

Report to: Council



Date of Meeting 6 December 2023

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

Review date for release N/A

Creation of constitutional working group

Report summary:

To invite members to approve the creation of a member constitutional working group to be consulted and to inform a review of the Council's constitution.

Is the proposed decision in accordance with:

Budget Yes No

Policy Framework Yes No

Recommendation:

- (1) That Council agree to the setting up of a constitutional working group made up of nine members of council.
- (2) That Council nominate members to the constitutional working group in accordance with the proposals outlined in this report.

Reason for recommendation:

To ensure that there is Member involvement in the review of the Council's constitution at a formative stage.

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Portfolio(s) (check which apply):

- Climate Action and Emergency Response
- Coast, Country and Environment
- Council and Corporate Co-ordination
- Communications and Democracy
- Economy
- Finance and Assets
- Strategic Planning
- Sustainable Homes and Communities
- Culture, Leisure, Sport and Tourism

Equalities impact Low Impact

If choosing High or Medium level outline the equality considerations here, which should include any particular adverse impact on people with protected characteristics and actions to mitigate these. Link to an equalities impact assessment form using the [equalities form template](#).

Climate change Low Impact

Risk: Low Risk; As this report relates to the creation of a working group, the risks arising are low.

Links to background information None

Link to [Council Plan](#)

Priorities (check which apply)

Better homes and communities for all

A greener East Devon

A resilient economy

Report in full

The Monitoring Officer and Democratic Services Manager are due to commence a review of the Council's Constitution and are seeking the creation of a constitutional working group of members that can be consulted and who can influence the direction of revisions to the Council's constitution before they are presented to Full Council for approval.

Due to the size of the Constitution and the amount of work involved, the aim will be to prioritise key areas such as the Officer Scheme of Delegation, Council Procedure Rules and the Member/Officer Protocol to enable these to be updated, as appropriate, in time for the 2024 Annual Council. The review will then continue beyond May 2024 to consider other sections of the Constitution.

It is proposed that the working group is made up of nine members of Full Council, to be chaired by the Portfolio Holder for Communications and Democracy. To enable maximum flexibility, it is proposed that the group is an informal working group, to enable it to meet during the day via Zoom and to ensure that all political groups can be represented.

Members are invited to approve the creation of the working group and to nominate members as follows:

Democratic Alliance Group: 4 members (including Portfolio Holder)

Conservative Group: 2 members

Independent Group: 1 member

Labour Group: 1 Member

Independent Councillor Group: 1 Member

Financial implications:

There are no financial issues to be added to this report.

Legal implications:

There are no substantive legal issues to be added to this report.