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## **Governance Committee: Minor Changes to the Constitution, including Regulation, Audit and Accounts Committee terms of reference**

### **Background and context**

- 1** The Regulation, Audit and Accounts Committee is responsible for a wide range of the Council's non-executive functions that cannot be exercised by the Cabinet. The 'regulation' aspect of the Committee covers a range of regulatory and licencing functions, most of which are delegated to officers.
- 2** Officers have reviewed this section of the Committee's terms of reference and a number of changes to legislation in recent years have meant that changes are required to the terms of reference. The delegated activities have continued without any disruption. The terms of reference, which are set out in Part 3, Appendix 5 of the Constitution, therefore need to be updated to reflect current statutory responsibilities.
- 3** A number of other minor changes to the Constitution are also proposed.

### **Proposal details**

#### **Regulation, Audit and Accounts Committee**

- 4** The proposed changes to the Regulation, Audit and Accounts Committee's terms of reference are **set out at Appendix 1**. As well as updating references, the officer delegation is listed more consistently, to make it clearer to the Committee where the delegation is made.
- 5** Minor updates are set out about premises licenced for marriages and civil partnerships as well as for dealing with explosives applications. The former requirements for an explosives panel were removed by more recent legislation, so public hearings would now be delegated to officers.
- 6** The most substantial change is that the Council no longer has any role in licencing of poisons. This is now carried out by the Home Office. Petroleum Licences is a continuing function that is highlighted more clearly in the terms of reference.

#### **Other minor changes**

- 7** Other minor changes to the Constitution are proposed, mostly consequential to previous changes in the Constitution, to ensure that the document is consistent. These are **set out at Appendix 2**.
- 8** The Propco Panel is now obsolete due to the establishment of the Joint Venture Partnership which will deal with investment plans for Council controlled land. Its governance arrangements have previously been approved and the Performance and Finance Scrutiny Committee has been updated on the progress of the joint venture. The Panel's terms of reference are therefore recommended for deletion from the Constitution, as set out at Appendix 2.
- 9** As previously agreed, all scrutiny committees are now able to refer a significant matter to the County Council and the Performance and Finance Scrutiny Committee no longer has a co-ordinating role. Further consequential changes are required to the Constitution as set out in Appendix 2.

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## **Recommended**

- (1) That the proposed changes to Part 3, Appendix 5 of the Constitution, as set out in Appendix 1, be approved; and
- (2) That the minor changes to the Constitution, as set out in Appendix 2, be approved.

## **Pete Bradbury**

Chairman of Governance Committee

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## **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 - Regulation, Audit and Accounts Committee, updates to licencing and regulatory legislation
- Appendix 2 - Proposed minor changes to other sections of the Constitution

## **Background papers**

None