

Annex – Constitution Review

Examples of potential areas for further review of the Constitution after the May 2021 elections.

Section of the Constitution	Potential reason for review
Structure of the Constitution generally (Articles, Parts, Procedure Rules, Protocols)	These originate from the national Model Constitution which is now some years old. A review of more recent best practice examples may help achieve a more responsive and accessible Constitution
Equality, diversity and inclusion*	Review the Constitution in the light of the Council's commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion. To ensure the Constitution's language and provisions actively recognise and encourage inclusion and participation.
Article 2 - Members of the Council and Appendix*	Review of Member Champions Role and listings
Article 4 - Full Council*	Rule 4 (Policy Framework) - review the Policies that should go to Full Council
Article 7 - Overview and Scrutiny*	Review the Council's view on the purpose and sufficiency of current Scrutiny arrangements. Review level of detail needed to describe terms of reference.
Part 3.1 - Council Procedure Rules	General review of the processes for motions, deadlines and questions
Part 3.1A - Virtual Meeting Procedure Rules	Review the effectiveness, particularly if the virtual rules are likely to continue, in some form, as a legal means of meeting e.g. is the 4-day deadline for public speakers needed or too long?
Part 4.2 - Cabinet Procedure Rules	Review the processes for enabling members to put items on the Cabinet agenda and speaking arrangements.
Part 4.5 - Cabinet Advisory Groups*	Review and ensure up to date.
Part 4.6 - Transport Advisory Panel	Consider whether this is still required.
Part 6.2 - Scrutiny Procedure Rules	General review e.g. how work programme is agreed and agenda items set; councillor involvement in scrutiny and the role of co-opted members. Can

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	reporting on the work of scrutiny be improved (Rules 12 and 21)
Part 6.3 - Public Participation	Review and update to reflect best practice
Part 8.1 - Access to Information Procedure Rules	Review and update to reflect best practice
Part 8.4 - Employment Procedure Rules	Review and update to reflect best practice
Part 9.2 - Protocol on Members' Rights and Responsibilities	Review and update to reflect best practice. In particular revisit the sufficiency of the current arrangements for keeping councillors informed of issues in their local areas. Review content to ensure the Council effectively listens to its county councillors. *
Potential inclusion of other bodies e.g. requiring statutory engagement by the Council	For example, Local Channel Panels in connection with the statutory duty to protect vulnerable people. NB In this case, Home Office guidance is awaited on definitions for inclusion in the Constitution.

An asterisk indicates where an elected member has also expressed an interest in the Council undertaking a review on that point.