

<b>Amendment to Council Constitution</b>	<b>15 November 2016</b>
<b>Corporate Policy and Resources Committee</b>	<b>For Decision</b>

<b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)</b>	
<b>Strategic Theme</b>	Leader and Champion
<b>Outcome</b>	Provide civic leadership to our citizens
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Head of Policy and Community Planning
<b>Cost:</b> (If applicable)	

## **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 A Council is required, under section 2 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014, to prepare and keep up to date a Constitution.
- 1.2 Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council agreed a new Constitution in October 2015. This governs how the Council operates, how decisions are made, and the procedures which are to be followed to ensure efficiency, transparency and accountability to local people. Some of these processes are required by the law, while others are a matter for the Council to choose.
- 1.3 The Council's Constitution is divided into sixteen Articles which set out the basic rules governing the Council's business. More detailed procedures and codes of practice are provided in separate Rules and Protocols at the end of the document.

## **2.0 Proposed Amendment to Council Constitution**

- 2.1 The Planning Committee on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2016 agreed to adopt the review of the '*Scheme of Delegation for Development Management, Development Plan, Enforcement and Other Planning Functions*' and the '*Protocol for the Operation of the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Planning Committee*'. The Department for Infrastructure has subsequently formally agreed these revised documents.
- 2.2 The revised Scheme of Delegation and Protocol for the Operation of the Planning Committee will take effect from 7<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

2.3 The key changes included in these documents are as follows:

- increased time for elected members to request the referral of a delegated application to the Planning Committee
- a reduction in the number of elected members required to support the referral of an application to Planning committee
- the weekly delegated list of applications ready to issue will only include contentious applications; non-contentious delegated applications will no longer be required to be placed on the weekly list and will issue when agreed by appointed officers.

2.4 It has previously been agreed that the Protocol for the Operation of the Planning Committee will be attached to the Council's Standing Orders. The Standing Orders are included within the Council Constitution and this means that the Standing Orders will have to change to include the revised Protocol. This will require an amendment to the Council Constitution to incorporate this revised document.

#### **4.0 Recommendation**

**It is recommended** that the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee recommend to Council approval of the amendment to the Council Constitution as outlined in item 2.0.