

<b>Recommendation to Council on 11 September 2014</b>	<b>From: General Purposes Committee on 17 July 2014</b>	<b>Item 10(i)</b>
	<b>Constitution Update – Maintaining the Constitution</b>	
1.	Council is asked to approve the following recommendation:-	
	<b>that the Monitoring Officer be authorised to make urgent amendments to the Constitution to give effect to any decision of the Council or changes in the law, minor amendments such as to correct errors or to ensure that the Constitution is up to date, by amending the Constitution at Part A5, paragraph 2.3 through the deletion of the words “after consultation with the General Purposes Committee”.</b>	
	<b>Background</b>	
2.	At its last meeting the General Purposes Committee considered a report of the Executive Member for Corporate Resources which set out a proposed amendment to the Constitution to enable it to be maintained as an up to date document in a more efficient manner.	
3.	Members were aware that the Constitution provided for the Monitoring Officer to make urgent amendments to that document to give effect to any decision of the Council, or changes in the law, or minor amendments such as correcting errors, or to ensure that the Constitution was up to date, but only following consultation with the General Purposes Committee (paragraph 2.3 of Part A5 of the Constitution refers). The report suggested that the requirement for the Monitoring Officer to first consult the Committee before making the amendments of a type which did not require Members’ discernment or evaluation, for example, spelling or typographical errors, resulted in unnecessary delay. In contrast, authorising the Monitoring Officer to make such amendments without needing to undertake consultation with the Committee would enable corrective action to be taken more quickly.	
4.	Members noted that it was suggested that the changes would be brought together and made on a monthly basis to enable the updating process to be managed in a timely way. It was also noted that an audit trail would be maintained through the Monitoring Officer’s personal sign-off of the amendments and the retention of the document on file. In addition, it was proposed that a schedule of the changes would be prepared and submitted to the Committee on a six monthly basis so that Members were able to maintain an overview of the Constitution as it evolved.	

5.	The Committee indicated its full support for the proposed amendment to the Constitution and related action regarding the submission of update reports.	
<b>Appendices</b>	None	