

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Purpose of Report

1. This report asks members to consider making some amendments to the Constitution to deal with certain anomalies which have been identified, to improve its effectiveness and to ensure that it reflects recent changes in legislation.

Background

2. It is the responsibility of the Monitoring Officer, assisted by the Standards Committee, to keep the Constitution under review and to recommend any changes that are considered to be necessary for adoption by the Council.
3. The Standards Committee undertook a major review of the Constitution between July 2003 and April 2004. Since that time there has been an ongoing review of the provisions of the Constitution which has identified the need for amendments to:
 - Rectify certain anomalies;
 - Reflect the introduction of new legislation;
 - Improve the effectiveness of the Constitution.
4. It is important to ensure that the Constitution is fully effective and up to date at the start of the newly elected Council.

Main Considerations for the Council

5. The proposed amendments and the reasons for them are set out in the appendix to the report. These will rectify the anomalies identified, incorporate the requirements of new legislation and assist with transparency and consistency in the Council's decision making. In addition there will be some textual amendments e.g. job titles etc, which will be incorporated into a new version of the Constitution.

Environmental Impact of the Proposal

6. None

Risk Assessment

7. The Constitution needs to be kept under review to ensure that it meets its aims and objectives and is up to date with statutory changes.

Financial Implications

8. There are no financial implications.

Reason for Recommendation

9. To tidy up the anomalies identified, reflect the requirements of new legislation and to ensure that the aims and principles of the Constitution are given full effect.

Recommendation

10. The Standards Committee is asked to recommend the County Council to approve the amendments to the Constitution as set out in the appendix to the report.

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The following unpublished documents have been relied on in the preparation of this Report: None.

