Council matters and things which the County Council is able to influence because at their meetings citizens may ask questions and present petitions provided that they have followed the correct procedures. The Committees produce reports which advise the Executive and the County Council as a whole on its policies, budget and service delivery. Overview and scrutiny committees also monitor the decisions of the Executive. The Adults, Communities and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee is able to make recommendations on a health service matter to the County Council who in turn may refer the matter to the Secretary of State, the regulator or the NHS Commissioning Board."	To reflect changes in the law.
	 Amend the penultimate bullet point in paragraph 26 to read as follows:- "complain to the Monitoring Officer if they have evidence which they think shows that a county councillor has not followed the County Council's Code of Conduct." 	Removing reference to Standards Committee.
PART 2 - ARTICLES		
Contents	Delete existing 9 and 9A. Add the following:-	Redistribution of functions.
	"9. Corporate Governance Committee".	
	Add reference to Designated Scrutiny Officer in Schedule 3, Table D.	

<u>ITEM</u>	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	EXPLANATION
Article 3 – Citizens and the County Council		
3.01 Citizens' Rights	Amend paragraph (d) 3 to read as follows:-	To reflect the provisions of the Localism Act 2011
	"3. The Council's Monitoring Officer about a breach of the County Councillors' Code of Conduct."	
Article 4 – The full County Council		
4.02 Functions of the full County Council	Add the following paragraph:-	To reflect changes in the law.
	"(I) consider possible referrals to the Secretary of State, regulator or NHS Commissioning Board in relation to Health Service issues"	
	Renumber the remaining paragraphs accordingly.	
Article 6 – Overview and Scrutiny Committees		
6.01 Terms of Reference	Amend to read as follows:-	To reflect changes in the law.
	"The County Council will appoint the overview and scrutiny committees and subcommittees set out Table A in Schedule 3 to discharge the functions conferred on the County Council in accordance with the legislation in force for the time being."	
6.03 General role	Amend paragraph (c) to read as follows:-	
	"(c) In the case of scrutiny committee(s) with the function of scrutinising the health service, such committees may make reports and recommendations to relevant NHS bodies and relevant health service providers, the	

<u>ITEM</u>	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	<u>EXPLANATION</u>
	County Council, Rutland Council, District Councils and in appropriate circumstances, refer matters to the County Council who in turn may make referrals to the Secretary of State, the regulator or the NHS Commissioning Board."	
6.08 Health Service functions	Amend to read as follows:-	Amended in the light of the Health and Social Care Act 2012.
	"(a) General Role	ACI 2012.
	Health overview and scrutiny committees will act as a lever to improve the health of local people, ensuring that the needs of local people are considered as an integral part of the delivery and development of health services. A committee may review and scrutinise any matter relating to the planning, provision and operation of health services in the area of the County Council, including:-	
	 (a) arrangements made by relevant NHS bodies or relevant health service providers to secure hospital and community health services for the inhabitants of the area and the services that are provided; 	
	 (b) arrangements made for public health, health promotion and health improvement (including addressing health inequalities) in the area; 	
	(c) the planning of health services by relevant NHS bodies or relevant health service providers including plans made in co-operation with local authorities setting out a strategy for improving both the health of the local population and the provision of health care to that population;	
	(d) arrangements made by relevant NHS bodies or	

<u>ITEM</u>	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	<u>EXPLANATION</u>
	relevant health service providers for consulting and involving patients and the public under the duties placed upon them;	
	(e) any matter referred to the committee by the local Healthwatch	
	(f) responding to consultation from a relevant NHS body or relevant health service provider on a particular issue including proposals for a substantial development of the health service or a substantial variation in the provision of such service (in the latter circumstance it may be necessary for the response to be made through a joint overview and scrutiny committee)."	
	Amend paragraph (b) (j) to read as follows:-	
	"(j) may make reports and recommendations to relevant NHS bodies and relevant health service providers, the County Council, Rutland Council, District Councils and in appropriate circumstances to the County Council who may in turn refer the matter to the Secretary of State, the regulator or the NHS Commissioning Board."	
Article 7 – The Executive		
7.03 Leader	Delete (b) and reletter remaining paragraphs accordingly.	To reflect the provisions of the Localism Act.
	Choose one of the two options for paragraph (e):-	The County Council has a choice to retain the current provision or select to return to the previous
	Existing	arrangement of appointing the Leader on an annual basis.
	"(e) the Annual Meeting of the County Council next following the County Council elections."	ailitaal basis.

