

Central
Bedfordshire
Council
Priory House
Monks Walk
Chicksands,
Shefford SG17 5TQ



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| CONSTITUTION ADVISORY GROUP |
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| DATE: 18 October 2010 |
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| TITLE | Formalising the Constitution Advisory Group in the Constitution |
| REPORT OF | Acting Committee Services Manager |

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| PURPOSE | To set out the membership of the Constitution Advisory Group in the Constitution |
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| ORIGIN OF PROPOSAL | Chairman of Constitution Advisory group |
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| RECOMMENDATION: |
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| <p>to recommend to Council the amendment of the Constitution as set out in Appendix A.</p> |
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| REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS | (To be included in report to Council) |
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| <p>(1) As the Constitution already confers certain responsibilities on the Constitution Advisory Group, it is appropriate to formalise it as a Working Group of the Council in the Constitution.</p> |
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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Role of the Constitution Advisory Group

1. The Constitution sets out in Part A5 Review and Revision of the Constitution the role that the Constitution Advisory Group will take but it does not set out the membership requirements of the Group. It is suggested that it would be helpful to insert a section into the Constitution clarifying the structure of this working group.

Membership of the Constitution Advisory Group

2. The membership of the Constitution Advisory Group is appointed at the Council Annual Meeting. Since April 2009 it has consisted of 4 members, made up of 3 Conservatives and 1 Liberal Democrat, with one Conservative substitute.
3. It is suggested that the Chairman of the Council should be a member of the Constitution Advisory Group as the Constitution provides the governance of the Council.
4. The membership requirements of the Constitution Advisory Group should be set out in the Constitution to provide for this.

Placing the Group's Membership Requirements in the Constitution

5. The Constitution Advisory Group is a Working Group of the Council which has no executive powers but which makes recommendations to Council.
6. It is suggested that the most appropriate place to set out the membership requirements of the Constitution Advisory Group is at Part A5 section 2, in a new paragraph called 2.2 to follow 2.1 with the existing numbering to be amended accordingly.

Wording to be inserted

7. It is suggested that the new paragraph 2.1 at Section A5 should read:
 - The Constitution Advisory Group will be appointed annually at the Annual Council meeting and will comprise a membership of 4, proportionate to the political structure of the Council, with one substitute member. The membership of the Advisory Group shall include the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Council and at least one member of the Executive.
8. The proposed wording is set out in the context of that section of the Constitution at **Appendix A**.

Contact Officer Details:

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Key Background Papers:

none