

CONSTITUTION AND ETHICS COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 4
29 JULY 2024	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Neil McArthur, Director of Legal and Governance and Monitoring Officer	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr Amjad Iqbal, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Governance	
Contact Officer(s):	As above	Tel.

CENTRE FOR GOVERNANCE AND SCRUTINY REPORT - UPDATE

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: Neil McArthur, Director of Legal and Governance and Monitoring Officer	Deadline date: N/A
<p>The Committee are recommended to:</p> <p>1) Note the report of the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny following its review of the Council’s governance arrangements (Appendix A).</p> <p>2) Note progress against each of the recommendations in the report (Appendix B).</p>	

1. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Committee about the conclusions of the review of governance that was carried out by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny.
- The report also sets out the progress that has already been made to address the recommendations of the report and the proposed next steps.
- 1.2 Paragraph 2.7.2.1 of Part 3 of the Constitution delegates authority to the Committee to oversee the operation of the Council’s Constitution and make recommendations to Council as to amendments and improvements to the Council’s Constitution.

2. TIMESCALES

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	No	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	N/A
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3. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 The Centre for Governance and Scrutiny were commissioned to provide support to the Council in the undertaking of a review of the governance arrangements. The final version of their report was received in June 2024.

3.2 The conclusions of the review have been informed by interviews carried out in June and July 2023 and a confidential survey, which was responded to by 26 Members and 41 Officers. In addition, a desktop analysis of the Council's current constitution and decision-making processes took place.

3.3 A copy of the final report following the review is attached at Appendix 1. The review concludes that there has been a positive step change in culture, transparency and openness and acknowledges the efforts that have been made to improve governance and transparency. The work has also identified areas where governance and decision making at the Council could be strengthened further.

3.4 Details of the recommendations from the review and an update on the progress that has already been made can be found at Appendix 2.

4. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

4.1 This report relates to the corporate priority of creating a sustainable future City Council, in particular how we work, how we serve and how we enable.

5. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

5.1 The implementation of the recommendations of the review should lead to an improvement of governance processes within the Council.

6. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

6.1 It has previously been agreed by the Committee that an update on progress of the recommendations of the review.

7. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

7.1 There are no alternative options to consider as the report is responding to a request from the Constitutional and Ethics Committee for an update on recommendations.

8. IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

8.2 Legal Implications

8.3 Equalities Implications

11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

11.1 N/A

12. APPENDICES

12.1 APPENDIX A – CFGS REPORT – Final draft 12 December 2023

12.2 APPENDIX B – CFGS REPORT – RAG Status Tracker