

Meeting of the Full Council
Meeting to be held on Thursday, 16 July 2020

Report submitted by: Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Part A

Electoral Division affected:
None;

Constitution of the County Council 2020/21
(Appendices 'A' - 'B' refer)

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Executive Summary

Full Council is required to approve the constitution on an annual basis. This report seeks the council's approval of the Constitution for the year ahead, noting changes made since the Annual General Meeting in 2019 and considering proposals for amendments in relation to the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee.

Recommendation

That Full Council be asked to:

- (i) Approve the proposal to merge the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committees to a new "Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee", with membership and terms of reference as set out in the report.
- (ii) Consider any other changes Full Council might wish to make to the constitution to enable the efficient and effective running of the county council.
- (iii) Authorise the Director of Corporate Services to make any consequential changes to other parts of the Constitution arising from these changes.
- (iv) Approve the Constitution of the County Council for the year 2020/21.

Background and Advice

Full Council is required to approve the council's constitution on an annual basis. Appendix 'A' lists the changes that have been made since the Annual General Meeting in 2019 for information.

The full 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>

In addition to noting the changes already made, Full Council is asked to consider the following further change.

Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Committees

It is proposed that the two scrutiny committees responsible for services for young people and education be merged into a single committee.

There is currently significant overlap in the work of the committees, and it is considered that more effective and coordinated scrutiny can be delivered through a single committee.

Whilst it is important to be clear that effective scrutiny can't be measured purely by the number of meetings held, to ensure that there is the same opportunity for scrutiny the new committees will meet the same number of times in a year as the two former committees combined.

Legislation requires that any scrutiny committee that considers education matters must include a number of voting co-opted members. Lancashire has five, representing parent governors from the primary and secondary sector, plus representatives from the Church of England, Roman Catholic Church and the Methodists. These will need to be included in the new committee. It is also suggested that the non-voting co-opted representative from the Youth Council currently on the Children's Services Committee is retained.

It is therefore proposed that there be 22 members of the new committee, made up as follows:

- Conservative – 11
- Labour – 4
- Ind / LD (tbc) – 1
- Voting Co-opted – 5
- Non-voting Co-opted - 1

The proposed amended terms of reference for the new committee are attached as Appendix 'B'.

It is proposed that the Chair of the Committee be nominated by the Conservative Group and the Deputy Chair by the Labour Group.

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
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None

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A