

## **Revision of Council Rules**

### **Background**

Before the end of the second transitional period on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2005, the Council will need to revise some of its statutory rules. As members will be aware, this process requires the Council to prepare drafts, to consult on the proposed changes and to obtain the consent of the Privy Council

Some revisions cannot be avoided. For example, the Practice Committees (Constitution) Rules only have effect until the end of the second transitional period and therefore must be revised before the end of that period.

However, the necessary revision of rules also provides an opportunity for the Council to propose other changes which would be desirable in the light of experience or to seek powers which were not originally granted to HPC but which have since been included in the rules for other regulators. For example the new GMC rules include specific provision dealing with vulnerable witnesses, provisions which would be helpful to HPC Panels.

### **Decision**

The Council is asked to agree:

1. That the Executive commence the process of identifying rule changes which are necessary or which may be desirable and draft a consultation document on those proposed changes to the Council for its approval.

### **Resource implications**

None

### **Financial implications**

Legal fees will be incurred in the drafting of revised rules but the extension of the work to optimum rather than just necessary changes is unlikely to add significantly to the cost.

### **Background papers**

None

### **Appendices**

None