

Title of Report	Constitution Committee Terms of Reference and Work Programme for 2022 / 2023
For Consideration By	Constitution Committee
Meeting Date	13 July 2022
Classification	Open
<u>Ward(s) Affected</u>	N / A
Director	Dawn Carter-McDonald, Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services

1. Introduction

- 1.1. In line with established good practice, every year the Constitution Committee notes its Terms of Reference and sets out a work programme for the forthcoming municipal year to help it focus its attention on promoting and maintaining high ethical standards among Members of the Council.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. **The Committee notes that the Terms of Reference for the Constitution Committee will be the subject of a report to Full Council on 20 July 2022 and therefore agrees to defer the formal noting of them until the next meeting.**
- 2.2. **The work programme for 2022 / 2023 as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report be approved.**

3. Background

- 3.1. The Terms of Reference for the Constitution Committee were approved by Full Council at its meeting on 26 January 2022, when the Committee was established.
- 3.2. Following the meeting of the Constitution Committee in March, a minor amendment to the Terms of Reference was made to delete reference to XXX.

- 3.3. As a result of the elections in May 2022, there is broad cross-party agreement that the membership of the Committee should be expanded to enable a representative from both opposition groups to sit as members of the Committee. This amendment will be the subject of a report to Full Council on 20 July 2022, and subject to Full Council's approval, the nomination from the Green Party will be noted at the same meeting. Given this impending amendment, it is therefore considered appropriate for the Committee to defer the annual noting of its Terms of Reference until the next meeting.
- 3.4. The suggested work programme for the municipal year is attached as Appendix 1 to this report, a broad outline work programme was agreed by the Committee at its meeting in March 2022.

4. **Comments of the Group Director of Finance and Corporate Resources.**

- 4.1. There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations contained within this report.

5. **Comments of the Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services**

- 5.1. Section 37 of the Local Government Act 2000 requires that the Council must prepare and keep up to date a document known as the Constitution which contains a copy of the Council's standing orders, a copy of the Council's code of conduct, and such other information (if any) as the Council considers appropriate.
- 5.2. In addition, Article 15 of the Constitution requires the Monitoring Officer to monitor and review the operation of the Constitution and to make recommendations for the way in which it could be amended in order to achieve its purposes.
- 5.3. There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Work Programme 2022 / 2023

Background documents

None

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