<u>ITEM</u>	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	<u>EXPLANATION</u>
	OR	
	Original	
	"(e) the Annual Meeting of the County Council next following his or her appointment."	
7.05 Executive members	Delete (b) and reletter remaining paragraphs accordingly.	To reflect the provisions of the Localism Act.
7.09 Cabinet Support Members	Delete (b) and reletter remaining paragraphs accordingly.	To reflect the provisions of the Localism Act.
Article 9 – The Standards Committee	Delete Article 9 in its entirety.	To reflect the redistribution of functions to the Corporate Governance Committee and the provisions of the Localism Act.
Article 9A – The Corporate Governance Committee	Renumber Article as Article 9 and amend to read as follows:- "9.01. Corporate Governance Committee The full County Council will establish a Corporate Governance	To reflect the provisions of the Localism Act and the redistribution of functions from the Standards Committee.
	Committee.	
	9.02. Composition	
	(a) The Corporate Governance Committee will reflect the political balance on the Council as a whole and may not include the Leader of the Council. The Committee may not include more than one member who is either a member of the Executive or a Cabinet Support Member and that member may not act as Chairman.	
	(b) The Lead Member of the Executive responsible for resources, performance management and	

<u>ITEM</u>	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	<u>EXPLANATION</u>
	risk management will be entitled to attend meetings in an observer/advisory capacity unless appointed to the Committee under paragraph (a) above.	
	9.03 Role and Function	
	The Corporate Governance Committee shall have the following general role and functions:	
	Corporate Governance Matters	
	(a) The promotion and maintenance within the Authority of high standards in relation to the operation of the Council's Code of Corporate Governance with a particular emphasis on ensuring	
	 (i) that an adequate risk management framework and associated control environment is in place; (ii) that the Authority's financial and non financial performance is properly monitored; (iii) proper oversight of the financial reporting processes. 	
	(b) To ensure that the Council's Code of Corporate Governance is reviewed and amended by the County Council as necessary to ensure that it remains relevant to the Council's work and practices.	
	(c) To satisfy themselves that the County Council's Statement of Accounts and those relating to the Leicestershire Pension Fund have been prepared in accordance with best practice.	
	9.03 <u>Standards of Conduct Matters</u>	

ITEM	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	EXPLANATION
	(d) promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by members and co-opted members; assisting such members to observe the Members' Code of Conduct;	
	(e) advising the County Council on the adoption or revision of the Members' Code of Conduct;	
	(f) monitoring the operation of the Members' Code of Conduct;	
	(g) advising, training or arranging to train county councillors, co-opted members and church and parent governor representatives on matters relating to the Members' Code of Conduct;	
	(h) granting dispensations to county councillors and co- opted members and church and parent governor representatives from requirements relating to interests set out in the Members' Code of Conduct;	
	(i) making payments or providing other benefits in cases of maladministration under section 92 of the Local Government Act 2000;	
	(j) exempting members from vacation of office by failure to attend meetings;	
	(k) considering and determining representations seeking the removal of any LEA appointed school governor; and	
	(I) advising as necessary on the establishment of a local code of conduct for employees and procedures relating to the handling of complaints, including "whistleblowing".	

<u>ITEM</u>	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	<u>EXPLANATION</u>
	9.04 Terms of Reference The detailed terms of reference of the Corporate Governance Committee can be found in the Section on Responsibility for Functions contained in Part 3 of this Constitution."	
Article 10 – Area committees and forums 10.03 Conflicts of interest – membership of area committees and overview and scrutiny committees	Substitute "Corporate Governance Committee" for "Standards Committee"	Redistribution of functions.
Article 12 – Officers 12.02 Functions of the Head of Paid Service	 Amend paragraph (a) to read as follows:- "(a) Discharge of functions by the County Council. The Head of Paid Service will determine and report as necessary to full County Council on the manner in which the discharge of the County Council's functions is co-ordinated, the number and grade of officers required for the discharge of functions and the organisation of officers and will ensure that an annual pay policy statement is approved by the full County Council." Add the following and reletter the remaining paragraphs 	To reflect changes in the law and the Council's practices.
	"(b) Grant and supervision of exemptions from political restrictions. The Head of Paid Service will carry out the duties relating to the granting and supervision of exemptions from political restrictions in respect of posts within the authority in accordance with the legislation in force for the time being."	Required by law.

