

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - RESOURCES****14 MARCH 2019****Report of the Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer****Revisions to the Council's Constitution****1. Purpose of the Report**

To consider the revisions to the Council's Constitution as recommended thus far by the Standards Committee, Audit Committee and Full Council.

2. Information and Analysis

In July 2018, the Standards Committee as part of its work programme commenced a review of the Council's Constitution. The Constitution is a key governance document and as such is a public document. The Council is required to ensure that the constitution remains fit for purpose as it details the governance framework i.e. decision making principles for the Council.

As part of this work programme, the Standards Committee has convened a number of meetings and continues to take a detailed approach in the revised constitution which will be further presented to Full Council in May 2019.

In December 2018, the Audit Committee undertook a review of the Financial Regulations and the Standing Orders relating to Contracts. These revised documents were approved by Full Council on 6th February 2019, and will come into force on 1st April 2019. In the event that the revised Constitution is approved by Full Council in May 2019, they will be fully incorporated into the constitution and will not be stand-alone documents.

On 6th February 2019, Full Council, upon the recommendation of Standards Committee had the opportunity to debate the revised constitution and subsequently approved the same.

Since that time, and in the knowledge of Full Council, the Standards Committee has continued to meet to finalise the revisions which are required.

The revised Constitution will focus on streamlining the Council's decision making principles, whilst maintaining a robust governance framework which

can deliver a commitment to integrity and transparency. The revised constitution will be divided into two sections; Articles which set out the overarching functions and decision-making framework of the Council; and Appendices which detail how the Articles will be carried out.

Within the Appendices, there has also been a refreshed focus on the Council's Ethical Governance Framework i.e. the behaviours and expectations of both Elected Members and Officers. This has also coincided with Central Governments' publication of the annual report from the Committee on Standards in Public Life report which has focused on the Member Code of Conduct and related conduct issues.

In terms of next steps, the Standards Committee is in the process of reviewing the refreshed terms of reference from the various council committees and will call a further meeting in April 2019, to conclude their work programme and make their final recommendations to Full Council in May 2019.

Training sessions have now commenced and the Member Development Group has been asked by the Standards Committee to oversee the delivery of the training programme to all Elected Members.

3. Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: financial, legal, prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, human resources, environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

4. Background Papers

Derbyshire County Council's Constitution

5. Officer recommendation

To be appraised of and to consider the Council's revised draft Constitution

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