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| <b>Meeting:</b>         | <b>Audit and governance committee</b>                |
| <b>Meeting date:</b>    | <b>4 July 2016</b>                                   |
| <b>Title of report:</b> | <b>Working group update - governance improvement</b> |
| <b>Report by:</b>       | <b>Solicitor to the council</b>                      |

## **Classification**

Open

## **Key decision**

This is not an executive decision.

## **Wards affected**

Countywide

## **Purpose**

To outline the current progress of the governance improvement working group.

## **Recommendation(s)**

**THAT:**

- a) **the revised timetable be noted**

## **Alternative options**

- 1 None

## **Reasons for recommendations**

- 2 The committee has three working groups that have been assisting the committee with the work programme and an update is required.

## **Key considerations**

- 3 Since the last report in May progress in redrafting the constitution has continued. The approach taken has been one of not rewriting the constitution but making amendments where required to the existing constitution.
- 4 It is clear that as the redraft progresses a number of questions are emerging, however, any debate on the redraft should be had and amendments agreed before progression to council in September.
- 5 Members will recall the timetable proposed at the last audit and governance meeting where the aim was to achieve recommendations going to the September council meeting. This remains the aim with further meetings of the working group planned for the 5<sup>th</sup> August and the 9<sup>th</sup> September.
- 6 It has been agreed that the working group members would engage and debate any issues of concern regarding the constitution with their respective political groups and report back to the working group. The working group would then make recommendations to the committee in September before progression to council.

## **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**

None

## **Background papers**

None identified.