

Appointment of Sub-Committees and Focus Group

Purpose of Report

1. To seek approval for the appointment of Sub-Committees and Focus Group of the Committee.

Background

2. The terms of reference of the Committee as approved by Council at its meeting on 15 May 2012, provides for the Committee to appoint such sub-committees as may from time be necessary for the efficient discharge of its functions. In particular, the Committee will appoint the following sub-committees:
 - (a) **Hearing Sub-Committee**
to determine member misconduct complaints under the Council's arrangements.
 - (b) **Review Sub-Committee**
to determine requests for review under the Council's arrangements.
 - (c) **Dispensation Sub-Committee**
to determine requests for dispensation from the requirements relating to interests.
3. Council at its meeting on 26 June 2012 approved a revised Code of Conduct in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 and arrangements for dealing with Code of Conduct complaints.
4. In each case the above Sub-Committees shall comprise 3 elected members from whom a chairman will be elected and will need to be politically balanced. The Sub-Committee may include 2 non-voting co-opted members of the Standards Committee, one of whom shall be a parish, town or city council representative where the complaint concerns a parish, town or city councillor.
5. Members of the Review Sub-Committee may not serve on the Hearing Sub-Committee for the same or a linked complaint. These provisions are as set out in the terms of reference as approved by Council.

6. The Committee is therefore asked to appoint the above mentioned sub-committees for the municipal year 2012/13.

7. **Focus Group on the Constitution**

The Committee has within its remit, the 'oversight of the constitution'. Additionally, the constitution itself requires that changes to the constitution are approved by full Council only after consideration of the proposal by the Standards Committee and the Monitoring Officer.

8. The previous Standards Committee had established a Focus Group on the Constitution (Focus Group) to carry out the detailed work required to review or consider changes to the constitution.

9. The Focus Group has proven to be a very useful and constructive forum in which to carry out the detailed work required for onward recommendation to Council via the Standards Committee. Council had at its meeting in November 2010 resolved that the Focus Group remain in being to assist with ongoing review work on the constitution and specifically to review it in light of changes in legislation including the Localism legislation. The constitution will require further review as a result of emerging Regulations under the Localism Act 2011 and any other legislation.

10. The Committee is therefore requested to establish a Focus Group on the Constitution. Details of the Focus Group's previous terms of reference and membership are attached.

Proposal

11. **To appoint the following Sub-Committees and Focus Group of the Standards Committee:**

- (a) **Hearing Sub-Committee**
- (b) **Review Sub-Committee**
- (c) **Dispensation Sub-Committee**
- (d) **Focus Group on the Constitution**

Ian Gibbons
Monitoring Officer, Director of Law & Governance

Report Author: Yamina Rhouati, Democratic Governance Manager

Unpublished documents relied upon in the production of this report:

None