

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

COUNCIL CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE – 19 FEBRUARY, 2013

REVISION OF COUNCIL CONSTITUTION

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR LAW, DEMOCRACY & PUBLIC PROTECTION

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To request the Committee to agree the proposed changes to the Constitution, as set out in the report, and recommend their approval to full Council.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee recommend to Council:

- 2.1 **The changes to Part 4 – Rules of Procedure, Section 6 of the Constitution, Financial Regulations, as shown in Appendix 1 of the report;**
- 2.2 **The changes to Audit Committee Terms of Reference as set out in Appendix 2 of the report;**
- 2.3 **The changes to the constitution reflecting the changes to the ethical framework for councillors, as shown in Appendix 3 of the report;**
- 2.4 **The changes to the constitution reflecting new regulations regarding Notices of Key Decisions shown in Appendix 4 of the report**
- 2.6 **The re-establishment of the Speaker's role and associated amendments to the Constitution as set out in paragraph 3.5 and Appendix 5 of the report**

3.0 SUMMARY

- 3.1 The changes to Article Part 4 – Rules of Procedure Section 6 – Financial Regulations (shown at B1), are required to reflect the revised organisational structures/responsibilities and job titles and to ensure continued good governance. Changes also reflect updated Public sector internal audit standards, risk management and information governance.

- 3.2 The changes to the Terms of Reference of the Audit Committee (shown at B2) reflect the changes to Governance and Risk Management and the inclusion of Information Governance.
- 3.3 The changes (shown at B3) to the constitution reflecting the revised ethical framework as originally approved by Full council in July 2013 and further details as approved by Standards Committee in September 2013.
- 3.4 The changes (shown at B4) to the constitution resulting from the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 which came in to force in September.
- 3.5 The changes (shown at B5) are for the re-establishment of the role of Speaker which was discontinued in 2011. This would enable better use of the varying skills of councillors and enable the roles of Speaker and Mayor to utilise these skills most effectively and to ensure the efficient transaction of council business. The Speaker's role would be re-established from the next Civic year and would attract a Special Responsibility Allowance of £2,616 per annum. This would be at the same level as when the role was discontinued in 2011. In order to ensure that there would be no additional cost to the council the existing Mayoral allowance would be reduced by £2,616 per annum from the next Civic year.

4.0 PREVIOUS MINUTES

5.0 OTHER INFORMATION

Equality & Diversity	The business of the Committee considers equality and diversity in an appropriate manner.
Environmental Impact	None arising directly from this report.
Legal Comment	The Local Government Act 2000 requires the Council to have a Constitution. This Committee has been established to review the Constitution and to provide advice and guidance to the Council on any proposed changes.
Links with Corporate Priorities	The Council seeks to deliver its objectives of providing leadership, accountability and high standards in local democracy.
Opportunities & Risks	The opportunities and risks associated with these proposals have been identified and assessed. Arrangements will be put in place to manage the risks

	and maximise the opportunities that have been identified.
Financial Implications	There are no financial impact implications arising from this report and any changes can be met from within existing budgets.
Ward Implications	Borough wide

6.0 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Council Constitution

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