

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 16 March 2017

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources

PORTFOLIO: Resources

SUBJECT: Annual Review of Constitution 2017

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek the approval of the Council to a number of changes to the Constitution.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That Council be recommended to approve the changes to the Constitution including the matters set out in Appendix 1.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 The revised version picks up the changes to the Council's working arrangements that have taken place during the year, as well as other changes which are intended to assist the Council to operate more effectively.

3.2 The proposals for change have been considered by the Chief Executive and the Executive Board Member for Resources in accordance with Article 16.02. Apart from the purely technical changes, the proposed amendments that are considered to be of particular significance are listed in Appendix 1 to this report.

4.0 POLICY, FINANCIAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

4.1 All legislative changes have been considered. However, no further amendments, over and above those already outlined, are required at the present time. Any other required changes during the period 2017/18 will be the subject of further reports when dates and details are available.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

5.1 Children and Young People in Halton.

5.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton.

5.3 A Healthy Halton.

5.4 A Safer Halton.

5.5 Halton's Urban Renewal.

The changes proposed are designed to support the continued delivery of the Council's priorities.

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

6.1 The Council needs to ensure that its Constitution is regularly updated so that it continues to support efficient, transparent and accountable decision-making by the authority.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

7.1 None.

8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

None under the meaning of the Act.

Proposed Significant Changes to the Constitution

Procurement Standing Orders

Minor updates following a comprehensive update last year, which corrects minor errors found in the operational year.

Finance Standing Orders

Section 6.2 has been updated in line with findings by Internal Audit. This demonstrates the Council's arrangements in regard to internal audit and that they comply with the requirements of the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.

Other minor updates to reflect changes in operational management delegations.

Standing Orders Relating to Duties of Proper Officers and Delegation to Officers

Some minor updates to reflect changes in legislation; areas affected include Food Safety and Licensing.

Local Code of Corporate Governance

This has been updated to reflect that the work of Housing Benefit Fraud investigation has been taken over by the Department for Work and Pensions.

Whistleblowing Policy

These minor changes are in line with the requirements of Internal Audit.

Director of Children's Services

Following formal confirmation at full Council on 8 March 2017, the Strategic Director, People, will formally be designated as the Director of Children's Services.

IN ADDITION

The following additional amendment be made to Delegated Power 98 (b) (Matters relating to Planning & Transportation) to read as follows:-

“(b) relates to matters directly impacting on a Member’s Ward and the Member makes a written request (for planning purposes) and with the agreement of the Chair that the application should be presented to the Committee”