



Governance Scrutiny Group

Tuesday 3 December 2019

Revisions to the Council's Constitution

Report of the Monitoring Officer

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. This report summarises the revisions to the Council's Constitution since it was last presented to Council on the 11 July 2019. This report also details amendments to the Constitution made by the Monitoring Officer under delegated authority since the last revision in July 2019.
- 1.2. As part of the amendments accepted by Council on the 11 July 2019, an annual review of the Council's Constitution was approved. It is the intention therefore to take a report to Council in December 2019.

2. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that Governance Scrutiny Group:

- a) Considers and approves the revisions to the Constitution made by the Monitoring Officer under delegated authority
- b) Recommends the presentation of the amended constitution for adoption to Council.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1. The Council's Constitution is a live document which sets out the Council's decision making process and establishes the legal framework which it operates. An annual review ensures that the Constitution is efficient, transparent and accountable to local people.

4. Supporting Information

- 4.1. The Council of the Borough of Rushcliffe has approved a Constitution which sets out how the Council operates and how decisions are made. The Constitution also sets out the procedures that are to be followed to ensure that they are efficient, transparent and accountable to local people and compliant with legislation.

4.2 The Constitution comprises of 6 parts:

- Part 1: The introduction,
- Part 2: Political leadership and management structure,
- Part 3: Responsibility for functions and scheme of delegation,
- Part 4: Standing orders, rules and financial regulations,
- Part 5: Codes and Protocols
- Part 6: Members Allowances

The table below summarises the amendments made by the Monitoring Officer since July 2019 under delegated powers:

Amendment	Reason	Part
Amendments made to extend the deadline for opposition leader's questions and citizens questions by 24 hours.	To align the process for questions	Public Speaking Protocol
All references to Chair or chairman of meetings unified to Chairman	To provide consistency	Throughout
Amendment to members' allowance following independent remuneration panel review	To implement recommendations of the independent remuneration panel	Member allowances

4.3 Corporate Overview Group is invited to accept the changes made by the Monitoring Officer pursuant to delegated powers.

5. Risks and Uncertainties

The proposals do not involve the Council in assuming any significant risk.

6. Implications

6.1. Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

6.2. Legal Implications

Under Section 37 of the Local Government Act 2000 the Council has a duty to keep its Constitution up to date and that section also prescribes its minimum content. The proposals in this report comply with those requirements.

7.0 Equalities Implications

7.1 There are no equalities implications as this alteration to the Constitution does not involve new or changing policies, services or functions, or financial decisions that would have an effect on services.

8.0 Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Implications

8.1 There are no Section 17 implications.

9.0 Link to Corporate Priorities

Quality of Life	No Links
Efficient services	The Constitution is integral to the council's ability to deliver efficient and high quality services. The proposed decisions support members of the Public, Councillors and Officers to access and use materials which are essential to effective and efficient democratic decision making
Sustainable Growth	No Links
The Environment	No Links

10.0 Recommendations

It is RECOMMENDED that Governance Scrutiny Group:

- c) Considers and approve the revisions to the Constitution made by the Monitoring Officer under delegated authority.
- d) Recommends the presentation of the amended constitution for adoption to Council.

For more information contact:	Sanjit Sull Monitoring Officer ssull@rushcliffe.gov.uk
Background papers available for inspection:	The Constitution can be accessed via the website
List of appendices:	None