

CITY OF PLYMOUTH

Subject: Revised Constitution
Committee: City Council
Date: 10 October 2011
Cabinet Member:
CMT Member: Monitoring Officer
Author: Timothy Howes, Assistant Director for Democracy and Governance
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Ref: Review of the Constitution
Key Decision: No
Part: I

Executive Summary:

The revised constitution was considered by a Working Group of members on the 20 September 2011. It was agreed that an attempt would be made to rearrange the draft to make it fit under the headings in the current constitution. In addition, the Working Group considered the approach to be taken in respect of a number of material changes to the constitution.

The rearranged draft will be further considered by the Working Group before it is brought back to the City Council. Given the time needed to rearrange the draft, it has not been possible to bring the document to this meeting.

Corporate Plan 2011 – 2014:

There are no direct implications in relation to the corporate plan. However it is vital to ensure that effective governance arrangements are in place to deliver the corporate plan

Implications for Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications: Including finance, human, IT and land

There are no direct implications in relation to the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resources.

Other Implications: e.g. Community Safety, Health and Safety, Risk Management and Equality, Diversity and Community Cohesion:

There are no direct implications.

Recommendations & Reasons for recommended action:

It is recommended that the City Council note the present position regarding the revised constitution.

Alternative options considered and reasons for recommended action:

The present model of the constitution does not reflect the new 'strong leader' model adopted by the City Council. The current constitution could simply be amended as it stands, but this would not address the need for greater clarity in the layout and text.

Background papers: None.

Sign off:

Fin	MC 111 220 15.	Leg	DS 1295 4.	HR		Corp Prop		IT		Strat Proc	
Originating SMT Member TH											

1.0 Background

A local authority that is operating executive arrangements must prepare and keep up to date a written constitution that contains such information as the Secretary of State may direct, which includes a copy of the authority's standing orders for the time being, a copy of the authority's code of conduct and such other information as the authority considers appropriate.

The purpose of the constitution is to set out everything anyone who has dealings with the local authority would need to know about how it conducts its business, who takes which decisions and how to work with it.

At the last Council meeting it was agreed 'that the Council defer consideration of a new constitution to allow the time for more detailed consideration by a working group of five Councillors with three from the Conservative Group and two from the Labour Group to work with the Monitoring Officer on the further development of the constitution. The outcome of that working group will then form part of the recommendations to Council in October 2011.'

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