



COUNCIL - 11TH JUNE 2013

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF COUNCIL CONSTITUTION

REPORT BY: ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To establish a "Constitutional Working Group" consisting of Members and Officers to oversee the implementation of a thorough review of the Council's Constitution and to report to Council the outcomes of the review.

2. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 2.1 The Council is under a duty to keep under review its constitutional requirements.

3. THE REPORT

3.1 Background

- 3.1.1 The need for a thorough review of the Council's Constitution was highlighted in the report to Council on 23rd April 2013.
- 3.1.2 The national law firm Bond Dickinson have been commissioned by the Association of Council Secretaries and Solicitors (Wales Branch) to produce a new model constitution for local authorities in Wales.
- 3.1.3 This new model Constitution will assist the Authority in terms of the review of the current Constitution and will be the framework within which the Council can incorporate its arrangements.
- 3.1.4 This new format will result in a new 'user friendly format' and it is anticipated that it will provide clarity of presentation.
- 3.1.5 In order to facilitate the review it is recommended that the Council establish a cross-party Constitution Working Party consisting of 7 members, 3 Labour, 3 Plaid and 1 Independent plus relevant officers.

- 3.2 The following terms of reference are recommended.

To review the Council's Constitution and to recommend to Council any changes in respect of:-

- (a) drafting improvements to enhance the clarity and remove minor anomalies;
- (b) updating to reflect legislative changes and matters of record;
- (c) the Terms of Reference of any of the Council's Standing Committees;

- (d) to oversee the implementation of the new Welsh 'Model Constitution' in respect of:-
 - (i) incorporating the Council's existing constitutional framework into the new model; and
 - (ii) suggesting amendments and recommending changes to the existing framework in place for consideration by Council which can be included in the new model.

3.3 Should Council agree to establish a Constitution Working Group it is proposed that the working group will meet on an ad-hoc basis as required.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are none arising from the report.

5. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are none arising from the report.

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are none arising from the report.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The report reflects the outcome of the consultation undertaken.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 That the recommendations set out in paragraphs 3.1.5 and 3.2 of the report be approved.

9. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 In order to comply with the Council's statutory duty to review its Constitution.

10. STATUTORY POWER

10.1 Local Government Act 2000.

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