

Meeting date:	22 September 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 and progress of the working groups.

## Recommendation(s)

THAT:

- a) the progress reports and future actions 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. This summary report provides an update of their work.

## **Key considerations**

- 3 Standards: It was resolved at audit and governance on the 9 May 2016 that subject to the views of parish councils, the revised procedure as amended for standards matters in appendix 1 and 2 be adopted. The revised procedure was sent to all parish councils on the 1 August 2016 for consultation with the 7 October set as a deadline for comments. To date, there has been no comments received from parishes. If any consultation responses are received these will be considered by the working group.
- 4 Risk management: Since being approved for implementation at cabinet on 21 July, the performance, risk and opportunity management framework has been uploaded to the Herefordshire Council website. The framework will be further promoted internally as part of the annual service planning process which is due to commence during October/November.
- 5 Constitution review: the working group has devised a questionnaire procedure to enable all members to see the questions which the working group will be answering in formulating a recommended constitution. A revised timetable of events and engagements has been approved by the group which anticipates recommendations from the group coming to this committee in November for recommendation to council in December.

## **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.

The public expectancy is that the council has adequate, objective and transparent measures in place to deal with standards complaints.

A robust PROM framework is essential to support the delivery of the council's priorities.

## **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.

## **Consultees**

None at this stage.

## **Appendices**

- Constitutional working group proposed timetable

## **Background papers**

None identified.