

EXECUTIVE

LEADER: Cllr Jeremy Christophers

DATE: 5 March 2019

REPORT OF: Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer

SUBJECT: Constitution Review Working Group

PART I

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive resolves that a Constitution Working Group (as outlined in the report) is established

1. PURPOSE

1.1 To undertake a review of the Council's constitution.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The constitution underpins all of the Council's areas of activities. Consequently, the periodic review of the constitution to reflect experience and changing circumstances is considered to be a core tenet of good governance. A review should seek to make the document more user-friendly, up to date, remove duplication and generally provide a framework for good governance in the Council's day to day business.

3. TASK & FINISH GROUP

3.1 It is proposed that Executive appoints a small cross party working group of up to six persons to undertake the review. It is suggested that the working group be made up of two members from each political group. Group Leaders are each invited to nominate their political group's representatives.

3.2 The group would not be making decisions and may meet in private. In doing so it will be able to consider the key issues informally and thus frankly with a view to reporting back with recommendations to Council for a formal decision over the coming months.

3.3 Suggested areas of the constitution which it is recommended the group first considers are:-

TEIGNBRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

- The Scheme of Delegations;
- The committee structure, in particular the committees' compositions and terms of reference; and
- The effectiveness of public engagement (e.g. the procedure for questions and notices of motion to Council and committees);

3.4 The working group will be supported by Solicitor to the Council and the Democratic Services Team Leader. In approaching its work, the group might consider possible alternative arrangements applied by other councils and also nationally acknowledged good practice; and seek views of senior officers on possible proposals. By having a cross party group membership, the views of other members may also be fed into the group although in any event any changes to the constitution would need to be approved by full Council.

4. TIME-SCALE

4.1 Whilst it is suggested that the group should convene periodically as and when needed when there are relevant matters to review, it is proposed that the group meet in early 2019/20 to consider the items outlined in Section 3.3 above. Provisional dates for the meetings are:-

- Wednesday 19 June (10am – 1pm)
- Wednesday 17 July (10am – 1pm)
- Wednesday 7 August (10am - 1pm)

Officer Name: Sarah Selway and Karen Trickey
Officer Designation: Democratic Services Team Leader and Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer (respectively)

BELOW TO BE FILLED IN BY REPORT AUTHOR:

Wards affected	All
Contact for any more information	karen.trickey@teignbridge.gov.uk sarah.selway@teignbridge.gov.uk
Background Papers (For Part I reports only)	N
Key Decision	N
In Forward Plan	Y
In O&S Work Programme	N
Community Impact Assessment attached:	N
Appendices attached:	None