

Meeting:	Audit & Governance Committee
Meeting date:	26 January 2016
Title of report:	Governance improvement working group update
Report by:	Solicitor to the Council – People and Regulatory

Classification

Open

Key Decision

This is not an executive decision.

Wards Affected

Countywide

Purpose

To note the current work of the governance improvement working group to and agree the next phase of work

Recommendation(s)

That the constitution is redrafted in consultation with the members of the working group in consultation with their group.

Alternative options

- 1 To not redraft the constitution.

Reasons for recommendations

- 2 The working group have since November 2015 been considering how we might change the constitution so as to meet the requirements of the approved design principles. A plan is now needed as to how the changes are going to be made.

Key considerations

- 3 Following approval of the design principles and SWOT on 24 November 2015 the working group have met and considered how we might change the constitution.
- 4 The group has had a series of meetings producing SWOT analysis and recommendations (see appendix A) focussing on themes in the constitution (namely overview and scrutiny, public involvement, committees, cabinet and scheme of delegation).
- 5 The recommendations form a basis upon which redrafting of the constitution can take place. It is suggested that this takes place during March with the working group members consulting their groups on the suggested changes and ideas.

Community impact

- 6 Having a redrafted constitution supports the council in achieving its aim to be open transparent and accountable. The communications team will be engaged to ensure the public are aware of the progress we are making.

Equality duty

- 7 The report does not impact on this area.

Financial implications

- 8 There are no financial implications.

Legal implications

- 9 There are no legal implications.

Risk management

- 10 If governance arrangements are not transparent or robust there are the risks that the council's reputation may suffer; that it will be more difficult to encourage candidates to stand for election and that decision-making is less sound. By undertaking a redrafting of the current governance arrangements in line with good practice these risks can be mitigated.

Consultees

None at this stage.

Appendices

Appendix A – SWOT analysis and recommendations

Background papers

None identified.