

**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: Councillor 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

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.