

Appointments to the Constitution Review Working Party

For Audit and Governance Committee on 25 May 2022

Summary

Lead Member: All

Lead Director: Lee Colyer, Director of Finance, Policy and Development

Head of Service: Jane Clarke, Head of Policy and Governance

Report Author: Emer Moran, Democratic Services Officer

Classification: Public document (non-exempt)

Wards Affected: All

Approval Timetable	Date
Audit and Governance Committee	25 May 2022

Recommendations

Officer / Committee recommendations as supported by the Portfolio Holder:

1. That the Committee notes the members of the Constitution Review Working Party as appointed by the Leader of the Council in consultation with the Chair of Audit and Governance Committee for the 2022/23 municipal year.

1. Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 To appoint Members to the Constitution Review Working Party (Working Party), for the 2022/23 municipal year.

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 The working party was established in June 2009. Its functions and terms of reference are set out in Appendix A to this report.
- 2.2 The Working Party is required to assist the Audit and Governance Committee in undertaking periodic reviews of the Constitution and keeping the document up-to-date in line with changes to the law, central government guidance, Council decisions and evolving working practices.
- 2.3 The CRWP is a working group of the Audit and Governance Committee. As a working group, it is not subject to the political balance criteria. However, its membership is set out in its terms of reference as follows:
- One member of the Executive (who will be responsible for reporting the views of Cabinet to the Working Party)
 - One member of the ruling group that is not a member of the Executive (who will be responsible for reporting the views of the ruling group to the Working Party)
 - One member of the opposition group(s) (who will be responsible for reporting the views of the opposition groups to the Working Party)
 - One Independent Member of the Audit and Governance Committee who shall be Chairman

3. Available Options

- 3.1 Unless the Council wishes to disband the Working Party, the only option is to appoint Members for the 2022/23 municipal year.

4. Preferred Option and Reason

- 4.1 The only option is as set out in paragraph 3.1. Appointments are made at the discretion of the Leader in conjunction with the Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee following discussions with the leaders of the political groups and Members of the Council.

5. Consultation on Options

5.1 This is an appointment made by the Council and is not subject to public consultation.

6. Appendices and Background Documents

Appendices:

- Appendix A: Terms of Reference of the Constitution Review Working Party

7. Cross Cutting Issues

A. Legal (including the Human Rights Act)

The Working Party's Terms of Reference state the membership of the Working Party will be determined by the Leader in consultation with the Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee and the opposition group leaders. The appointments are reported to the Audit and Governance Committee for noting as it is a function of the Committee to maintain an overview of the Council's Constitution.

There are no immediate legal implications arising from this report.

Claudette Valmond, Head of Legal Partnership

B. Other Implications (Finance, Staffing, Risk Management, Environment and Sustainability, Community Safety, Equalities, Data Protection, Health and Safety, Health and Wellbeing.)

This report does not propose any policy changes and therefore there are no significant implications as a result of the options with this report.

Emer Moran, Democratic Services Committee, 17 May 2022.