

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

6 JUNE 2017

REPORT OF MONITORING OFFICER

CONSTITUTION UPDATE 2017 18

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Committee is requested to consider constitutional items and those approved will be referred to the Council for adoption and incorporation into the Council's Constitution.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **To note that the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2017/18 that was approved at Full Council on 8 February 2017 is now in place and following the recent NJC Pay Award of 1.0% the allowances have been increased as set out at Appendix A.**
- 2.2 **The revised scheme will be referred to full Council for adoption into the Council's Constitution.**

3.0 KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 As the Constitution is a living document, any additions or changes are brought to the Committee's attention as soon as these come to light to enable the Council's work to move forward and the Constitution to be as up to date as possible. The Council's Management Team and T3 (Third Tier Officer Group) are involved in updating their respective areas of the Constitution.
- 3.2 The Committee is to refer its recommendations for amending the Constitution to the Full Council for adoption and inclusion in the Constitution.
- 3.3 Part 6 – Members' Allowances Scheme

At Full Council on 8 February 2017, the Council approved a Members' Allowances Scheme that was to come into effect on 17 May 2017 (after the Annual Meeting) and this is now in place.

The scheme outlines that Members' Allowances are to be index linked to the NJC Pay Award. Therefore further to the 1.0% Pay Award that was backdated to 1 April 2017, the Members' Allowances Scheme as set out in Part 6 of the Constitution has been updated to reflect the new allowances. The updated scheme is attached at Appendix A.

4.0 POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Due to the Constitution being a living document there are times when amendments are needed to enable the organisation to function efficiently. Therefore items will be referred to the Committee as required.

4.2 The regular reviews and updates to the Constitution and ensuring it is up to date on its decision-making processes supports the Council’s priority for being a ‘Well run Council’.

5.0 FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Any financial and resource implications will be met from existing resources.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS

6.1 Any change in legislation overrides the current wording of the Constitution and the Monitoring Officer has delegated authority to make amendments as required by the law. Therefore such legal consequential changes will be put in place immediately and reported to the Committee as soon as possible thereafter.

7.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY

7.1 There are no community safety implications relating to this report.

8.0 EQUALITIES

8.1 An Equalities Screening Assessment has drafted and most items presented relate to the legality of decision-making.

9.0 RISKS

9.1 The risks associated with the report are considered to relate to following legal and constitutional procedures in decision-making.

9.2 **A Very High**

**L
I
K
E
L
I
H
O
O
D**

B High

C Significant

D Low

E Very Low

F Almost Impossible

	1			

Negligible 1 Marginal 2 Critical 3 Catastrophic 4

IMPACT

Risk No	Risk Description
1	Decisions challenged due to appropriate processes not followed.

10.0 **CLIMATE CHANGE**

10.1 The Constitution is available on the Council's website and electronically to Members and Officers to meet the Council's corporate commitment to meet green targets.

11.0 **CONSULTATION**

11.1 There is regular internal consultation with Management Team and T3 to ensure the Constitution reflects the Council's current responsibilities and arrangements.

12.0 **WARDS AFFECTED**

12.1 All wards are indirectly affected by this report.

Contact Officer: Angela Roberts/Sarah Evans
Date: May 2017

Appendices : Appendix A- Part 6 – Members' Allowances Scheme

Background Papers: Constitution 2017 18

Reference : X : Committees\Governance\2017 18\060617\Constitution Update 2017/18