

Action Note of Constitution, Ethics and Probity Committee

22 October 2012

Members:-

*Cllr Melvin Cohen (Chairman)

*Cllr Joan Scannell (Vice-Chairman)

* Richard Cornelius

* Alison Moore

* Andrew Strongolou

* Anthony Finn

* Barry Rawlings

* Alan Schneiderman

* denotes Member Present

1. ACTION NOTE OF LAST MEETING OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE (CONSTITUTION REVIEW) COMMITTEE (Agenda Item 1):

Noted. The Committee agreed to amend the Action Note of the last meeting of the Special Committee (Constitution Review) on 27 June 2012 to record the attendance of Councillor Melvin Cohen and Councillor Joan Scannell at that meeting.

2. ABSENCE OF MEMBERS (Agenda Item 2):

None.

3. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS (Agenda Item 3):

There were no such declarations.

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (IF ANY) (Agenda Item 4):

There were no public questions.

5. MEMBERS' ITEMS (IF ANY) (Agenda Item 5):

There were no Members' items.

6. CONSTITUTION REVIEW: MATRIX 2012/13 (Agenda Item 6):

The Committee received the matrix and were informed that this was shorter due to the proposed review of the Constitution which would be considered by the Committee under Agenda Item 8.

The Committee reviewed the matrix and agreed the course of action as set out in the Appendix 1 (attached);

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the progress of issues as set out in the attached matrix be noted.
- (2) That the changes agreed at Committee as set out in the attached matrix be forwarded to Council for agreement.

7. REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE – CONSTITUTION, ETHICS AND PROBITY COMMITTEE (Agenda Item 7):

The Committee agreed the report, subject to the following;

RESOLVED –

- 1. That training is arranged to cover the Committee’s new duties as soon as practicable.**
- 2. That the following amendments are made to the Committee’s Terms of Reference, Appendix 2 – Responsibility for Functions;**
 - 10 Councillors**
 - Insert the following; *Monitoring the operation of the protocol for Member-Officer relations***
 - Insert the following; *Monitoring the operation of the Register of Members interests including the register of gifts and hospitality***
- 3. That the changes to the Committee’s Terms of Reference be forwarded to Council for agreement.**
- 4. That the Head of Governance be instructed to make the appropriate amendments to the Council’s Constitution.**

8. CONSTITUTION REVIEW (Agenda Item 8):

Public comments were received on this item.

The Committee considered Item 8 which set out the principles of reviewing the Constitution and the provisions in the Localism Act 2011 which may affect the Council’s decision making structure and constitutional arrangements.

RESOLVED –

- 1. That the Committee approve that a review of the Constitution be undertaken as a first step.**
- 2. That a Special Meeting of the Committee be scheduled for December 2012 to consider;**
 - a) An issues paper with particular reference to 9.2 of the report**
 - b) An update report with details of the Constitution review process**
- 3. That the provisions in the Localism Act 2011 which may affect the Council’s decision making structure and constitutional arrangements be considered at a future meeting of the Committee once full consideration has been given to this by the three Groups.**

9. ANY ITEMS THAT THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT (Agenda Item 10):

None.

The meeting finished at 8:20pm