

Governance Committee	
20 May 2020	Part I
Minor Changes to the Constitution	
Report by Director of Law and Assurance	
Electoral Division(s): Not applicable	

Recommendations

- (1) That the County Council be asked to agree the changes to the Constitution set out in Appendix A.
- (2) That the County Council be asked to agree to change the name of the Pensions Panel to 'Pensions Committee'.

Proposal

1. Background and Context

- 1.1 Several minor changes to the Constitution are proposed.
- 1.2 The first is to remove the requirement for the Fire and Rescue Service Scrutiny Committee to have a business planning group. Scrutiny committees have all had business planning groups since 2005 to enable a smaller group of committee members to undertake detailed planning working to ensure that committee meetings can conduct scrutiny in the most effective manner.
- 1.3 The new Fire and Rescue Services Scrutiny Committee has been established with seven members and an expectation that it will meet four times a year. Setting up a business planning group with five of the seven members to meet three times a year seems disproportionate. As the Committee's remit is very specific to a single service area, members and officers involved in the establishment of the Committee believe that work planning can be done as an item at the end of the agenda at most meetings, to avoid the need to set up a separate business planning group.
- 1.4 The second proposal is to clarify the voting rights of co-opted members on the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee and Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Committee, in line with the provisions for them to vote on health and education matters respectively as set out in the Health Scrutiny Regulations 2013 in respect of Health and the Local Government Act 2000 in respect of education. This is already reflected in the quorum for the committees, but would be clearer if shown more explicitly.
- 1.5 The third proposal is to change the name of the Pensions Panel to 'Pensions Committee'. This is in response to comments made at the last meeting of the Governance Committee, that the current name implies that it is an advisory body rather than a decision-making one. No change is proposed to the terms

of reference or to its status as a sub-committee of the Governance Committee.

2. Proposal

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to consider the draft changes to the Constitution shown in Appendix A and to recommend these changes to the Council.
- 2.2 The Committee is asked to consider the proposal to change the name of the Pensions Panel to 'Pensions Committee' and, if satisfied, to recommend this change to the Council.

3. Resources

- 3.1 Not applicable.

Factors taken into account

4. Consultation

- 4.1 Not applicable as this report deals with minor internal committee matters.

5. Risk Implications and Mitigations

Risk	Mitigating Action (in place or planned)
None.	

6. Other Options Considered

Not applicable as this report deals with minor internal committee matters.

7. Equality Duty

Not applicable as this report deals with minor internal committee matters.

8. Social Value

Not applicable as this report deals with minor internal committee matters.

9. Crime and Disorder Act Implications

Not applicable as this report deals with minor internal committee matters.

10. Human Rights Implications

Not applicable as this report deals with minor internal committee matters.

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Appendix A – Proposed changes to the Constitution

Background Papers

None