

Article 22 – Review and Revision of the Constitution

21.1 Duty to monitor and review the Constitution

The Governance Ethics & Standards Committee will monitor and review the operation of the Constitution to ensure that the aims and principles of the Constitution are given full effect.

A key role for the Monitoring Officer is to be aware of the strengths and weaknesses of the Constitution adopted by the Council, and to make recommendations for ways in which it could be amended in order better to achieve the purposes set out in Article 1. In undertaking this task the Monitoring Officer may:

- observe meetings of different parts of the member and officer structure;
- undertake an audit trail of a sample of decisions;
- record and analyse issues raised with him/her by members, officers, the public and other relevant stakeholders; and
- compare practices in this authority with those in other comparable authorities, or national examples of best practice.

21.2 Changes to the Constitution

Changes to the Constitution will only be approved by the full Council after consideration of the proposal by the Governance Ethics & Standards Committee.

The Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer (in respect of Financial Regulations only) are authorised to make the following changes to the Constitution:

- (a) a minor variation;
- (b) Legal or technical amendments that do not materially affect the Constitution;
- (c) Required to be made to remove any inconsistency, ambiguity or typographical error;
- (d) Required to be made so as to put into effect any decision of the Cabinet, Cabinet Member, Committee, sub-Committee or officer exercising delegated powers;
- or
- (e) required to reflect any changes to job or role titles.

Any such amendments must be reported retrospectively to the Governance, Ethics and Standards Committee and to Full Council for noting.