

	<p>Constitution, Ethics and Probity Committee</p> <p>25 November 2014</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Title</p>	<p>Member's Item – Committee Working Groups</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Report of</p>	<p>Head of Governance</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Wards</p>	<p>All</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Status</p>	<p>Public</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Enclosures</p>	<p>None</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Officer Contact Details</p>	<p>Andrew Charlwood, Head of Governance (Acting) Email: andrew.charlwood@barnet.gov.uk Tel: 020 8359 2014</p>

Summary
<p>The report informs the Constitution, Ethics and Probity Committee of a Member's Item and requests instructions from the Committee</p>

Recommendations
<p>That the Constitution, Ethics and Probity Committee's instructions in relation to this Member's item are requested</p>

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

1.1 Councillor Dr Devra Kay has requested that a Member's Item be considered on the following matter:

1.2 "The budget / commissioning plan member Working Groups were established and run outside the rules of the constitution, which meant that these meetings did not have to be held in public, and papers did not have to be published in accordance with the access to information rules.

This is in conflict with the idea of open government and was an obstruction to the transparency and accountability in our decision making process in the lead up to budget proposals being brought to committees.

As we now have a committee system which is supposed to be a more open and transparent way of doing business I would like to ask CEP to formalise these working groups within the budget making process in the constitution so that in future any 'working group' budget or commissioning plan discussions either take place at the main committees, or at sub-committees or panels established by the main committees which are all subject to the access to information rules and are held in public.

This may require scheduling more committee meetings."

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 No recommendations have been made. The Constitution, Ethics and Probity Committee are therefore requested to give consideration and provide instruction.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

3.1 Not applicable.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 Post decision implementation will depend on the decision taken by the Committee.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

5.1.1 As and when issues raised through a Member's Item are progressed, they will need to be evaluated against the Corporate Plan and other relevant policies.

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

5.2.1 None in the context of this report.

5.3 Legal and Constitutional References

5.3.1 Council Constitution, Meeting Procedure Rules (section 6) states that a Member, including appointed substitute Members of a Committee may have one item only on an agenda that he/she serves. Members items must be within the term of reference of the decision making body which will consider the item.

5.3.2 There are no legal references in the context of this report.

5.4 Risk Management

5.4.1 None in the context of this report.

5.5 Equalities and Diversity

5.5.1 Member's Items allow Members of a Committee to bring a wide range of issues to the attention of a Committee in accordance with the Council's Constitution. All of these issues must be considered for their equalities and diversity implications.

5.6 Consultation and Engagement

5.6.1 None in the context of this report.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

6.1 Email to Head of Governance (Acting) dated 13 November 2014.