

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

AGENDA



Thursday 24 April 2025

at 10.00 am

**Committee Room “C”,
Civic Centre, Hartlepool**

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE:

Councillors Bailey-Fleet, Boddy, Buchan, Dodds, Harrison, Little, Male, Nelson and Thompson.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

3. MINUTES

3.1 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 2025

4. ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION

4.1 Constitution Review – *Monitoring Officer/Director of Legal, Governance and Human Resources*

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

FOR INFORMATION

Date of next meeting – to be confirmed.

CIVIC CENTRE EVACUATION AND ASSEMBLY PROCEDURE

In the event of a fire alarm or a bomb alarm, please leave by the nearest emergency exit as directed by Council Officers. A Fire Alarm is a continuous ringing. A Bomb Alarm is a continuous tone.

The Assembly Point for everyone is Victory Square by the Cenotaph. If the meeting has to be evacuated, please proceed to the Assembly Point so that you can be safely accounted for.

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

27 January 2025

The meeting commenced at 2.00pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor Brenda Harrison (In the Chair)

Councillors: Moss Boddy, Bob Buchan, Sue Little, Corine Male, John Nelson and Carole Thompson

Officers: Denise McGuckin, Managing Director
Hayley Martin, Director of Legal, Governance and Human Resources
Angela Armstrong, Principal Democratic Services and Legal Support Officer

26. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Quewone Bailey-Fleet and Matthew Dodds.

27. Declarations of interest by Members

None.

28. Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2024

Confirmed.

29. Appointment of Vice Chair

The Director of Legal, Governance and Human Resources sought nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the Constitution Committee as this appointment had not been filled at Annual Council last year. A nomination was received and seconded for Councillor Moss Boddy to take up this position and this nomination was accepted.

Decision

Councillor Moss Boddy be appointed as Vice Chair of the Constitution Committee with immediate effect.

30. Constitution Review (*Monitoring Officer/Director of Legal Governance and Human Resources*)

The Monitoring Officer/Director of Legal, Governance and Human Resources presented a report which included proposed changes to Part 3 – Delegation Scheme within the Constitution along with a proposed amendment to the required content for a request or requisition for an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council.

There were several proposals relating to Committee delegations and there were varying views across Members. It was therefore indicated that further discussion was required on the detail of those proposals. It was suggested that consideration of these proposals be deferred to an additional meeting of the Committee prior to being submitted to Council for decision.

It was highlighted that in view of the Government's Working Paper that was currently being considered, a future discussion on the Planning delegations be delayed until the publication of the White Paper.

A discussion ensued on the information needed as part of a request or requisition for an Extraordinary meeting of Council. A Member noted that it would be beneficial for Members to have as much information in advance of an Extraordinary meeting for clarity, including the purpose of the motion and to inform the discussions and any subsequent decisions.

Decision

- (1) That an additional meeting of the Constitution Committee be arranged to enable further discussion on the suggested changes to the Committee Delegations in Part 3 of the Constitution.
- (2) That consideration of the Planning Delegations be deferred to a future Constitution Committee once the Government's White Paper which includes their policy for reform of planning was published.
- (3) That the proposed changes to the request or requisition of an Extraordinary meeting of Council be agreed and submitted to the next meeting of Council for consideration.

The meeting concluded at 2.40pm

CHAIR

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

24 April 2025



Report of: Monitoring Officer/Director of Legal, Governance and Human Resources

Subject: CONSTITUTION REVIEW

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To review and consider changes to the Constitution prior to consideration of the changes by Council.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council's Constitution at Article 14 ("Review and Revision of the Constitution") requires that the Monitoring Officer "will monitor and review the operation of the Constitution to ensure that the aims and principles of the Constitution are given full effect."

This report sets out details of issues which have been referred to the Committee for consideration since the last meeting of the Committee.

3. PART 3 - DELEGATION SCHEME

- 3.1 Committee Delegations – Members have questioned the remit of the Finance and Policy Committee. It has been suggested that changes are made to the current arrangements as follows:
- Rename Finance and Policy Committee 'Finance and Corporate Affairs Committee' and change its functions/service areas as follows:
 - - a) Move Facilities Management (Catering and Cleaning) to within the remit of Neighbourhood Services Committee
 - b) Move Safer Hartlepool Partnership to within the remit of Neighbourhood Services Committee

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 That the Committee consider the report and formulates its recommendations for submission to Full Council

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 It is the responsibility of the Monitoring Officer to monitor the Constitution to ensure that the aims and principles of the Constitution are given full effect.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Hartlepool Borough Council's Constitution

8. CONTACT OFFICERS

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