

Meeting:	Audit and governance committee
Meeting date:	9 May 2016
Title of report:	Working group update - governance improvement
Report by:	Solicitor to the council

Classification

Open

Key decision

This is not an executive decision.

Wards affected

Countywide

Purpose

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

Recommendation(s)

THAT:

- a) the revised timetable be noted; and
- b) the committee provide any guidance to the working group on preferred options for engagement

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 January the monitoring officer with assistance from the deputy monitoring officer has begun to redraft the constitution in accordance with the principles established. Members will recall that it was hoped that the work would be completed for approval by council in May.
- 4 Unfortunately that is not the case given the significant amount of further member engagement that is required to clarify details flowing from the principles agreed. Plans are in progress to arrange briefing sessions and attendance at group meetings before the recommendations come back to this committee.
- 5 Due to pre-arranged meeting dates of this committee and council, a timetable aims to achieve recommendations going to the September council meeting.

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.