

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE
21 JANUARY 2009**

CONSTITUTION FOR WILTSHIRE COUNCIL – PROGRESS REPORT

Purpose of Report

To update the Committee on the work being undertaken to prepare a constitution for Wiltshire Council.

Progress since the last meeting

The following progress has been made since the last report to this Committee:

- The Focus Group on the Constitution met on 10 December 2008 chaired by Mrs McCord. For the Committee's information, a copy of the minutes of the meeting is attached as an appendix to this report.
- A draft constitution has been prepared based on the existing Wiltshire County Council constitution. The document includes tracked changes to highlight the changes proposed.
- A web link to the draft constitution has been circulated to Wiltshire County and District Members, members of the Standards Committee and Chief Officers of Wiltshire County Council and officers of the District Councils. Members and Officers have been asked to respond with any comments by 16 January 2009.

Next Steps

- The Focus Group on the Constitution is scheduled to meet again on 16 January 2009 to consider in particular the draft constitution and any comments received from Members. A hard copy of the draft constitution has been provided to the members of the Focus Group for this purpose.
- The draft constitution will be presented to the Implementation Executive on 28 January 2009 along with any comments received from Members.
- The draft constitution will be presented to Council on 24 February 2009 taking into account the views and recommendations of the Implementation Executive.
- At the time of producing the draft constitution, a number of areas have yet to be resolved ie the operation of Area Boards, Overview and Scrutiny

arrangements and Licensing. These are due to be considered shortly by the Implementation Executive and sections to reflect these areas will be incorporated into the constitution once agreed.

Proposal

The Committee is asked to note the progress made to date and timescales involved to prepare a constitution for Wiltshire Council.

Note: Members of the Committee are reminded that if they wish to comment on the draft constitution they should send their comments to Yamina Rhouati by 16 January 2009 – yaminarhouati@wiltshire.gov.uk

**IAN GIBBONS
HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

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Appendix

Minutes of the Focus Group on the Constitution dated 10 December 2008