

Appointment of Focus Group

Purpose of Report

1. To seek approval for the appointment of a Focus Group of the Committee.

Background

2. 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.
3. The 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 at its meeting on 30 July 2012 with the following membership:
 - a member from each political group on the Council nominated by Group Leaders;
 - a member of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee;
 - a member of the Audit Committee;
 - two co-opted non-voting members of the Standards Committee (one of which to be a town/parish representative);
 - the Chairman of the Standards Committee and
 - that appropriate Councillors and Officers be invited to attend as and when requested by the Focus Group or its Chairman to assist in its work.
4. 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.

Focus Group on the Constitution

5. The Committee is therefore requested to appoint the membership of a Focus Group on the Constitution for the forthcoming year. Details of the Focus Group's previous terms of reference and membership are attached.

Proposal

6. **To appoint the membership following Focus Group of the Standards Committee:**

(a) **Focus Group on the Constitution**

Ian Gibbons
Monitoring Officer, Service Director of Law & Governance

Report Author: Kieran Elliott, Senior Democratic Services Officer, 01225 718504

Unpublished documents relied upon in the production of this report:

None

Appendix A – Terms of Reference of the Focus Group on the Constitution