

ANGUS COUNCIL

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE - 26 MAY 2020

REVIEW OF GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

ABSTRACT

This Report details proposals to establish a short-life Member/Officer Group to review the current governance arrangements in relation to the Council's Standing Orders, the Order of Reference of Committees and the Scheme of Delegation to Officers.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:-

- (i) agrees that a short life Member/Officer Group be established to review the current governance arrangements including the Council's Standing Orders, the Order of Reference of Committees and the Scheme of Delegation to Officers;
- (ii) agrees that the Member/Officer Group membership be made up of 6 elected members (3 Administration/2 SNP and 1 Independent);
- (iii) appoints a Chair of the Member/Officer Group;
- (iv) delegates authority to the Director of Legal and Democratic Services to identify the most appropriate officers who will support the work of the Member/Officer Group; and
- (v) notes that the outcome of the review will be reported to full Council for consideration.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE COUNCIL PLAN

This Report contributes to the achievement of our priority that the council is efficient and effective as detailed in our Council Plan for 2017 – 2022.

3. BACKGROUND

The core constitutional documents of the Council are the Standing Orders, which regulate the proceedings at council meetings; the Order of Reference of Committees, which details the Council's committees, sub committees and their associated remits; and the Scheme of Delegation to Officers, which details the delegation of powers to a range of Chief Officers. (Three further sections relate to guidance issued by the Director of Legal and Democratic Services on procedural motions etc; guidance issued by the Director of Finance on the application of Standing Order 16(9) and guidance relating to the disposal of land and property). All are reviewed (at an officer level) on a regular basis to ensure they are fit for purpose. The most recent changes were made in May 2019.

4. PROPOSALS

A significant driver of the most recent review was to align the core constitutional documents with the new management structure, which had come into effect in April 2019.

As part of that review it was acknowledged that further work was required to refresh these constitutional documents. It is now proposed that the process should involve the input, at an early stage, of elected members.

It is important that no further delay occurs in taking forward this review. Meetings of the MOG will take place using Skype and can be accommodated within current resources.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from this Report.

NOTE: No background papers, as detailed by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.

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