

Open report on behalf of Monitoring Officer Richard Wills

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee
Date:	26 June 2014
Subject:	Review of Constitution – Update Report

Summary:

This report updates the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on progress with the review of the Council's Constitution.

Actions required:

The Committee is invited to consider the recommendations of the Constitution Review Group with a view to them being incorporated in a final submission to Council on 26 September 2014.

1. Background

- 1.1 Following the County Council election in May 2013 Group Leaders requested that there be a review carried out to consider the role of non-executive councillors and added members in relation to policy development and scrutiny. The then Monitoring Officer, David O'Connor, was asked to lead on this as the officer with responsibility for monitoring and reviewing the Constitution.
- 1.2 At the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on 27 June, 2013 it was agreed that a Working Group should be established to support the Monitoring Officer in the Review of the Constitution. The following councillors are members of that Group;

Councillor C J T H Brewis
Councillor Mrs J Brockway
Councillor A Jesson
Councillor Mrs M J Overton MBE
Councillor R B Parker
Councillor T M Trollope-Bellew

- 1.3 At its meeting on 30 August 2013 this Committee considered proposals for amendments to the Constitution, which focused on the opportunities and mechanisms for policy development and scrutiny. These proposals were approved by Council on 13 September 2013 and were then reflected in amendments to the relevant sections of Part 2 – Articles of the Constitution and Part 4 – Rules of Procedure which were agreed by this Committee at its meeting on 28 November 2013.
- 1.4 It was agreed that the Review of the Constitution Working Group should continue to meet to review the other parts of the Constitution. The Group has met on several occasions and it was agreed by the Group and by this Committee that updates would be brought to this Committee periodically for agreement to avoid the presentation and consideration of the entire document at just one meeting.
- 1.5 The intention today is to consider amendments to Part 2 – Articles of the Constitution and Part 3 – Responsibility for Functions. These amendments are attached as Appendices A and B to this report. Further meetings of the Review Group, led by Monitoring Officer Richard Wills, have been scheduled for 11 and 22 July when other sections of the Constitution will be considered.
- 1.6 Depending on progress made, a further report could be brought to the 24 July meeting of this Committee with the next set of amendments. It may also be necessary to consider holding an extra meeting of the Committee at the end of August / beginning of September in order to allow consideration of any final amendments prior to adoption by the meeting of the County Council on 26 September.

2. Conclusion

The Committee is invited to consider and comment on this report and the proposed amendments, which appear as red and blue tracked changes in the attached Appendices A and B.

3. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Proposed amendments to Part 2 – Articles of the Constitution
Appendix B	Proposed amendments to Part 3 – Responsibility for Functions

4. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Nigel West, who can be contacted on 01522 552840 or nigel.west@lincolnshire.gov.uk.