

THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

18 MAY 2011

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Title: Council Constitution	For Decision
<p>Summary:</p> <p>Part B, Article 2 (The Assembly) paragraph 8, of the Council's Constitution authorises the Assembly to agree changes to the Constitution and associated rules, codes, protocols and schemes relating to the way in which the Council operates. Whilst it is standard practice that the Constitution is reviewed and any changes submitted for approval to the Annual Assembly, further changes which are required due to emerging legislation, best practice or to uphold good decision making principles are reported throughout the year as necessary.</p> <p>Attached as Appendix A is a schedule setting out the basis of the changes as they will appear in the Constitution. In summary these changes deal with:</p> <p>Part B – Articles – The Political Structure and Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clarify the role and responsibilities of the Ceremonial Council as regards confirming the status of Honorary Alderman upon individuals• The Chair of the Assembly to act as Deputy Chair of the Ceremonial Council following the deletion of the post of Deputy Mayor• Defining the meaning of a partnership to reflect the findings of an independent audit of the Council's partnership arrangements• Updating the Council's Policy Framework (<i>also updated in Part C - Scheme of Delegation</i>) <p>Part E – Codes and Protocols</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Changes to the Code of Corporate Governance to reflect committee responsibilities <p>Subject to the Assembly's approval the relevant pages containing the changes will be updated on the Council's web site. Minor administrative changes which have been made under the authority of the Chief Executive in accordance with Part H, paragraph 2.1 of the Council Constitution will also be included.</p> <p>Members will recall that following a comprehensive review of the Council's Financial Regulations undertaken by the Public Accounts and Audit Committee, a number of changes were adopted by the Assembly at their meeting in February 2011 which have now been incorporated into the Council's Constitution, specifically in the Financial Regulatory Framework, set out in Part D (Rules). Members are asked to note that forming part of that overall Framework, the Contract Rules, Guidance and Code of Practice are presently being updated, and it is anticipated that a report will come forward to the Assembly in July 2011 seeking approval to relevant changes.</p>	

Wards Affected: None.

Recommendations:

The Assembly is asked to agree the proposed changes to the Council Constitution to take immediate effect.

Reason:

To ensure that the Council's decision making accords with the principles set out in Article 12 of the Council's Constitution.

Implications:

Legal –The Local Government Act 2000 requires Council's to produce, maintain and regularly review the Constitution document which sets out the rules, codes, protocols and schemes by which the Council operates.

Financial – None

Risk Management – Any delays in updating the Constitution puts at risk the normal function and business of the Council being conducted in an effective, efficient and lawful manner.

Social Inclusion and Diversity – None

Crime and Disorder – None

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Background papers used in the preparation of this report:

- Council Constitution