

<b>CONSTITUTION WORKING PARTY</b>		
<b>Report Title</b>	<b>NEIGHBOURHOOD GOVERNANCE: DIRECTIONS AND NEXT STEPS</b>	
<b>Key Decision</b>		<b>Item No. 5</b>
<b>Ward</b>		
<b>Contributors</b>	<b>CHIEF EXECUTIVE</b>	
<b>Class</b>	<b>Part 1</b>	<b>Date: 23 OCTOBER 2006</b>

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

To consider the report prepared by the Chief Executive attached as an Appendix to this report .

### **2. Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Constitution Working Party:

- (i) note the report; and
- (ii) agree the next steps to be included in the report to be submitted to the next meeting of this Working Party in the December/January cycle.

### **3. Background**

3.1 At the Council meeting on 26 July, it was resolved that “The Council believes that local government is strengthened by engaging with the public at the lowest level. It notes the Government’s desire for Councils to deliver a community governance role and to develop closer links with local communities. Council therefore requests the Constitution Working Party to bring forward proposals as to how to replace Area Forums with a system of neighbourhood governance which includes devolved budgets and a range of powers developed in consultation with the local community. The emphasis of such proposals should be to develop initiatives that strengthen communities and increase participation both in the establishment of and the subsequent running of the new arrangements”.

3.2 Attached as an Appendix is a report prepared by the Chief Executive. The report helps to steer a direction forward on this issue and agree next steps in terms of reports to be commissioned. It also outlines six key issues that need to be addressed at the outset.