ITEM	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	<u>EXPLANATION</u>
12.03 Functions of the Monitoring Officer	Amend paragraphs (c) and (e) to read as follows:- "(c) Supporting the Corporate Governance Committee. The Monitoring Officer will contribute to the promotion and maintenance of high standards of conduct through provision of support to the Corporate Governance Committee.	Redistribution of functions.
	(e) Local Assessment of Complaints. The Monitoring Officer will support the Member Conduct Panel in operating a locally based system for the assessment, referral, investigation, hearing and resolution of complaints of member misconduct."	Redistribution of functions.
	Delete paragraph (d), add the following and reletter the remaining paragraphs accordingly:-	To reflect changes in the law.
	"(g) Politically restricted posts. The Monitoring Officer will take any necessary action required of the County Council in connection with the designation of posts within the County Council as politically sensitive in accordance with the legislation in force for the time being. (The granting of exemptions is a matter for the Head of Paid Service – see Article 12.02 (b) above)."	
Schedule 2 – Plans and Strategies forming the policy framework	Transfer item 3, Children and Young People's Plan, to the 'By local choice' section	To reflect changes in the law and practice.
	Add 'The Annual Report of the Director of Public Health' to the 'by local choice' section	
	Delete item 9, Local and Multi Area Agreements.	
	Amend item 11 to read:-	

<u>ITEM</u>	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	<u>EXPLANATION</u>
	"11. Leicestershire Rural Framework"	
	Amend item 14 to read:-	
	"14. Municipal Waste Management Strategy"	
	Delete item 9.	
	Add the following to the list of plans determined by the Executive:-	
	"Z. Tree Management Strategy ZA. Carbon Management Plan."	
	Renumber as necessary.	
Schedule 3 – Tables		
Table A – Overview and scrutiny committees	Add the following to the scope of the Scrutiny Commission and renumber the remaining paragraphs accordingly:-	To reflect changes in the law.
	"8. To review and scrutinise the exercise by risk management authorities of flood risk management functions in accordance with Section 9FH of Schedule 2 of the Localism Act 2011"	
	Add "Health and Wellbeing" to the executive functions of the County Council which form the scope of the Adults, Communities and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.	To reflect changes in the law.
Table C – Chief officers	Add the following to Table C – Chief Officers:-	To reflect changes in the law.
	Director of Public Health public health and public health and managing the effective commissioning of	

ITEM	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	<u>EXPLANATION</u>
	services for public health 2. Contribution to corporate management through participation in CMT.	
Table D – Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer, Chief Financial Officer and designated Scrutiny Officer	Delete the words "Head of Legal Services" and insert "Democratic Services Manager – Scrutiny Support" in its place.	To reflect recent changes in officer structures.
PART 3 - RESPONSIBILITY FOR FUNCTIONS		
Section A: Responsibility for "Local Choice"	Delete paragraph (c) of the notes and renumber the remaining paragraphs accordingly.	To reflect changes in the law relating to Police Authorities.
	Amend paragraph (d) by the substitution of "Corporate Governance Committee" for "Standards Committee".	Redistribution of functions.
	Delete items 7 and 8 in the table and renumber the remaining items accordingly.	To reflect changes in the law.
	Amend item 13 in the table by the substitution of "Corporate Governance Committee" for "Standards Committee".	Redistribution of functions.
Section B: Responsibility for "County Council" functions		
Standards Committee	Delete Standards Committee in its entirety.	Redistribution of functions.
Corporate Governance Committee	Amend to read as follows:-	Redistribution of functions from Standards Committee to Corporate Governance Committee

