
Governance Committee: Minor revisions to the Constitution

Regulation, Audit and Accounts Committee

Background

- 1** Part 2 of the Constitution contains a brief introduction to the main areas of political governance at the Council. It summarises who has authority to make changes to different parts of the Constitution.
- 2** Approval to change most parts of the Constitution is reserved to the County Council itself, on the recommendation of the Governance or Standards Committees. The Director of Law and Assurance has authority to revise certain parts of the Constitution.
- 3** Part 4, Section 2 (Risk Management Procedures), Part 4, Section 3 (Financial Regulations), Part 4, Section 4 (Standing Orders on Procurement and Contracts) are currently approved by the Regulation, Audit and Accounts Committee (RAAC) but on the recommendation of the Governance Committee. This duplication between committees appears to be an anomaly as these functions clearly fall within the remit of RAAC rather than the Governance Committee.

Proposal

- 4** It is therefore proposed that, to be consistent with the rest of the Constitution, approval of changes to Part 4, Sections 2 to 4 should be the responsibility of the County Council itself, on the recommendation of RAAC. The changes to Part 2 of the Constitution to bring this into effect **are set out at Appendix 1**.

Recommended

- (1) That changes to Part 2 so that in future amendments Part 4, Sections 2 to 4 be made by the County Council on the recommendation of the Regulation, Audit and Accounts Committee, be approved; and

Pension Advisory Board: Process of appointment of Independent Chairman

Background

- 5** The initial appointment of the Independent Chairman for the Pension Advisory Board, when the role was established in 2015, followed advertisement and shortlisting by officers and an interview by a panel of three members from the Governance Committee. A further process was carried out in 2020 and the Chairman was reappointed for a further four years. The current appointment expires on 31 May 2024 and the Chairman has indicated that he will not be planning on applying for the position again due to retirement.

Proposal

- 6** The Governance Committee is recommending changes to the process for the appointment of the Independent Chairman. It is proposed that the Director of Finance and Support Services and Director of Law and Assurance advertise for an Independent Chairman in the relevant pension publications and websites and on the Council webpages. It is proposed that, in place of the member interview panel, the two senior officers will shortlist and interview prospective candidates

and make an appointment after consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Governance Committee who would also be kept fully advised of the progress of the recruitment and the approach to the selection of candidates via a review meeting before the interview process to review applications.

- 7** In relation to the proposal for interviews to be carried out by officers rather than elected members it is considered that, as the role has a technical and advisory role within an area of specialism, it would be more appropriate for the interviews to be carried out by the two officers with responsibility for the administration of the pension fund. Elected members will be consulted and advised of the reasons for the proposed appointment before it is confirmed. This change in process requires a change to the Board's terms of reference as **set out at Appendix 1**.

Recommended

- (2) That the change to the process for the appointment of the Independent Chairman of the Pension Advisory Board be approved, as out at Appendix 1.

Pete Bradbury

Chairman of Governance Committee

Contact Officer: Charles Gauntlett, Senior Advisor, Democratic Services, 033022 22524, charles.gauntlett@westsussex.gov.uk

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Proposed changes to the Constitution

Background papers

None