

Report of City Solicitor

Report to General Purposes Committee

Date: 19th October 2020

Subject: Amendments to the Constitution

Are specific electoral wards affected? If yes, name(s) of ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Has consultation been carried out?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Will the decision be open for call-in?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, access to information procedure rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary

1. Main issues

- On 27th May 2020 the Leader confirmed her Executive Arrangements for the 2020/21 Municipal Year.
- The Leader has made amendments to those arrangements and presented details of the altered arrangements to Council on 16th September.
- Further amendments are required to the Constitution, reflecting the Leader's arrangements.

2. Best Council Plan Implications (see the [latest version of the Best Council Plan](#))

- The Constitution must be maintained up to date and fit for purpose in line with the Council's Corporate Governance Code and Framework in addition to furthering the Council's value of being "open, honest and trusted."

3. Resource Implications

- There are no implications for this report.

Recommendations

General Purposes Committee is requested to recommend that Council approve amendments to the constitution as detailed in this report, and set out in the appendices attached, with immediate effect in particular to:

- Article 6 (Appendix A)
- Article 12 (Appendix B)

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report sets out proposed amendments to the Constitution reflecting amendments to the Leader's executive arrangements reported to Council on 16th September 2020.

2. Background information

- 2.1 The Leader amended the executive arrangements to reflect minor changes in structure within Directorates, and to clearly reflect statutory roles and responsibilities.

3. Main issues

Article 6

- 3.1 Minor amendments are required to Annex 2 of Article 6 to ensure that the reporting arrangements to each Scrutiny Board reflect the delegation of executive decision making. Proposed amendments are shown at Appendix A attached.

Article 12

- 3.2 Amendments are required to reflect the management and reporting arrangements between the City Solicitor, Chief Officer Financial Services, Director of Resources and Housing and Chief Executive.
- 3.3 Amendments also reflect that the Director of Resources and Housing has taken overarching responsibility for Access to information matters with specific areas of responsibility being addressed within his sub-delegation scheme.
- 3.4 Proposed amendments are shown at Appendix B attached.
- 3.5 The proposed amendments, in conjunction with the changes made by the Leader to her Executive Arrangements, will maintain the transparency of governance and decision making arrangements in place.

4. Corporate considerations

4.1 Consultation and engagement

- 4.1.1 All relevant Directors were consulted in relation to the amendments to their delegated authority.

4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

- 4.2.1 There are no implications for this report.

4.3 Council policies and the Best Council Plan

4.3.1 The Constitution must be maintained up to date and fit for purpose in line with the Council's Corporate Governance Code and Framework in addition to furthering the Council's value of being "open, honest and trusted."

Climate Emergency

4.3.2 There are no implications for this report.

4.4 Resources, procurement and value for money

4.4.1 There are no implications for this report.

4.5 Legal implications, access to information, and call-in

4.5.1 There are no implications for this report.

4.6 Risk management

4.6.1 There are no implications for this report.

5. Conclusions

5.1 Amendments to the Constitution are necessary to reflect changes made by the Leader to her Executive Arrangements, and to ensure that the Council's governance and decision making arrangements are coherent and transparent.

6. Recommendations

6.1 General Purposes Committee is requested to recommend that Council approve amendments to the constitution as detailed in this report, and set out in the appendices attached, with immediate effect in particular to:

- Article 6 (Appendix A)
- Article 12 (Appendix B)

7. Background documents¹

7.1 None

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.