

Constitution Review Group

Report number:	COU/WS/23/012	
Report to and date:	Council	20 June 2023
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Decisions Plan: **Not applicable as this is not an executive matter**

Wards impacted: **Not applicable**

Recommendation: **It is recommended that Council continues to operate the Constitution Review Group in accordance with the terms of reference attached at Appendix A to this report (COU/WS/23/012) and the membership as set out in section 2.2 of this report.**

1. Context to this report

- 1.1 The Constitution serves as the overriding framework for the way the Council works. It determines how we will make decisions and how members and officers are expected to act and work together to achieve positive outcomes for West Suffolk.
- 1.2 The Constitution Review Group was originally formed in 2019 for the development of the Constitution for West Suffolk Council. Thereafter it was recognised that it would be helpful to continue as a smaller group in order to assess how the Constitution operates and make recommendations for change where necessary and appropriate.

2. Proposals within this report

- 2.1 In recognising that the Constitution must evolve to accord with changes in legislation and the Administration it is proposed that the Constitution Review Group continues with the terms of reference which are attached at Appendix A to this report.
- 2.2 It is proposed that the Constitution Review Group will have seven members on a politically balanced basis. The Group shall elect its own chair and vice-chair from its membership. The Group will have no decision-making powers but will make recommendations to Council.

3. Alternative options that have been considered

- 3.1 Development and ongoing assessment of the Constitution could be undertaken by Council without the need for a Constitution Review Group. However, this may often be a very detailed and/or technical task so may be more effectively undertaken by a small review group so changes can be explored in more detail before it is presented to Council.

4. Consultation and engagement undertaken

- 4.1 Discussion has been undertaken with the Council's three Group Leaders

5. Appendices referenced in this report

- 5.1 Appendix A: Terms of Reference for the Constitution Review Group