

COUNCIL	AGENDA ITEM. 13 (a)
12 OCTOBER 2016	PUBLIC REPORT

REVIEW OF CONSTITUTION - REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE REVIEW GROUP

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S
FROM : CHAIR OF COMMITTEE REVIEW GROUP
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Council notes the stage 2 report of the Committee Review Group at Appendix 1 and endorses the recommendations in their report. 2. That from 1 January 2017, the Council establishes the following Scrutiny Committees: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Children and Education Scrutiny Committee (b) Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee (c) Health Scrutiny Committee (d) Growth, Environment & Resources Scrutiny Committee 3. Subject to 2 above, that Council approves the following changes to the Constitution to take effect from 1 January 2017: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Overview and Scrutiny Article 7 (Part 2:Section 7) – Appendix 2 (b) Overview and Scrutiny Functions (Part 3:Section 4) – Appendix 3 4. That Council approves the changes to the Budget & Policy Framework Procedure Rules (Part 4: Section 6 of the Constitution) to take immediate effect - Appendix 4 5. That the terms of reference of the Member Officer Working Group be approved for implementation from 1 January 2017 - Appendix 1 (Annex 3). 6. That from 1 January 2017 Audit Committee's terms of reference be amended as follows: <p>To maintain an overview of the Council's constitution with the exception of those matters under the remit of the Executive or a regulatory committee.</p> 7. That the Scrutiny Procedure rules should be reviewed to incorporate the recommendations of the Committee Review Group and reported to the next meeting of Council.

1. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 Council at its annual meeting on 23 May 2016 agreed to set up a Committee Review Group to review the committee structure. As requested by Council, the Committee Review Group has concluded the second and final stage of the review and has recommended changes to the

Council's scrutiny arrangements and to the Constitution. Council is asked to consider these proposals.

2. BACKGROUND (& CONSULTATION)

- 2.1 The terms of reference of the Committee Review Group as agreed by Council requested that the Group report to Council in two stages:
- (a) in July regarding the structure of regulatory and non-executive committees (Stage 1)
 - (b) in October with proposals for implementation of a new scrutiny structure (Stage 2).
- 2.2 The objective of the working group was to provide an effective and efficient committee structure to ensure delivery of the Council's functions.
- 2.3 This report deals with stage 2 of the review. The Committee Review Group met in July and September, and has produced its report and makes recommendations on:
- (a) a revised scrutiny structure and terms of reference;
 - (b) changes to the Council's scrutiny arrangements in relation to pre-scrutiny and call in; and
 - (c) other proposed changes to the constitution set out below.
- 2.4 The report and recommendations are set out in **Appendix 1** and its recommended changes are summarised below:

3. SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

- 3.1 The Committee Review Group recommends the establishment of the following four committees:
- (a) Children and Education Scrutiny Committee
 - (b) Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee
 - (c) Health Scrutiny Committee
 - (d) Growth, Environment & Resources Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.2 The proposed terms of reference are set out in:
- (a) Overview and Scrutiny Article 7 (Part 2:Section 7) - **Appendix 2**
 - (b) Overview and Scrutiny Functions (Part 3:Section 4) - **Appendix 3**
- 3.3 The Council is asked to approve these changes to the constitution.
- 3.4 The Parish Council Liaison Committee were consulted on 21 September on the new proposed scrutiny structure and how the Council might better mainstream rural affairs within its existing decision making structure. The Committee were also consulted on proposals to strengthen their role. Proposals regarding the role of rural councillors within the structure will be brought back to the December meeting.
- 3.5 The calendar of meetings for 2016/17 will be amended to take account of the proposed structure. Minimal amendments to the calendar will need to be made to delete reference to the scrutiny commission for rural affairs, and to change the names of the other three committees. Otherwise the dates of the committee meetings are unchanged.

4. OTHER NON EXECUTIVE CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

- 4.1 For the reasons set out in its report, the Committee Review Group also propose amendments to

Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules (Part4: Section 6) (**Appendix 4**)

- 4.2 For the reasons set out in the report, the Group also recommends that the Member Officer Working Group has formal terms of reference and membership as set out in its report (**Appendix 1 - Annex 3**) and proposes that the Audit Committee's terms of reference be amended as follows:

To maintain an overview of the Council's constitution with the exception of those matters under the remit of the Executive or a regulatory committee.

- 4.3 The Council is asked to approve these changes to the constitution.

5. IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Finance Implications – There are no financial implications.
- 5.2 Legal Implications - These are contained within the report
- 5.3 Equalities Implications – There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report.

6. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- 6.1 All background documents used in the drafting of this report have been public documents and are largely referred to within the report.

7. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Report of the Committee Review Group.
Appendix 2 - Overview and Scrutiny Article 7 (Part 2: Section 7)
Appendix 3 - Overview and Scrutiny Functions (Part 3: Section 4)
Appendix 4 - Budget & Policy Framework Procedure Rules (Part 4: Section 6)

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