<u>ITEM</u>	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	<u>EXPLANATION</u>
	"Corporate Governance Committee	
	The Corporate Governance Committee shall have power to appoint subcommittees to deal with any appointments for which it has responsibilities.	
	2. The extent to which the non-executive powers within the Committee's remit have been delegated to chief officers, either by the full County Council or by the Committee (or by any of the bodies previously charged with the functions now within its remit), will be found:	
	(a) in the general scheme of delegation to heads of departments which appears in Section D of this Part; and	
	(b) in the record of specific delegations maintained by the Chief Executive for public inspection at County Hall and which constitutes Part 9 of this Constitution.	
	Subject to the delegations described in paragraph 2, the functions delegated to the Committee shall be:	
	Corporate Governance Matters	
	(a) The promotion and maintenance of high standards within the Authority in relation to the operation of the Council's Code of Governance and in particular to ensure:-	
	 (i) That an adequate risk management framework and associated control environment is in place; (ii) That the Authority's financial and non financial performance is properly monitored; (iii) Proper oversight of the financial reporting 	

<u>ITEM</u>	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	<u>EXPLANATION</u>
	processes; (iv) That the Council's Treasury Management arrangements are appropriate and regularly monitored.	
	(b) To review the Council's Code of Governance as necessary and make recommendations to the County Council to ensure that it remains relevant to the Council's work and practices.	
	(c) To satisfy themselves that the County Council's Statement of Accounts and those relating to the Leicestershire Pension Fund including the County Council's Annual Governance Statement have been prepared in accordance with best practice.	
	(d) To make recommendations to the County Council either directly or via the Constitution Committee on any amendments required to the Financial Procedure Rules and Contract procedure Rules set out in Parts 4F and 4G of this Constitution and to make such changes as are considered necessary to the Standard Financial Instructions.	
	(e) To monitor the adequacy and effectiveness of the external audit of the Council's services and functions and to:-	
	 (i) consider the nature and scope of the external audit of the Council's services and functions; (ii) consider external audit reports and management letters; (iii) monitor the County Council's response to the external auditors findings and the implementation of external audit recommendations: 	

ITEM	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	<u>EXPLANATION</u>
	(f) To monitor the adequacy and effectiveness of the Internal Audit Service and to:-	
	 (i) consider the annual Internal Audit plan; (ii) monitor progress against the plan through the receipt of periodic progress reports and an annual Internal Audit report; (iii) consider major Internal Audit findings and recommendations; (iv) monitor the response to major Internal Audit findings and the implementation of its recommendations. 	
	(g) Monitor the effectiveness of officer arrangements for ensuring an adequate internal control environment and combating fraud and corruption.	
	(h) Monitor the arrangements for the identification monitoring and management of strategic and operational risk within the Council.	
	(i) To liaise with the Executive, and other bodies as appropriate on matters of corporate governance and financial accountability.	
	 Advising on training for members of the Council on matters relating to the Corporate Governance of the Authority. 	
	Standards of Conduct Matters	
	 (k) The promotion and maintenance of high standards of conduct by members and co-opted members within the County Council, including:- (i) Advising the County Council on the adoption or revision of its Code of Conduct. (ii) Monitoring and advising the County Council 	

<u>ITEM</u>	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	EXPLANATION
	about the operation of its Code of Conduct in the light of best practice and changes in the law.	
	(I) Ensuring that all members and co-opted members of the County Council have access to training in all aspects of the Code of Conduct for members, that this training is actively promoted, and that members are aware of the standards expected from local councillors under the Code.	
	(m) Making arrangements for the appointment of independent persons whose views must be sought about allegations of a breach of the Members' Code of Conduct in accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011.	
	 (n) Making payments or providing other benefits in cases of maladministration under section 92 of the Local Government Act 2000. 	
	(o) Making arrangements for members to receive dispensations to speak on, or participate in matters in which they have interests.	
	 (p) Exempting members from vacation of office by failure to attend meetings. 	
	 (q) Considering and determining representations seeking the removal of any LEA appointed school governor. 	
	(r) Subject to the powers of the Employment Committee in relation to Local Conditions of Service, advising as necessary on matters relating to the conduct of employees and procedures relating to the handling of complaints, including "whistle blowing"."	

