

**REPORT TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW COMMITTEE
MEETING OF 22 FEBRUARY 2011**

Status: Information
Title: Review of the Council's Constitution
Originator: Verina Wenham, Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer
Where from: Management Board
Where to next:

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 In accordance with the Resolution of the Committee on the 26th January 2011, a final version of the amended Constitution to be submitted to the Committee for information.

2 Recommendations:

- 2.1 **That the Committee notes the final version of the Constitution with amendments approved by Council prior to circulation to all Members of the Council.**

3. Summary of Reasons for the Recommendations

- 3.1 As set out in 2.1 above.

4 Impact on Communities

- 4.1 Having a more effective, efficient, open, and accessible Constitution, as well as following the recommended amendments through into the practical workings and operations of Council functions would accentuate the transparent, open government elements of the Council. It would also help to underline the performance of the Council as the democratically elected Local Authority.

5 Key Facts

- 5.1 The Constitution is subject to regular review and the amended Constitution is the result of that review undertaken over a period of 18 months.
- 5.2 At its meeting on the 26th January 2011, it was agreed that the final version of the Constitution, with the amendments approved by Council, should be circulated to certain Members of the Committee as agreed on the 26th January 2011. Accordingly, the final version was emailed to Councillors: Dunton, Mrs A. Hill, Page, Robinson, B. Smith, Mrs Wood and King. The approved amendments are shown in ***bold italics*** in the final version of the document.

A paper copy of this version will be circulated to all Members of the Committee at the meeting with a view to noting the amendments to the Constitution prior to circulation.

6 Legal Issues

- 6.1 As set out in the body of this report.

7 Resource Issues

- 7.1 The ongoing review of the Constitution will be carried out within existing resources.
- 7.2 The updating, reproduction and circulation of the revised Constitution would also be covered within the existing resources and arrangements of the Council.

8 Equality Impact Assessment Implications/ Outcomes

- 8.1 None in the context of this report.

9 Impact on the Organisation

- 9.1 No alternative arrangements beyond those presently in existence would be required to implement the recommended changes.

10 Community Safety Implications

- 10.1 None in the context of this report.

11 Consultation

- 11.1 None.

12 Options Considered

- 12.1 Members note the agreed amendments to the Constitution.

13 Background Papers

13.1 The Council's current Constitution.

**Previous report(s): 13th August 2008, 16th March 2009, 11th January 2010, and
10th February 2010, 22nd March 2010, 19th October 2010,
26th January 2011.**

Information Issued Under Sensitive Issue Procedure: No.

Ward Members Notified: No.