

# **CONSTITUTION REVIEW WORKING GROUP**

**THURSDAY, 16 APRIL 2026**

Present:

Camilla de Bernhardt Lane (CfGS) (Chair)  
Councillors Bullivant, Sanders, Steemson and J Taylor

Apologies:

Councillors Clarence, Dawson, Hall and Palethorpe

Officers in Attendance:

Trish Corns, Principal Democratic Services Officer  
Charlie Fisher, Democratic Services Manager and Monitoring Officer

## **1. NOTES**

The notes of the meeting held on 26 March 2026 were received and approved

## **2. ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

It was noted that the Group's considerations at the last meeting relating to the public speaking process for Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be referred to the Governance Committee.

## **3. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CALL IN PROCEDURE**

Consideration was given to the draft OS call in procedure circulated with the agenda compiled taking into account issues the group had asked to be included at the last meeting.

This was agreed subject to the following:

- Agenda page 12, paragraph 2 – to include 7 days in total.
- Agenda page 13, paragraph 6 – 3 *working days* to be added on the 3<sup>rd</sup> line following *A reasonable period of Notice*.

The Councillors Call In Request Form was agreed subject to:

- Delete the words *without* and *of* from the 1<sup>st</sup> line of 2. Reason for the call in.
- Add 4. *Exceptional circumstances with agreement of the monitoring officer* to Reason for the call in.
- Add the following at the foot of the form:
  - Date - for Cllr to sign
  - Date of Committee meeting to which the call in was considered.
  - Decision of the call in – refused/approved/etc and decision.

- Any other information prompt for additional history of the call in i.e. date reconsidered by Executive and decision if applicable.

#### **4. MEMBER-OFFICER PROTOCOL**

Consideration was given to the current Teignbridge Member/Officer relations as circulated with the agenda. Consideration was also given to a tick sheet of other authorities' protocols advising what feature and component were included in each for comparison purposes.

It was considered that some components of the Teignbridge protocol were duplicated in the separate protocols of Member and Officer roles.

It was agreed that:

- A further bullet point relating to confidentiality be included in paragraph 2.2.
- Teignbridge's protocols for Member roles, Officer roles and Member/Officer protocol be put through co-pilot for rewriting.
- Any other relevant features from the Blackpool and LGA guidance not included be considered for inclusion.

#### **5. ACCESS TO INFORMATION RIGHTS**

Consideration was given to the Council's current Access to Information Rights which was currently part of Section 4 Procedure Rules of the Constitution.

It was agreed that consideration could be given to the merits of making this a separate document.

#### **6. REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION REVIEW WORKING GROUP**

This was the penultimate meeting of the Group and the final meeting with Camilla, and members reviewed its work over the past 18 months to 2 years when it was formed and tasked with reviewing the Constitution. Successes and decisions approved by Council were recalled. It was agreed that the cross political membership had worked well and had a significant impact on improvements to the Constitution.

The Group thanked Camilla for her input, advise and support as Director with the CfGS and for chairing the Group, and wished her well in her new position with Grant Thornton.

The Group's final meeting would be 10am, 30 April 2026.