

REPORT OF THE LEADER

CONSTITUTION REVIEW

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek Full Council's approval for a review of the Council's Constitution to be undertaken.

Information

2. The Council's Constitution was fully reviewed in 2012 when the Council changed from executive arrangements to the committee-system form of governance. The Financial Regulations, which form part of the Constitution, were reviewed in 2015. The Committee Structure was updated in May 2017, and Communities and Place Review Committee was added in September 2018. There have been other minor amendments and updates, however it is now some time since the document has been reviewed.
3. It is proposed that Full Council commissions the Monitoring Officer to undertake a review of the Constitution, with Governance and Ethics Committee having oversight for the project. In accordance with the Constitution, Full Council will be responsible for adopting the updated document.
4. The objective will be to modernise the document and ensure it is clear and user-friendly for all. Particular emphasis will be given to Full Council and committee procedure rules; to facilitate the smooth and efficient running of meetings.
5. Governance and Ethics Committee will be asked to approve the scope of the review.

Other Options Considered

6. Not to undertake a complete review; Governance and Ethics Committee will have oversight and will consider the scope of the review to ensure the scale of the project is proportionate and a good use of resources.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

7. To ensure the County Council's Constitution is user friendly and facilitates the Council in decision-making and ensuring sound governance.

Statutory and Policy Implications

8. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

9. Governance and Ethics Committee will consider any financial implications when the scope of the review is determined.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the Monitoring Officer is commissioned to undertake a review of the County Council's Constitution; subject to Governance and Ethics Committee approving the scope of the review and having oversight of the project throughout.

Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts MBE
Leader of the Council

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (SLB 18/04/2019)

10. Full Council is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report.

Financial Comments (SES 07/05/2019)

11. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All