

Rother District Council

Report to	-	Council
Date	-	21 September 2022
Report of the	-	Audit and Standards Committee
Subject	-	Reference from the Audit and Standards Committee

The Council is asked to consider the recommendations arising from the Audit and Standards Committee meeting held on 27 July 2022 as set out below.

AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE – 27 July 2022

AS22/19. **REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION – PART 3, RESPONSIBILITY FOR FUNCTIONS – RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION REVIEW STEERING GROUP**

At the Annual Council Meeting in May 2022, full Council approved a revised Constitution following the review undertaken by the Constitution Review Steering Group (CRSG). At that time, it was noted that Part 3, Responsibility for Functions and Part 8, Delegations to Officers were still to be completed and would follow in the coming months.

The report before Members outlined proposed amendments to the Constitution, Part 3, Responsibility for Functions. Work on Part 8, Delegations to Officers, would commence following conclusion of the management reorganisation that was currently underway and was expected to be reported to Members by the end of year. The responsibility for considering and recommending changes to the Constitution had moved from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to the Audit and Standards Committee, as set out in Article 15.

The proposed amendments were set out at Appendix 1 to the report and Members' attention was drawn to the salient points. A review of functions of the Planning Committee in comparison with Wealden District Council's Planning Committee functions had been undertaken and this section, with proposed amendments, had been passed to the Council's Legal Service provided by Wealden for their review. It was proposed that the Chief Executive be granted delegated authority to agree the final version of the delegations should there be any changes to that presented to the Committee. It was clarified for Members that this delegation related to the Legal Service's advice on the detail of legislation to be included, or whether more general wording should be adopted.

Members suggested that the HR Committee meetings to be held in April and October should avoid school holidays if possible.

RECOMMENDED: That:

- 1) the proposed amendments to Part 3, Responsibility for Functions of the Council's Constitution be approved and adopted;
- 2) the Chief Executive be granted delegated authority to amend the Planning Committee functions in light of legal advice;
- 3) the Human Resources Committee be scheduled to meet twice per year in April and October;
- 4) the Licensing and General Purposes Committee be scheduled to meet three times per year in January, May and September (a reduction of one); and
- 5) Group Leaders be requested to nominate Members to be appointed to the Human Resources Committee in accordance with the political balance requirements as set out in this report, provided that the Leader of the Council is one of the appointees from the relevant allocation.

(Audit and Standards Committee Agenda Item 5)

Councillor B.D. Drayson
Chair, Audit and Standards Committee