

CONSTITUTION AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Thursday, 13 April 2023

Present: Councillor T Cox (Chair)

Councillors A Onwuemene P Gilchrist

Apologies Councillors P Hayes
P Stuart
J McManus

30 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Paul Hayes, Cllr Julie McManus, Cllr Paul Stuart and Independent Member Professor Ronald Jones.

31 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Members were asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests and any other relevant interest and to state the nature of the interest. No such declarations were made.

32 MINUTES

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on be approved on 22 February 2023 be held as a correct record.

33 PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS

No public questions or statements were received in advance of the committee meeting.

34 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

The Head of Democratic and Member Services introduced the report of the Director of Law and Governance. The report provided a summary of the discussions held by the Governance Working Group in respect to proposed changes to the Constitution. The proposed changes were in relation to: Sharing written responses to public questions with the public (SO 10.9 (c) and 12.6 (c)), sharing of motions and amendments without notice (SO 14(h)), acceptance of grant funding by Officers, and Questions to members appointed to Joint Authorities at Council meetings (SO12.1).

Members commented that these changes would allow for further transparency within the council by including written responses to questions within minutes for meetings.

On a motion by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Onwuemene, it was,

Resolved - that the suggested amendments to the Standing Orders as detailed in sections 3.2 to 3.5 of the report be incorporated into the Constitution and presented for approval at the Annual Council Meeting in May 2023.