

# North Somerset Council

## Report to Council

**Date of Meeting: 14 May 2024**

**Subject of Report: Proposed Constitution changes - Proposed Amendments to the Contract Standing Orders, Public Participation for Planning and Regulatory Committee and periodic update of reference data**

**Town or Parish: N/A**

**Officer/Member Presenting: Assistant Director Legal & Governance**

**Key Decision: N/A**

### **Reason:**

Not an Executive decision.

### **Recommendations**

1. That the Contract Standing Orders (CSOs) set out in Appendix 1 of the report be recommended to Council for adoption.
2. That Audit Committee provide any comments on the proposed changes to the standing order related to Planning & Regulatory Committee public participation.
3. That authority is delegated to the s151 Officer and Monitoring Officer to update references (such as officer titles and allowances) and consequential amendments to Financial Regulations, in particular, legislative references after implementation (expected 28 October 2024) of the Procurement Act 2023.

## **1. Summary of Report**

The report seeks approval of amendments to the Contract Standing Orders to ensure that they are legally compliant and up to date. The amendments to the Contract Standing Orders are reflective of wider government legislation, are benchmarked against neighbouring authorities and are intended to allow North Somerset Council greater flexibility and access to local supplier markets.

The proposed changes to public participation rules for Planning and Regulatory Committee are being promoted by that Committee's Chairperson and Vice-chairperson following feedback received from town and parish council representatives and seek to afford suitable opportunity for those councils to address the Committee.

It is normal practice to update the Constitution to reflect e.g. changes in officer titles and levels of allowances.

## **2. Policy**

See the details in the appended report to Audit Committee.

## **3. Details**

As set out in the appended report to Audit Committee.

## **4. Consultation**

Consultation on the revised Contract Standing Orders has been undertaken with the Executive, Audit Committee, Corporate Leadership Team, Directorate Leadership Teams, the S151 Officer, the Monitoring Officer, and the Head of Finance.

The proposed changes are recommended by all consultees. In particular, Audit Committee has the role of reviewing any proposed changes in consultation with the monitoring officer before submission to Council. The third recommendation above was added by the Audit Committee in light of the implementation date (expected to be 28 October 2024) for the Procurement Act 2023 now being announced by Government.

## **5. Financial Implications**

There are no direct financial implications relevant to this report.

## **6. Legal Powers and Implications**

N/A

## **7. Climate Change and Environmental Implications**

N/A

## **8. Risk Management**

See the appended report to Audit Committee

## **9. Equality Implications**

See the appended report to Audit Committee

## **10. Corporate Implications**

See the appended report to Audit Committee

## **11. Options Considered**

See the appended report to Audit Committee

**Author:**

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**Appendices:**

Appendix 1 Audit Committee report 25 April 2024 including

- Appendix 1.1 Proposed Contract Standing Orders
- Appendix 1.2 Proposed changes to Standing Order 17A

**Background Papers:**

[North Somerset Council Constitution - December 2023 \(n-somerset.gov.uk\)](https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/nsc-constitution-2023)