



Report of the Presiding Member, Monitoring Officer & Head of Democratic Services

Council – 25 January 2024

Amendments to Council Constitution - Constitution Working Group - Terms of Reference

Purpose:	To make amendments to simplify, improve and / or add to the Council Constitution. A decision of Council is required to change the Council Constitution. To amend the Terms of Reference of the Constitution Working Group.
Policy Framework:	Council Constitution.
Consultation:	Access to Services, Finance, Legal.
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that Council approves: 1) The Constitution Working Group Terms of Reference being amended to include: <i>“e) To consider any issue that requires cross Political Group discussion.”</i>
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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Constitution Working Group is exempt from Committee Balance Rules to allow a cross party representation from each of the Political Groups. It comprises the Presiding Member, Deputy Presiding Member, Leaders & Deputy Leaders of Ruling Group and Largest Opposition Group, Leader of other Political Groups and Cabinet Member with responsibility for Constitutional Matters.

2. Constitution Working Group - Terms of Reference

- 2.1 The Terms of Reference of the Constitution Working Group are set out within Part 3 “Responsibility for Functions” of the Council Constitution. For ease, the Terms of Reference are outlined:

- “a) This Group is exempt from the Committee Balance Rules to allow the following membership and representation by each Political Group: Presiding Member, Deputy Presiding Member, Leader & Deputy Leader of Ruling Group and Largest Opposition Group, Leader of other Political Groups and Cabinet Member with responsibility for Constitutional matters. Note: Each Political Group Leader may substitute their Deputy Political Group Leader with another of their Group Members if required but the membership must be approved by Council.*
- b) To keep under review all aspects of the Council Constitution and to make appropriate recommendations for change.*
- c) To administer the requirements of the Election of Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor Protocol as outlined in the Council Constitution.*
- d) To consider all aspects of any Boundary Reviews and make recommendations to Council as appropriate.”*

- 2.2 The Constitution Working Group is a useful body for holding cross party discussions. It is proposed that its Terms of Reference be amended to include:

- “e) To consider any issue that requires cross Political Group discussion.”*

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 All financial impacts of this report are contained within existing budgets.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 There are no further legal implications other than those set out in the report.

5. Integrated Assessment Implications

- 5.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:
- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
 - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage.
 - Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language.
 - Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
 - Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- 5.2 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.
- 5.3 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.
- 5.4 An IIA screening form has been completed and has determined that a full IIA report will not be required as this is a minor amendment to the Council Constitution.

Background Papers: None

Appendices: None.