

Audit Committee

28 April 2022

Draft Extract

AUD Constitution Review 2022 (Agenda Item 6)

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It was noted that a series of workshops involving Audit Committee members, the chairperson of the Partnerships, Corporate organisation and Overview/Management Policy & Scrutiny Panel and the Monitoring Officer had taken place to review parts of the Constitution and consider proposals for any changes for recommendation to Council. Financial Regulations and Contract Standing Orders had not been within scope of this review given changes being made to UK procurement rules would impact on those elements of the Constitution. It was intended to carry out a review of those elements once the procurement rules changes have been concluded which it is hoped will be later this year. A marked-up version of the Constitution with proposed changes had then been provided to all councillors inviting comment. Officers in Democratic Services and Community Safety had responded with further consequential changes and asking that the Council's Prevent duty was recognised within the terms of reference of the Partnerships, Corporate organisation and Overview/Management Policy & Scrutiny Panel given a requirement for it to be formally acknowledged with Council Constitutions. Councillor Petty had also responded asking that the Constitution be updated with gender neutral text (e.g. chairman being replaced by chairperson).

It was further noted that an index / glossary would be incorporated into the updated Constitution along with diagrams / flowcharts as an aid to making the document more easy to read and use.

Resolved:

- (1) that the Audit Committee confirm the changes proposed from the workshop sessions as shown in the mark-up linked in the report to the Committee

It was further

Recommended to the Council that those changes be adopted by Council and the Monitoring Officer be asked to update the Constitution and in consultation with the Chairpersons of Audit Committee and Partnerships, Corporate organisation and Overview/Management Policy & Scrutiny Panel make the further changes required to address the points raised by officers and Cllr Petty.