

# AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE



Report subject	<b>Establishment of Constitution Review Working Group</b>
Meeting date	30 July 2020
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>The Audit and Governance Committee is responsible for maintaining an overview of the Council's Constitution and governance arrangements.</p> <p>The use of a Working Group for the recent review proved to be effective and the committee is therefore asked to consider the establishment of a permanent Working Group to undertake these responsibilities, recommending changes as appropriate.</p>
Recommendations	<p><b>It is RECOMMENDED that:</b></p> <p><b>a Constitution Review Working Group be established comprising five councillors drawn from the whole council made up of two councillors from the Conservative Group, one unaligned councillor and two from the remaining political groups.</b></p>
Reason for recommendations	<p>The establishment of a Constitution Review Working Group will provide an agile and efficient mechanism to consider changes to the Constitution.</p>

Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Vikki Slade (Leader of the Council)
Corporate Director	Julian Osgathorpe (Corporate Director for Resources)
Report Authors	Richard Jones (Head of Democratic Services)
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Decision

## Background

1. The Committee's Terms of Reference, as contained in the Council's Constitution, includes responsibility for maintaining an overview of the Council's Constitution in respect of financial regulations, working protocols and codes of conduct and behaviour (not otherwise reserved to the Standards Committee.
2. In undertaking the latest review of the Constitution, the Committee established a time-limited Working Group to make a series of recommendations for the Committee to consider before recommending changes to full Council.
3. The Working Group proved to be effective with sufficient agility to respond quickly to suggestions for change.

## Working Group Arrangements

4. It is proposed that the Committee establish a permanent Working Group comprised of five Councillors made up of two Councillors from the Conservative Group, one unaligned councillor and two from the remaining political groups. Members of the Working Group should not be restricted to the Audit and Governance Committee. This will provide greater flexibility and input from the wider council membership.
5. The Working Group will meet as required to consider changes to the Constitution, consulting where necessary with internal stakeholders including the wider council membership and recommending changes to the Audit and Governance Committee to consider.

## Options Appraisal

6. The Audit and Governance Committee has responsibility for maintaining an overview of the constitution and to make recommendations to full council. The Committee as a whole could perform the whole process. This will be time-consuming for the committee to consider the necessary detail and is likely to delay the implementation of changes.
7. The establishment of a Working Group will provide greater agility, will be capable of meeting more rapidly as required for important issues, and yet maintain transparency through the presentation of recommendations to the full committee.

## Summary of financial implications

8. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

**Summary of legal implications**

9. The Council is required to maintain a Constitution which complies with legislation, statutory guidance and case law.

**Summary of human resources implications**

10. There are no direct additional implications arising from this report.

**Summary of sustainability impact**

11. There are no direct sustainability implications arising from this report.

**Summary of public health implications**

12. There are no direct public health implications arising from this report.

**Summary of equality implications**

13. There are no direct equality implications arising from this report.

**Summary of risk assessment**

14. There are no direct additional risks arising from this report.

**Background papers**

None

**Appendices**

There are no appendices to this report.