

North East Derbyshire District Council

Standards Committee

23 September 2020

Review of the Council's Constitution (Part 2)

Report of the 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 2020.

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 in 2020;

- Housing Management Board TOR
- Town Fund Board TOR
- Contract Procedure Rules – Contract Formalities
- Employee Code of Conduct / Employment Rules
- JCG Terms Of Reference
- Planning Protocol
- Minor wording changes or updating of job titles (housekeeping)

1.3 The table below sets out how these areas of review will be considered over the municipal year and where the matters need to be considered by other Committees for consultation, these have been identified.

Area for Review	Lead Officer	Dates for Consideration
Housing Management TOR	Governance Manager	Standards Committee July 2020
Town Fund Board TOR	Governance Manager	Standards Committee July 2020
Contract Procedure Rules – Contract Formalities	Monitoring Officer	Standards Committee September 2020

Planning Committee – Ward Members	Governance Manager Head of Planning	Standards Committee September 2020
Review of Employee Code of Conduct	HR and Organisational Development Manager	JCG Special meeting TBC* Standards Committee December 2020
Employment Rules	Monitoring Officer and Governance Manager	Standards Committee December 2020
Joint Employment Group Terms of Reference	HR and Organisational Development Manager	JCG Special meeting TBC* Standards Committee December 2020
Minor wording changes or updating of job titles (housekeeping)	Governance Officers	Once final draft version produced

1.4 In addition to the above areas for review, during the pandemic a number of changes were taken directly to virtual Council for incorporation in the constitution and bypassed Standards. These were brought back to Standards Committee to review.

- Virtual Meeting Standing Orders
- Disestablishment of the SAJC
- Calendar of Meetings Approval
- Delegations Scheme (Chief Officers)
- Planning Committee Terms of Reference
- Planning Protocol
- Minor Wording Changes or updating of job titles (housekeeping)

1.5 The areas for review for this meeting in the above table and list are detailed in the appendices to the report and set out the proposal and/or rationale and the sections of the Constitution to be amended.

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 Director of Corporate Resources & Head of Paid Service, Chief Financial Officer, Monitoring Officer and SAMT are consulted at various stages of the Constitution Review.

3.2 Equality Impact Assessments may be carried out in relation to specific areas of review where the need arises. Details of any equality issues will be address in relation to each area of 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

- 5.3.1 There are no human resources implications arising from the proposals within this report. Some areas for review may impact on staff. These implications will be addressed in relation to the specific areas for review.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 That the Committee give consideration to proposals for review and support the submission of the proposals to Council as part of the Constitution Mid-Year Review in November 2020.

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> <input type="checkbox"/> <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 relevant 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
1	Areas for Review – Proposals and Rationale
2	Contract Procedure Rules – Contract Formalities – proposed amendments
<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.	
<p>Report Author</p>	
<p>Contact Number</p>	
Nicola Calver, Governance Manager	01246 217753