

Attendance

Members of the Governance and Ethics Committee

Cllr Rita Potter (Chair)
Cllr Rohit Mistry (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Milkinderpal Jaspal
Cllr Zee Russell
Cllr Anwen Muston
Cllr Susan Roberts MBE
Cllr Wendy Thompson
Cllr Jonathan Crofts

Employees

David Pattison	Chief Operating Officer
Michelle Rowe	Solicitor & Deputy Monitoring Officer
Laura Gittos	Head of Governance
Jas Kaur	Democratic Services & Systems Manager
Donna Cope	Democratic Services Officer

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

Item No. *Title*

- 1 Apologies for absence**
Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Lovinyer Daley.
- 2 Declarations of interest**
There were no declarations of interest made.
- 3 Minutes of the previous meeting**
That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 7 September 2023 be approved as a correct record.

4 **Matters arising**

Minute 6 – In response to questions asked, David Pattison, Chief Operating Officer, assured members that the authority was in a good position regarding the implementation of Voter ID, and that measures put in place for the May 2023 elections had been successful. It was noted that further work was being done to promote the new voting requirements, and a report on the matter would be brought back to Committee.

5 **Changes to the Constitution**

David Pattison, Chief Operating Officer, presented the report: Changes to the Constitution. The report outlined the proposed changes to the Constitution for approval by the Council, and it was recommended that Council agreed to these amendments to ensure continuing lawfulness and effectiveness.

It was noted that this was a special meeting where Members could provide feedback on the proposed changes and an updated report would then be brought back to Committee for final approval before going to Council.

The Chief Operating Officer outlined the proposed changes to Scrutiny Board and Call-in, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report, and explained the rationale for these changes.

The proposed changes were debated by Committee. The Chief Operating Officer responded to the debate and agreed to provide regional benchmarking data on call-ins at the next meeting.

The Chief Operating Officer outlined the proposed changes to Electronic Sealing and Signing, as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report, and explained the rationale for these changes.

The proposed changes were debated by Committee. The Chief Operating Officer responded to the debate and the proposed changes were agreed.

The Chief Operating Officer outlined the proposed changes to the Health and Wellbeing Together Board Terms of Reference, as detailed in Appendix 3 of the report, and explained the rationale for these changes.

The proposed changes were debated by Committee. The Chief Operating Officer responded to the debate and the proposed changes were agreed.

The Chief Operating Officer outlined the proposed changes to Full Council meeting Procedure Rules, as detailed in Appendix 4 of the report, and explained the rationale for these changes.

The proposed changes were debated by Committee. The Chief Operating Officer responded to the debate and agreed to provide a protocol and regional benchmarking data regarding questions from members of the public.

The Chief Operating Officer outlined the proposed changes to Individual Executive Decision Notices (IEDNs) and call-in, as detailed in Appendix 5 of the report, and explained the rationale for these changes.

The proposed changes were debated by Committee. The Chief Operating Officer responded to the debate and the proposed changes were agreed.

The Chief Operating Officer outlined the proposed changes to Miscellaneous (Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) for members, Councillors' Allowance Scheme, Planning Committee decisions), as detailed in Appendix 6 of the report, and explained the rationale for these changes.

The proposed changes were debated by Committee. The Chief Operating Officer responded to the debate and agreed to provide further details regarding Certificates of Lawfulness and DBS check requirements for Councillors.

The Chief Operating Officer outlined the proposed changes to Officer delegations, as detailed in Appendix 7 of the report, and explained the rationale for these changes.

The proposed changes were debated by Committee. The Chief Operating Officer responded to the debate and agreed to make the necessary amendments to the terminology used to ensure consistency.

Councillor Rita Potter moved the recommendations and Councillor Zee Russell seconded the recommendations.

Resolved:

1. That benchmarking data be provided at the next meeting showing what other regional authorities did in terms of the number of members required to call-in a decision.
2. That the proposed amendments to Electronic Sealing and Signing be approved.
3. That the proposed amendments to the Health and Wellbeing Together Board Terms of Reference be approved.
4. That a protocol regarding questions from members of the public be provided for consideration at the next meeting.
5. That benchmarking data be provided at the next meeting detailing whether regional authorities allowed councillors the right to reply for written questions.
6. That benchmarking data be provided at the next meeting detailing who regional authorities permitted to ask a question at council meetings.
7. That the proposed amendments to Individual Executive Decision Notices (IEDNs) and call-in be approved.
8. That further information be provided at the next meeting on the number of Certificates of Lawfulness that had been considered by the Council.

9. That further clarification be provided on enhanced DBS check requirements for Councillors at the next meeting.
10. That there should be consistency of terminology when describing decisions made by more than one officer, and such wording would be amended to reflect this.