

Council 29 June 2020

Item 12 refers

Recommendation (3) from the Constitutional Review meeting of 18th June 2020

REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION – PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

The Committee considered a report recommending the merging of the Governance and Audit Committee and the Ethical Governance Committee to strengthen the remit and membership of the body. There was some overlap between the two existing committees and this proposal would streamline the procedures. It is suggested that the new committee be called the Audit and Standards Committee, with terms of reference, amended from the existing two committees, attached at Appendix A to the officer's report.

If the Committee recommended to Council the creation of this new Committee it is suggested that consideration be given to establishing a Standards Sub-Committee to consider member conduct complaints, which would fall within the remit of the new committee. Terms of reference for the Sub-Committee, including the requirement for at least one non-voting Parish Member to be present when consideration is given to a complaint relating to a town or parish councillor, were included at Appendix A of the officer's report. Town / Parish Councillors had been consulted on the proposals since the report had been written.

The Committee was also asked to consider an amendment to the membership of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee, to reduce the membership of each Committee from twelve to nine and to recommend this amendment to Council for approval and adoption. This would bring the membership of these two committee into line with the other regulatory committee, the Planning Committee, the membership of which had been previously reduced from twelve to nine members.

RECOMMENDED to Council that:

- (i) The existing Governance and Audit Committee and Ethical Governance Committee be merged as the Audit and Standards Committee, with the terms of reference as set out in Appendix A of the officer's report and appended to these minutes;**
- (ii) The membership of the Licensing Committee and the Regulatory Committee be amended from twelve to nine members for each Committee, as set out in paragraph 5.6 of the officer's report.**

The report to the Constitutional Review meeting on 18th June 2020 and associated Appendix are attached.