

SELECTION & CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

11TH FEBRUARY 2016

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

A report was submitted to the Selection & Constitutional Review Committee on the 9th October 2014 recommending the addition of two additional provisions to Article 2 of the Constitution. One of these was an addition to Article 2.03 regarding the obligation on all Councillors to undertake duties and attend meetings etc. to which they have been appointed. These additions were approved by Full Council on 16th October 2014.

Further to this, at its meeting on the 25th January 2016, the Standards Committee recommended extending the Articles of the Constitution (2.03 - Roles and Functions of All Councillors) to include reference to Members making every effort to attend relevant training sessions that were put on to benefit them in their role as a Councillor. The Committee agreed to make such a recommendation as they considered it was vital for all Councillors to equip themselves with the tools necessary to contribute to the work of their Committees and the Council.

In response to that recommendation and his own consideration, the Leader of the Council has requested an addition to of one of the provisions and some new notes to the Articles of the Constitution. These are outlined below in bold and underlined for consideration by Members.

Insert as addition to Article 2.03 (p11-12 mauve pages in Constitution)

- (v) *participate in the governance and management of the council; in particular regularly attend meetings of the Council and Committees, Sub-Committees, Forums, Task Groups, Boards or Panels to which they are appointed;*
- (vi) *maintain the highest standards of conduct and ethics. **All Members are therefore expected to make every effort to attend training sessions held for Councillors on this subject, and other training events relevant to their role.***

Notes:

- (a)** *Since Councillors have a duty to regularly attend the meetings referred to in (v) above, it is likely that Group Leaders and/or the Council will wish to remove them from those which they fail to regularly attend.*
- (b)** *~~Such~~ Councillors should also consider whether they should stand down if they are unable to continue to effectively represent their constituents.*

(c) Evening briefings and presentations and training events are often held to assist and inform Councillors in their role. Councillors are required to indicate if they are able to attend or not and if they are not to provide their apologies. It is quite understood that not all Councillors will be able to attend every event due to other commitments, but knowing in advance will allow Officers to only provide for those attending and supply documents to those who cannot, after the event. It will also allow venue size and catering arrangements to be facilitated. Officers will keep a record of attendance and apologies at briefings, presentations and training events.

Recommended:

That the addition to Article 2.03 (vi) of the Constitution and additional notes (a), (b) and (c) be agreed.