

Meeting of the Full Council
Meeting to be held on Thursday, 24 May 2018

Report submitted by: Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Part A

Electoral Division affected:
None;

Report of the Political Governance Working Group
(Appendices 'A' and 'B' refer)

Contact for further information:
Josh Mynott, Tel: (01772) 534580, Democratic and Member Services Manager,
josh.mynott@lancashire.gov.uk

Executive Summary

The Full Council is invited to consider changes to the constitution as proposed by the Political Governance Working Group.

Recommendation

That Full Council be asked to:

- (i) Approve the changes proposed by the Political Governance Working Group to the Constitution, as set out in the report.
- (ii) Authorise the Director of Corporate Services to make any consequential changes to other parts of the Constitution arising from these changes.
- (iii) Approve the Constitution of the County Council for the year 2018/19, noting that it is subject to ongoing review by the Political Governance Working Group.

Background and Advice

The Political Governance Working Group has been re-established with the remit to make recommendations to Full Council on revisions to the Constitution, Standing Orders and other democratic processes and procedures. The working group operates on a cross party basis with representation from all political groups, on the basis of 4 Conservative, 2 Labour, 1 Liberal Democrat and 1 Independent member.

At the meetings of the working group on 24 April and 15 May 2018, a number of suggested revisions to the Standing Orders were proposed, which are now

presented to Full Council for consideration. Particular attention has been given to Full Council procedures, including Question Time and Notices of Motion.

In addition, the Standing Orders have been subject to a full re-write. Other than in those areas referred to above, this has been to introduce more clarity and simplify the Standing Orders without making substantive changes to meaning.

A summary of the substantive changes is attached at Appendix 'A'.

The full rewritten Standing Orders are attached at Appendix 'B'.

The working group will continue to meet and consider other parts of the constitution, to report back to Full Council as appropriate.

Full Council is asked to note that any changes now approved will come into effect at the end of the meeting, and do not apply to the remainder of the agenda.

Training on the revised Standing Orders will be offered to all members in due course.

Full Council is required to approve the constitution on an annual basis. The constitution of the Council is available on the county council's website via the following link (alternatively by searching under "C" or typing in "Constitution" to the search field.

<http://council.lancashire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=914&MId=2916&Ver=4&info=1&bcr=1>

Full Council is asked to approve the constitution, subject to any changes agreed at the meeting, and noting that the working group continues to review the document.

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

The county council is required to have a constitution, setting out the various roles and functions of different parts of the council, and how decisions are made. Parts of the constitution are governed by statute, which require particular arrangements to be included, for example on meetings to be held in public, establishment of committees or who can make certain decisions. In most areas, within the statutory framework, the council has some freedom to make its own arrangements.

The changes proposed to the constitution in this report ensure that the council continues to meet its statutory obligations.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985
List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
Papers of the Political Governance Working Group	24 April 2018 and 15 May 2018	Josh Mynott/(01772) 534580

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A