

**Minutes of the Standards Committee
20 November 2023**

Present:

Councillors:

C. Bateson

R. Geach

O. Rybinski

J. Button

K.M. Grant

H.R.D. Williams

Apologies: Councillors M.M. Attewell, J.R. Boughtflower and D. Geraci

In Attendance: Councillors M. Beecher

19/23 Disclosures of Interest

There were none.

20/23 Amendments to the Constitution

The Committee considered a report from the Group Head Corporate Governance that sought a recommendation to be made to Council regarding the proposed amendments to the Council's Constitution.

The Committee considered each part of the proposed amendments separately:

Part 1 – Introduction to the Constitution

AGREED with the proposed amendments

Part 2 – Article 5, The Mayor

AGREED with the proposed amendments

Part 2 – Article 5, The Officers

AGREED with the proposed amendments

Part 3 (b) – Terms of Reference of Committees

Cllr Williams highlighted that the cumulative spend on individual projects often exceeded the £1m referred to in the Constitution so asked for this to be addressed as an amendment to this part of the Constitution.

Part 3 (d) – Delegations to Officers

AGREED with the proposed amendments

Part 3 (f) – Roles of Different Councillors

AGREED with the proposed amendments

Part 4 (a) – Council Standing Orders

Cllr Rybinski stated that a number of her constituents had expressed that they did not want the National Anthem to be removed from the Council's Constitution.

AGREED with the proposed amendments

Part 4 (c) – Substitution Scheme

AGREED with the proposed amendments

Part 4 (e) – Contract Standing Orders

AGREED with the proposed amendments

Part 4 (g) – Access to Information Rules

AGREED with the proposed amendments

Part 4 (i) – Procedure Rules for Task & Finish Groups and Working Groups

AGREED with the proposed amendments

Part 5 (a) – Councillor Code of Conduct

Cllr Williams stated that the requirement for councillors to be respectful should also apply to officers. The Monitoring Officer confirmed that the requirement was already included in the Protocol on Member-Officer Relations.

AGREED with the proposed amendments

Part 5 (d) – Planning Code

Cllr Williams wanted paragraph 18 removed

Part 5 (h) – Monitoring Officer Protocol

AGREED with the proposed amendments

Part 5 (k) – Conflicts of Interest

AGREED with the proposed amendments

Part 5 (m) – Disclosure and Barring Checks

AGREED with the proposed amendments

It was proposed by Cllr Bateson and seconded by Cllr Button that the Committee agree the proposed amendments.

The Committee **resolved** to recommend to Council that they approve the proposed amendments to the Council's Constitution with consideration being given to the points raised under some of the individual Parts.