

Constitution Review Group

Report No:	COU/WS/19/002	
Report to and date/s:	Council	16 July 2019
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Decisions Plan: Not applicable, as not an executive function

Wards impacted: None

Recommendation: It is recommended that Council agrees to form the Constitution Review Group in accordance with the terms of reference attached at Appendix A to Report No: COU/WS/19/002 and the membership as set out in section 2.3 of the report.

1. Background / Context

- 1.1 The Constitution serves as the overriding framework for the way that the Council works. It determines how we will make decisions and how Councillors and officers are expected to act and work together to achieve positive outcomes for the West Suffolk community.
- 1.2 In February 2019, West Suffolk Shadow Council agreed a new Constitution for West Suffolk. This was broadly based on the former joint Constitution developed for St Edmundsbury Borough Council and Forest Heath District Council, but through the work of the (then) Joint Constitution Review Group, took the opportunity to revisit a number of areas, redeveloping the guidance section and the way in which the scheme of delegation operates.

2. Proposals

- 2.1 When the new Constitution was agreed, it was recognised that it would be helpful to assess how it was operating, and make recommendations where necessary. In particular, the former Joint Constitution Review Group recognised the need to assess the Scheme of Delegation for both executive and non-executive functions to ensure they are operating as was intended when the Constitution was agreed.
- 2.2 In order to facilitate review of the Constitution, it is proposed to form a small review group, the Constitution Review Group, with similar terms of reference to the former Review Group. These are attached at Appendix A.
- 2.3 It is proposed that the review group would be formed of 7 members, on a politically balanced basis. The group shall elect its own chair and vice-chair from amongst its membership. The Group will have no decision making powers itself, as Council has agreed all substantive amendments to the Constitution must be approved by Council directly.

3. Alternative Options

- 3.1 Development and assessment of the Constitution could be undertaken by Council itself. However, this is often a very detailed, technical task and can be more effectively undertaken by a small review group to explore points raised in detail.

4. Consultation and engagement

- 4.1 None.

5. Risks

- 5.1 There are no specific risks arising from this paper.



6. Implications arising from the proposal

6.1 There are no specific implications arising from this proposal.

7. Appendices

7.1 **Appendix A:** Terms of Reference for the Constitution Review Group

