

CONSTITUTION WORKING GROUP 2023

MEMBERSHIP AND PROGRAMME

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The General Purposes Committee has responsibility for overseeing the effectiveness of the Constitution (and for agreeing changes, except where these are presented to Council for determination).
- 1.2 The Committee has requested that this Constitution Working Group be established to review the Council's Constitution and to prepare recommendations for agreement by the General Purposes Committee/Council as appropriate.
- 1.3 In addition, the Monitoring Officer is also required 'to monitor and review the operation of the Constitution and make recommendations to ensure that the aims and principles of the Constitution are given full effect' The establishment of a working group will help the Monitoring Officer achieve those goals.

2. CONSTITUTION WORKING GROUP (CWG)

- 2.1 The working group is set up by the Chief Executive under powers set out in Part B, Section 20 of the Constitution, pursuant to a request by the Monitoring Officer and the General Purposes Committee, to review the constitution and consider potential changes.
- 2.2 Any changes proposed will be submitted to the General Purposes for formal consideration. Major proposed amendments will then need to be submitted to Council for its agreement.

3. MEMBERSHIP AND OFFICER SUPPORT

- 3.1 Formal Membership of the group will consist of three Members from the Aspire Group and two from the Labour Group. The group will be chaired by a Member of the Majority Group (unless otherwise agreed).
- 3.2 The formal Membership of the group will lead the review and determine the areas of the Constitution to be considered and the final changes to be recommended to the Monitoring Officer/Committee.
- 3.3 Ungrouped Councillors will have a standing invitation to attend should they wish but are not formal Members of the CWG.
- 3.4 The CWG will be supported by Democratic Services and Legal Services. Other officers may be asked to attend to present on specific issues/sections of the Constitution as appropriate.

4. PROGRAMME AND PLANNING

- 4.1 The CWG will hold an initial meeting to agree its priorities and initial programme of work. Officers will undertake the relevant research work and will then report back to further meetings as appropriate.
- 4.2 Any proposed constitutional changes agreed by the Group will be submitted to the Monitoring Officer for sign-off before being considered by the General Purposes Committee and/or Council as appropriate.