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Constitution Committee	Amend paragraph 3(e) by the substitution of "Corporate Governance Committee" for "Standards Committee".	To reflect impact of Localism Act and redistribution of functions.
	Delete paragraph 3(f).	
Section C: Responsibility for Executive Functions		
Joint Arrangements	Add the following:-	Consequent upon decision already agreed by the County Council.
	"East Midlands Shared Services	
	The Executive has established joint arrangements with Nottingham City Council for the delivery of a programme of shared services including Human Resources, Payroll and Finance Transactional Services. A joint committee has been established in accordance with Section 102 of the Local Government Act 1972. The Executive has delegated to the joint committee the power to provide support services to Leicestershire and Nottingham Councils and other external clients.	
	Police and Crime Panel	To reflect changes in the law.
	Joint arrangements with Leicester City Council, Rutland Council and the District Councils for the purposes of holding to account the Police and Crime Commissioner for the execution of his or her role as required by legislation in force for the time being."	
Section D: General Scheme of Delegation to Heads of Departments	Amend paragraph 19 to read as follows:- "Decision-making between meetings: power to the Chief	Paragraph (a) amended to further speed up process.

<u>ITEM</u>	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	<u>EXPLANATION</u>
	Executive to take action between meetings which he or she considers is urgent in consultation:-	
	(a) on matters within the responsibility of the Executive, with the Leader or such other member of the Executive as may be nominated by the Leader; or	
	(b) on matters within the responsibility of a relevant body with the Chairman and relevant Group Spokesmen of that body;	
	subject to the details of such action being reported for information to the next appropriate meeting of the body concerned."	
Section E: Panels	Replace the words "Director of Adult Social Care and Health" with the words "Director of Adults and Communities" in paragraph 5(k).	To reflect current arrangements.
	Add the following to paragraph 5:-	
	"(f) Member Conduct Panel: to assess any allegation that a member or co-opted member of the Council has breached the Council's Code of Conduct and to conduct a determination hearing as appropriate.	
	(I) Guardianship Review Panel : to consider whether a Guardianship Order made under Sections (7) or (37) of the Mental Health Act (1983) is still necessary or if the person concerned should be discharged.	
	(m) Member Reference Panel on Quality and Safeguarding in Registered Care Homes: (i) to act as a point of reference for the Director of Adults and Communities in considering quality	

<u>ITEM</u>	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	EXPLANATION
	monitoring reports for registered care homes where placements have been made by Leicestershire County Council (this will include care homes outside Leicestershire). (ii) to receive and comment on reports on the performance of the Adults and Communities Department in relation to safeguarding vulnerable adults in residential care homes. (iii) to monitor the implementation and review of the Dignity in Care Kitemark. (iv) to monitor the training of staff in residential care homes, particularly in relation to safeguarding." Reletter the remaining paragraphs accordingly.	
PART 4A – MEETING PROCEDURE RULES (STANDING ORDERS)		
Standing Order 4: Order of Business	Amend paragraph (10) to delete reference to the Standards Committee	Redistribution of functions
Standing Order 7: Questions from Elected Members	Delete paragraph (2)	To reflect changes in legislation.
Standing Order 10: Notice of Motion	Delete paragraph (5) and renumber accordingly.	To be consistent with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011.
Standing Order 18: Length of speeches and conduct of members	Amend the note by deletion of the reference to "Standards Committee".	Redistribution of functions.

<u>ITEM</u>	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	EXPLANATION
Standing Order 30: Interests in contracts and other matters	"If any member of the Council has any pecuniary interests as defined within the County Council's Code of Conduct in any contract, proposed contract, or other matter, that member shall declare that interest and withdraw from the meeting while the contract, proposed contract, or other matter, is under consideration by the Council unless the disability to discuss that matter imposed upon him or her by the Code has been removed by the Corporate Governance Committee. [Note: The County Council is required by law to maintain a register of certain types of interests. All elected members must give notice to the Monitoring Officer of interests covered within 28 days of being elected. Members are also required to ensure that interests are declared at meetings in accordance with legislation and Standing Order 30 above and that any disclosable interests declared at meetings which are not in the Authority's register are notified to the Monitoring Officer within 28 days of disclosure. By law the Register is open to public inspection. As a matter of good practice, the County Council has determined that members should be required to keep the register up to date by notifying the Monitoring Officer of any changes within 28 days of their occurrence.]"	To reflect the provisions of the Localism Act and the redistribution of functions.
Note after Meeting Procedure Rules	Add the following to the list of meetings determined for the purposes of Standing Order 34(2): "Member Conduct Panel Guardianship Panel Member Reference Panel on Quality and Safeguarding in Registered Care."	
	Delete reference to Standards Committee and Subcommittees.	Redistribution of functions.

