

County Council – 13 December 2018

Proposed Changes to the Constitution

Recommendations

1. Following on from Audit and Standards Committee consideration and approval, that the Council be recommended to make the proposed amendments to the Constitution as outlined in this report.
 - a) That the Constitution is amended to reflect the changes to the All Party Member Groups (appendix 1) and authority is given to the Political Group Leaders to agree Membership (to a maximum size of 10 Members per Group) following Full Council.
 - b) That the Constitution is amended to reflect changes to the Cabinet Support Titles with detailed responsibilities being determined by the Leader following Full Council.
2. That the Director for Strategy, Governance and Change be granted authority to make the necessary changes to the Constitution to give effect to the changes set out in this report.

Report of the Director for Strategy, Governance and Change

The County Council's Constitution requires amendment to reflect changes to Council structures, ensuring alignment with the priorities and ambitions of the Administration. The proposed changes are summarised below:

All Party Working Groups (APWGs) – (previously 4 All Party Member Groups), these will continue to be tasked with providing a forum to drive the debate and overview around the medium to long term issues that affect the communities of Staffordshire and how public services, working with the private and voluntary and community sector, can plan for and address these issues.

The intention is that there be 2 All Party Working Groups, taking an even more rigorous focus on developing new ideas and solutions to key challenges. The investigations will be driven by community and digital first thinking, draw further on community perspectives and Elected Member's key role to help shape policy and reform of public services.

Cabinet Support Members – There will be APWG Cabinet Support Members (4 in total) who will jointly chair and lead the 2 All Party Working Groups, taking joint leading roles and responsibilities. It is intended that they will each take 50% of the Cabinet Support Member Special Responsibility Allowance.

The Leader will give his rationale for the changes at the meeting.

Equalities Implications

All decisions of Cabinet will be accompanied by a Communities Impact Assessment setting out the impact of decisions on the people and communities of Staffordshire. Similarly any recommendations from scrutiny or an All Party Working Group need to be set within the context of potential equalities and community impact implications.

Legal implications

The changes set out in this report have no specific legal implications.

Resource and Value for Money Implications

Support to these arrangements will be delivered through existing officer resources. There will be no additional costs for the member allowances budget.

Risk Implications

Member-led work programming, focused upon issues for which their input will deliver a significant impact of benefit to the communities of Staffordshire and the County Council, is fundamental to the success of these arrangements.

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