

# Meeting of the City Council

18 May 2022

<b>Report title</b>	Constitution Review	
<b>Referring body</b>	N/A	
<b>Councillor to present report</b>	Councillor Paula Brookfield	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All Wards	
<b>Cabinet Member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Paula Brookfield Cabinet Member for Governance and Equalities	
<b>Accountable director</b>	David Pattison, Chief Operating Officer	
<b>Originating service</b>	Governance	
<b>Accountable employee</b>	David Pattison Tel Email	Chief Operating Officer 01902 550320 David.pattison@wolverhampton.gov.uk
<b>Report has been considered by</b>	N/A	

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## Recommendation for decision:

The Council is recommended to:

1. Approve the amendments to the Constitution.
2. Authorise the Monitoring Officer to implement the changes.

## 1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To approve the amendments to the Constitution and authorise the Monitoring Officer to implement the changes.

## 2.0 Background

- 2.1 Only those parts of the constitution listed below are amended, the other parts will remain unchanged.
- 2.2 This is part of a series of reports – there will be additional reports brought forwards to review the other parts of the constitution. This is an ongoing process and important that this takes place as and when the changes are needed. A further report will be brought forward shortly covering changes to the rules of debate *and Part 3 delegations to officers, this is currently being updated* and will come to the next meeting after it has been through to Governance and Ethics Committee.

## 3.0 Changes to the Constitution

- 3.1 The table below details the Articles/Sections to be changed:

Section	Proposed	Rationale
Article 7, Overview and Scrutiny Arrangements	<p>That the names and remits of scrutiny panels be amended as follows:</p> <p><b>Health Scrutiny Panel</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The scrutiny of health provision in accordance with the Health and Social Care Act 2001 and subsequent relevant legislation and Government guidance.</li><li>• Health related issues in partnership with:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Public Health</li><li>• NHS</li><li>• CCG/ICS</li><li>• Health and wellbeing Board</li><li>• Healthwatch</li><li>• Neighbouring Authorities</li></ul></li></ul>	<p>To ensure the titles of Scrutiny Panels and remits interlink to Our City: Our Plan.</p>

	<p><b>Strong Families, Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ensuring that Children have the best start in life and good early development</li><li>• Ensuring high quality education that closes the attainment gap</li><li>• Ensuring that children and young people grow up happy with good physical, social and mental health and wellbeing</li><li>• Ensuring that every young person in the city is equipped for adulthood with life skills and ready for work</li><li>• Ensuring that families are strengthened where children are vulnerable or at risk.</li></ul> <p><b>Fulfilled Adult Lives Scrutiny Panel</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ensuring that the Health and Social Care system to respond to and recover from Covid-19</li><li>• Ensuring independence for people with care and support needs</li><li>• Ensuring that people get the right support at the right time</li><li>• Ensuring the health and care reform agenda is delivered for people in Wolverhampton</li><li>• Protecting vulnerable people at risk of harm and exploitation</li></ul>	
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	<p><b>Residents, Housing and Communities Scrutiny Panel</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Community safety</li><li>• Closing the gap on healthy life expectancy</li><li>• Ensuring people live happier more active lives</li><li>• Ensuring inclusive, welcoming communities where people feel safe and look out for each other</li><li>• Delivering more new homes</li><li>• Ensuring safe and healthy homes for all</li><li>• Ensuring access to a secure home</li><li>• Ensuring clean, green neighbourhoods and public space</li><li>• Well-connected businesses and residents</li></ul> <p><b>Economy and Growth Scrutiny Panel</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Creating good quality local jobs</li><li>• Working in partnership to support local people into work and better jobs</li><li>• Ensuring flexible systems which support local businesses to grow and residents to access good jobs</li><li>• Supporting local businesses to start up, scale up and thrive</li><li>• Attracting new investment which brings social and economic benefit to all</li><li>• Creating vibrant high streets with quality culture and leisure offers</li><li>• Growing the low carbon and circular economy</li></ul>	
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	<p><b>Resources and Equality Scrutiny Panel</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Measuring Success</li><li>• Our people/workforce</li><li>• Fairness and inclusion including equalities</li><li>• Our digital</li><li>• Our data</li><li>• Our money including procurement</li><li>• Strategic council assets</li></ul> <p><b>Scrutiny Board</b></p> <p>Strategic oversight – hub and spoke with panels includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• WMCA interface</li><li>• MTFS (overall oversight on Revenue/Capital/Assets)</li><li>• Overall performance (including Our City: Our Plan)</li><li>• Levelling Up</li><li>• Pre Decision</li><li>• Call in</li><li>• Petitions</li><li>• Wolverhampton Pound</li><li>• Oversight of Select Committee work – reporting on outcomes</li></ul>	
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#### **4.0 Financial implications**

4.1 There are no financial implications arising from the proposed amendments to the Constitution. [GE/16052022/W]

#### **5.0 Legal implications**

4.1 The Council is required by Section 37 of the Local Government Act 2000 to prepare and publish a Constitution which contains its standing orders relating to decision-making, finance and contracts. The Council is also required to keep its Constitution updated. The Director of Governance is authorised under the constitution to make amendments which more accurately reflect legislative and organisational changes. This report ensures that the Council meets its duties. [DP/16052022/1]

## **6.0 Equalities implications**

6.1 The Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- a. eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by the Equality Act;
- b. advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- c. foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

6.2 The Constitution seeks to ensure that, in its decision-making and its operations, the Council fully complies with the public-sector equality duty.

## **7.0 All other Implications**

7.1 There are no other implications arising from recommendations in this report.

## **8.0 Schedule of background papers**

8.1 Changes to the Constitution, Council, 3 November 2021