<u>ITEM</u>	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	EXPLANATION
PART 4B – ACCESS TO INFORMATION PROCEDURE RULES		
Contents	Delete reference to Rule 25.	No longer applies.
Rule 1: Scope	Substitute "Member Conduct Panel" for "Standards Committee"	Redistribution of functions.
Rule 25: Application of Rules to the Standards Committee and its Subcommittees	Delete Rule 25.	No longer applies.
Schedule	Delete Categories 7A, 7B and 7C	No longer applies.
PART 4D – EXECUTIVE PROCEDURE RULES		
Rule 8: Working definition of "Key Decision"	Add the following note to paragraph (viii):- "Note: Where the closure or reduction is as a result of time- limited external funding coming to an end and there is no reasonable prospect of continuing the service, other than on a transitional basis, this provision does not apply."	To reflect current practice.
Part 4E - OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROCEDURE RULES		
Rule 5: Education representatives	Amend paragraph (a) to read as follows:- "(a) Each relevant overview and scrutiny committee dealing	There is no requirement for education representatives from schools which are not maintained by the local education authority.

<u>ITEM</u>	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	<u>EXPLANATION</u>
	with education matters shall include in its membership the following education representatives from schools maintained by the local education authority: (i) 1 Church of England diocese representative; (ii) 1 Roman Catholic diocese representative; and (iii) 2 parent governor representatives."	
Rule 6: Chairmanship and meetings of the overview and scrutiny committees	Replace "Adult Social Care and Health Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee" with "Adults, Communities and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee".	To reflect current arrangements.
Rule 12: Members and officers giving account	"(a) An overview and scrutiny committee may require any member of the Executive, the Head of Paid Service and any senior officer of the Council and in the case of an overview and scrutiny committee dealing with Health Services any member or employee of a relevant NHS body or member or employee of a relevant health service provider to attend before it to explain in relation to matters within their remit: (i) any particular policy, decision or series of decisions; (ii) the extent to which the actions taken implement the policy of the County Council or relevant health body; and/or (iii) their performance, and it is the duty of those persons to attend if so required."	To reflect changes in the law .

<u>ITEM</u>	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	<u>EXPLANATION</u>
Rule 17: Procedure at overview and scrutiny committee meetings	Add the following to paragraph (a) and renumber remaining paragraphs accordingly:-	
	"(v) a referral made to the Committee by a member of the Council which is not an excluded matter;"	To reflect changes in the law.
	Amend paragraph (c) to read as follows:-	
	"(c) Following any investigation or review, the committee shall prepare a report, for submission to the County Council, Executive, and/or the relevant NHS body or relevant health service provider and shall make its report and findings public".	
PART 5A – MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT	Adopt Appendix C of the report.	To reflect changes in the law and the views of members.
PART 5B – OFFICERS' CODE OF CONDUCT		
Appendix 2: Register of Gifts and Hospitality	Amend the reference to registers of gifts and hospitality to read as follows:-	To avoid the need to amend when contact points change.
	"Registers in respect of gifts and hospitality are maintained in electronic form within each Department. Contact points for the Departments are set out on the County Council's intranet."	

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PART 6 – MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME	Amend definition of "co-opted member" in paragraph 2 by the deletion of the works "or Independent Member of the Standards Committee"	Independent Members of the Standards Committee cease to exist on 1 July 2012.
	Delete paragraphs 4, 6, 13 and 19.	To reflect changes in the law removing power of suspension.
	Amend paragraph 18 to read as follows:- "18. "No such allowances are currently payable."	Independent Members of the Standards Committee cease to exist on 1 July 2012.