

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM

COUNCIL MEETING

30 NOVEMBER 2016

ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION

MONITORING OFFICER: BRYN ROBERTS

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To seek Council's agreement to the revised Constitution.

BACKGROUND

2. Council may be aware that the Monitoring Officer is under a duty to review the Constitution annually.
3. Following a lengthy process, a revised draft Constitution was prepared and submitted to the Constitution and Members' Development Committee on 11 November 2016, for consideration.
4. By way of a general introduction to the changes, the previous version of the Constitution, which totalled almost 330 pages, has now been split into three separate but interconnected documents: the Constitution; the Financial and Contract Procedure Rules (Standing Orders); and the Scheme of Delegation. This is intended to make locating information easier for the majority of users, and will allow for easier navigation of the main constitutional document.
5. Other changes have included revisions to the Council Procedure Rules, the provisions of the Scheme of Delegation, the Members Code of Conduct and associated procedure, the Officers' Code of Conduct, and the protocol on Member / Officer Relations. Given that this has been a comprehensive review, it is impractical to list all changes made, and the supporting documents have therefore been placed on the Council's intranet for Members' consideration.
6. In relation to the above, one particular change to note is the removal of the requirement for officers to notify their line manager of their membership of the Freemasons. Reference to this change is explicitly drawn to Council's attention, as this change will overturn Council Minute 895, from the meeting of 12 October 1995.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

7. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

8. It is recommended that Council agrees to the revised Constitution, with effect from 1 December 2016.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

9. The Middlesbrough Borough Council Constitution December 2016; The Middlesbrough Borough Council Financial and Contract Procedure Rules (Standing Orders) December 2016; The Middlesbrough Borough Council Scheme of Delegation December 2016; A Beginner's Guide to the Constitution; and the Standards Process 2016.

AUTHOR

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