



## STANDARDS COMMITTEE - 3RD OCTOBER 2013

**SUBJECT: UPDATE ON REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION - INFORMATION ITEM**

**REPORT BY: INTERIM MONITORING OFFICER**

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update Committee on the review of the Council's Constitution currently being undertaken by the Interim Monitoring Officer in conjunction with nominated members.

### 2. LINKS TO STRATEGY

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

### 3. THE REPORT

- 3.1 Committee will be aware that the Wales Audit Office published a report in the Public Interest on Caerphilly County Borough Council in March 2013. In response to this report Council at its meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2013 approved the implementation of an Action Plan which was prepared to strengthen and improve the Council's governance processes and procedures.
- 3.2 One of the requirements identified in the Action Plan is the review the Council's Constitution. In order to achieve this, a Constitution Working Group (the Group) was established following the Council meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2013. However due to the summer recess, the first meeting of the Group was not held until 11<sup>th</sup> September 2013.
- 3.3 In order to undertake the review the Group is utilising the Model Welsh Constitution a copy of which has been emailed to members of the Committee. This is an all Wales Framework document prepared by lawyers in conjunction with the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) and the Local Government Group (LGG) and will form the basis of the new Constitution for Caerphilly.
- 3.4 Committee are asked to note the contents of the Model Constitution generally however the following Sections of the Model Constitution specifically relate to the role of the Standards Committee:

Section 8 – The Standards Committee

Section 23, paragraphs 23.11 and 23.12.

Section 18 Appendix 3 refers to a Procedure for Dealing with Allegations made against Councillors and referred to the Standards Committee. Committee are advised that further consultation will be undertaken on this specific proposal before it can be adopted as part of the model Constitution and a specific Report will be tabled on this issue in the coming weeks.

**4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are none.

**5. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are none.

**6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 None.

**7. CONSULTATIONS**

7.1 None this report has been prepared for information only.

**8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 This report is for information only.

**9. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

9.1 None this is an information item only.

**10. STATUTORY POWERS**

10.1 Local Government Acts 1972 and 2000.

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