

SUBJECT:	Constitution Update
MEETING:	Standards Committee
DATE:	27th November 2017
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	All

1. PURPOSE:

To make the Standards Committee aware of the proposed changes to the council's constitution.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

To consider the proposed changes to the council's constitution.

3. KEY ISSUES:

Under the Local Government Act 2000 a council must prepare and keep up to date a constitution which contains such information as the Secretary of State may direct, the council's standing orders for the time being, the members' code of conduct, and such other information as the authority consider appropriate.

The council's constitution was last updated in September 2014. In the intervening 3 years the council has made a number of decisions that affect the constitution, along with changes in the senior management structure of the council and legislative changes that need to be reflected in the constitution. The main changes include:

- (a) – The formation of a fifth select committee to scrutinise the work of the Public Services Board – page B17,
- (b) – The Scheme of Delegation for decision making by the Planning Department – page C11,
- (c) – The ability of the council to allow remote attendance by members at meetings – page D5 and D35,
- (d) – The amended code of conduct for members – E1
- (e) – Whistleblowing policy – E24
- (f) – Schedule of members' remuneration – F1

The constitution also contains the council's protocols on member/officer relations (E44) and self-regulation of member conduct (E54) that the Standards Committee has considered in the past and will find of interest.

The draft constitution is appended to the report with the proposed amendments highlighted and the document will be considered by the council at its meeting on 14th December 2017.

4. REASONS: Every council operating under the Local Government Act 2000 must have a written constitution. From time to time the council should update its constitution.

5. **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:** None

6. **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS:**

No significant equality impacts have been identified.

7. **SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS:** NONE

8. **CONSULTEES:** Senior Leadership Team

9. **BACKGROUND PAPERS:** None

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