

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

Report from the meeting held on 29 May 2019

1. EMPLOYEE CODE OF CONDUCT MAY 2019 UPDATE

Please refer to Appendix 1.

RESOLVED to ratify the changes to the Constitution made by the Monitoring Officer relating to the Employee Code of Conduct.

2. MONITORING OFFICER CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION

Please refer to Appendix 2 and 3.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE COUNCIL that the changes to the Constitution made by the Monitoring Officer relating to Cabinet Member responsibility and friendly amendments be ratified.

3. MOTION 837 - PARENTAL LEAVE FOR COUNCILLORS

3.1. This item was for the Committee to note.

3.2. Democratic Services had begun carrying out research with the Local Government Association and other local authorities to help shape a parental leave policy for councillors.

4. SCRUTINY REVIEW

4.1. The Committee considered changes to the Constitution following the scrutiny review and resulting new Committee structure.

4.2. It was noted that the changes to the Committee's terms of reference have been drafted using permissive wording to make sure scrutiny was not too restricted.

4.3. There was a discussion about the possibility of public and member questions being introduced at Scrutiny Committees. It was confirmed that the Health Scrutiny Committee was going to trial an arrangement similar to full Council and Cabinet. This would take the form of public and member representations at Committee, rather than questions. It was accepted that asking questions would be unfair to Chairs of the Scrutiny Committee who were not the decision makers. This practice would be rolled out further if successful.

4.4. Members requested the following amendments:

- Community development to be mentioned within the terms of reference for the new Adult Social Care and Communities Scrutiny Committee, but noting that this may fall to other committees also.
- Under Article 5, the Chair of Council – 5.02 to be updated to the Chair's 'civic role' as opposed to 'ceremonial role'.
- The wording of Article 8, the role of Scrutiny Committees, should include policy development as well as policy review, as the latter is retrospective.
- Under section 4, of the Audit and Governance Scrutiny Committee, reference should be made to the Committee considering the value for money of the External Audit of the Council's services and functions when reviewing.
- For a flow diagram of debates at full Council to be added.

4.5. The Committee agreed that an updated version of the Constitution following the meeting would be presented at full Council on 26 June 2019 for formal adoption. This would be a clean version document with all tracked changes accepted. Please refer to Appendix 4.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL that the changes to the Constitution in respect of the scrutiny review be ratified.

Cllr Mark Hawthorne MBE
Chair of the Constitution Committee