

<b>CONSTITUTION AND ETHICS COMMITTEE</b>	AGENDA ITEM No. 4
<b>6 OCTOBER 2022</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

Report of:	Fiona McMillan, Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Coles, Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Governance	
Contact Officer(s):	Fiona McMillan, Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer	Tel. 452409

<b>PETERBOROUGH CITY COUNCIL GOVERNANCE REVIEW – TERMS OF REFERENCE</b>
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<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
<b>FROM:</b> Director of Law and Governance	<b>Deadline date:</b> N/A
It is recommended that the Constitution and Ethics agree the terms of reference for a working group to review the governance arrangements at Peterborough City Council.	

**1. ORIGIN OF REPORT**

- 1.1 This report is submitted to the Constitution and Ethics Committee following the committee's agreement at the previous meeting.

**2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT**

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is for the Constitution and Ethics Committee to agree the terms of the reference for a working group to review the governance arrangements at Peterborough City Council.
- 2.2 This report is for the Constitution and Ethics Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 2.7.2.1

*Authority to oversee the operation of the Council's Constitution and authority to make recommendations to Full Council as to amendments and improvements to the Council's Constitution (including the codes and protocols) subject to the receipt and consideration of a report prepared by the Monitoring Officer, with the exception of those matters under the remit of the Executive.*

**3. TIMESCALES**

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	<b>NO</b>	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	
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#### **4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

- 4.1 At the reconvened Constitution and Ethics Committee meeting on 15 August 2022, the committee agreed by majority to a review of the governance arrangements at Peterborough City Council. The option chosen by the committee was:

**Option 2:** Light-touch review of recommendations of the governance review carried out in 2015/16, which recommended a hybrid model of decision making with greater involvement of pre-decision scrutiny; and

To ask officers to bring a report back to the next committee outlining the terms of reference for a new member working group, consisting of the membership of the Constitution and Ethics Committee, to carry out a review of the previous governance review work focusing on a hybrid model of governance and bringing an updated proposal back to the formal Committee for consideration before recommending to Full Council.

- 4.2 The terms of reference attached at Appendix A outline the arrangements for the working group and outline the areas for the group to review.
- 4.3 Once the terms of reference are agreed meetings of the working group will be arranged, following which recommendations, if any, will be presented to the Constitution and Ethics Committee before being recommended to Full Council. It is anticipated that the working group will conclude their findings by March 2023. However, if there is further work to do the working group will continue meeting until necessary.

Some of the suggested dates are as follows:

- 2 November 2022
- 14 December 2022
- 17 January 2023

- 4.4 The primary focus of the working group will be to review the previous work carried out in 2015/16 to assess if any of the recommendations would be suitable and to review how this may work at the Council at the current time.

#### **5. CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 The governance review working group will be made up of the same membership as the Constitution and Ethics Committee. Group leaders not currently represented on the Committee will also be invited to attend to give their views. It is therefore appropriate that this committee has the opportunity to feed back their views on the terms of reference.

#### **6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT**

- 6.1 That the terms of reference are agreed and that officers can start the process of arranging meetings of the governance review working group.

#### **7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

- 7.1 The recommendation before the committee allows the basis for which the governance review working group can proceed with reviewing governance arrangements at the Council.

#### **8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 8.1 The committee has the opportunity to make any alterations to the terms of reference. The committee are to note the agreement at the previous meeting to setting up the working group looking at governance arrangements at the Council.

## **9. IMPLICATIONS**

### **Financial Implications**

- 9.1 There are no financial implications arising from the report. The Committee are to note that there may be some financial implications should the committee wish for any external work to be carried out.

### **Legal Implications**

- 9.2 There is the potential for legal and/or governance implications to arise as a result of the findings and recommendations of the working group. These will need to be explored as the working group progresses.

### **Equalities Implications**

- 9.3 There are none.

## **10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 10.1 Peterborough City Council Governance Review presented to Constitution and Ethics Committee  
15 August 2022

## **11. APPENDICES**

- 11.1 Appendix A – Draft Terms of Reference Peterborough City Council Governance Review  
Appendix B – Report of 2015/16 working group

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