

COUNTY COUNCIL CONSTITUTION

To: County Council

Date: 17th May 2011

From: Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer

Electoral Division(s) All

Forward Plan Ref: N/A **Key Decision:** No

Purpose: To consider revisions to the Council's Constitution.

Recommendation: The Council is recommended to approve the revisions to the Council Constitution as set out in the attached appendices.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Article 16 of the Council's Constitution requires the Council's Monitoring Officer (the Local Government Shared Services Director: Legal) to keep the Constitution under review and to recommend changes to secure improvements.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 A number of changes to the Council's Constitution are proposed, which arise for the following reasons:

- new legislative requirements
- Cabinet decisions
- changes to the Council's officer structure and responsibility for functions
- to improve clarity and operational practice.

2.2 Details of the proposed amendments and the reasons for them are set out in Appendix 1.

3.0 LOCAL GOVERNMENT SHARED SERVICES (LGSS)

3.1 As a result of changes to the functions delegated to the LGSS Joint Committee and for the purposes of enhancing the clarity of the existing delegations, the Monitoring Officer recommends a number of minor amendments are made to the existing scheme of delegation contained within Part 3 of the Council's Constitution.

3.2 The proposed amendments are shown in 'tracked changes' on the attached copy of the LGSS Joint Committee scheme of delegation (Appendix 2). The need for the amendments arises for two reasons the first of which is the recent decision by the Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) Cabinet and subsequently NCC Full Council, to increase the scope of the functions which NCC delegates to the LGSS Joint Committee. The second reason is one of general housekeeping to ensure that the delegations are clear and the document is more user-friendly. In this regard, more paragraph numbers have been introduced within the tables of delegations in order to assist referencing. Additional wording has also been introduced to further clarify the delegated authority.

4.0 CHANGES TO POLITICAL MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Members' attention is drawn to the fact that additional changes to the Constitution may be required as a result of discussions with the new Leader of the Council and as a consequence of planned changes to Cabinet portfolios. Details of additional changes will be set out in a supplementary report.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Source Documents	Location
Council Constitution	Room 114a, Shire Hall, Cambridge