

Central Bedfordshire Council

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

24 March 2016

Review of Updates to the Constitution June 2015 – February 2016

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Purpose of the report

1. This report sets out the changes which have been made to the Constitution between June 2015 and February 2016.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is asked to note the changes made to maintain the Council's constitution, set out in Appendix A.

Overview and Scrutiny Comments/Recommendations

1. Oversight of the Constitution falls within the remit of the General Purposes Committee rather than overview and scrutiny.

Maintenance of the Constitution

2. The Monitoring Officer has been granted delegated powers to make urgent and minor amendments to the Constitution as set out in Part A5 paragraph 2.3 of the Constitution, and is required to report to the Committee at intervals on any amendments which have been made.
3. A schedule of the amendments which have been made since the last report to the Committee is attached at **Appendix A**, for the Committee to note. These include those made by the Monitoring Officer, by the Committee under powers through the Localism Act and by Council.

Council Priorities

4. Maintenance of the Constitution, as the Council's rule-book, contributes to the Council priority 'a more efficient and responsive Council'.

Legal Implications

5. The Constitution should be maintained in an up-to-date state and the action taken complies with this duty.

Financial and Risk Implications

6. There are no financial or risk implications.

Equalities Implications

7. Central Bedfordshire Council has a statutory duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and foster good relations in respect of nine protected characteristics; age disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
8. Amendments to the Constitution have been considered in light of this statutory duty.

Implications for Work Programming

9. There are no implications for overview and scrutiny work programming.

Conclusion and next Steps

10. The Constitution has been updated and is published on the Council's website.

Appendices

The following appendix is attached:

Appendix A: Schedule of changes to the Constitution June 2015-February 2016

Background Papers

11. The following background papers, not previously available to the public, were taken into account and are available on the Council's website: None