

North East Derbyshire District Council

Standards Committee

11 July 2019

Review of the Council's Constitution

Report of the Head of Corporate Governance and Solicitor to the Council & Monitoring Officer

This report is public

Purpose of the Report

- To consider the list of areas for review within the Council's Constitution for consideration by the Standards Committee prior to submission as part of the Annual Review of the Constitution to Council for adoption.

1 Report Details

- 1.1 The Constitution is the Council's 'rulebook'. It sets out how the Council operates and how it makes decisions. Council approved its latest version of the Constitution at the Annual Council meeting in May 2019.
- 1.2 One of the functions of the Standards Committee is to undertake an annual review of the Council's Constitution to ensure it is up to date and in line with legislation and current circumstances. The following areas have been identified for review:
- JCG Terms of Reference
 - Contract Procedure Rules – Contract Formalities
 - Standards Committee Terms of Reference
 - Review of Employee Code of Conduct
 - Employment Rules
 - JEAC Terms of Reference
 - Questions and Motions to Council (limitations)
 - Delegation Scheme (MO Delegations)
 - Minor wording changes or updating of job titles (housekeeping)
- 1.3 Members of Standards Committee are requested to give these areas some consideration prior to detailed changes being brought back for debate, and make any changes to the list as they see fit.

2 Conclusions and Reasons for Recommendation

- 2.1 To ensure the Council has in place a fit for purpose Constitution which complies with English law.

3 Consultation and Equality Impact

- 3.1 The Chief Executive, Chief Financial Officer, Monitoring Officer and SAMT are consulted at various stages of the Constitution Review.
- 3.2 An Equality Impact Assessment has not been necessary as part of this review.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 Members may consider alternative options to any proposals put forward, where legally permitted.

5 Implications

5.1 Finance and Risk Implications

- 5.1.1 Failure to ensure the Constitution meets legal requirements can leave the Council open to challenge, as does failure to comply with the provisions of the Constitution. It is therefore essential that Constitution is regularly reviewed and given robust oversight.

5.2 Legal Implications including Data Protection

- 5.2.1 The Council is required under the Localism Act 2011 to prepare and keep up-to-date a constitution that contains its standing orders, code of conduct, such other information that the Secretary of State may direct and such other information that the authority considers appropriate.

5.3 Human Resources Implications

There are no human resources implications arising from the proposals within this review.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 That the Committee give consideration to the list of areas of the constitution to be reviewed in the forthcoming municipal year, edit it as necessary and agree for a further report to be submitted to a future meeting.

7 Decision Information

<p>Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds: <i>BDC: Revenue - £75,000</i> <i>Capital - £150,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>NEDDC: Revenue - £100,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Capital - £250,000</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i></p>	No
<p>Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</p>	No
<p>Has the portfolio holder been informed</p>	Yes
<p>District Wards Affected</p>	None
<p>Links to Corporate Plan priorities or Policy Framework</p>	Demonstrating good governance

8 Document Information

Appendix No	Title
None	
<p>Background Papers (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet (NEDDC) or Executive (BDC) you must provide copies of the background papers)</p>	
None.	
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