

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL	
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Report of:	Charlotte Benjamin, Monitoring Officer
Submitted to:	Full Council (Annual Meeting)
Date:	20 May 2026
Title:	Annual Review of Constitution
Report for:	Decision
Status:	Public
Council Plan priority:	Delivering Best Value

Proposed decision(s)
<p>That the Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NOTES the information in this report • APPROVES the non-Executive scheme of delegations as they appear in the Constitution

Executive summary
<p>The Council’s Constitution provides for the Monitoring Officer to report to each Annual Council meeting a review of the Constitution. The current Constitution has been in use since September 2025, after a significant review. Since implementation the Constitution has been and will continue to be subject to oversight and review by the Constitution and Member Development Committee. Full Council has received reports from that committee about amendments made to the Constitution during this municipal year. Members are asked to note this information and to endorse the ongoing work of the Constitution and Member Development Committee, supported by the Monitoring Officer and colleagues.</p> <p>Full Council is required by the Constitution to approve the non-Executive scheme of delegations (in Part B of the Constitution) at each Annual Meeting. The current schemes were implemented by the new Constitution in September 2025. Given their recent implementation, Annual Council is asked to approve the schemes as drafted in the Constitution.</p>

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The Constitution requires the Monitoring Officer to report to Full Council at the Annual Meeting with an annual review of the Constitution. This report fulfils that requirement and provides a summary of the work done in relation to the Constitution since its implementation in September 2025.
- 1.2 The Constitution further requires Full Council to approve the non-Executive scheme of delegations at the Annual Council meeting; Full Council is asked to approve the current schemes (at Part B of the Constitution) on the basis that they have been in place for less than a municipal year and do not require further revision.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Council
 - NOTES the information in this report
 - APPROVES the non-Executive scheme of delegations as they appear in the Constitution

3. Background and relevant information

- 3.1 The Council's Constitution was implemented to provide a clear and accessible framework for decision-making, governance, and accountability across the authority. Since its implementation, arrangements have been put in place to ensure that the Constitution remains current, effective, and aligned with legislative requirements and good governance practice.
- 3.2 The Constitution and Member Development Committee has met on a quarterly basis since the Constitution was implemented and has taken the lead role in overseeing the ongoing review of the Constitution. The Committee provides a forum for considering proposed amendments, identifying areas for clarification or improvement, and ensuring that the Constitution continues to support effective governance and member development.
- 3.3 The Monitoring Officer, supported by colleagues, works collaboratively with the Constitution and Member Development Committee to develop and maintain a work plan for constitutional review. This includes:
 - Bringing forward proposed changes as required
 - Responding to matters raised by the Committee
 - Reviewing feedback arising from the application of the Constitution in practice
 - Ensuring compliance with legislative or regulatory changes

Points and themes emerging from Committee discussions are picked up through the work plan and addressed in a timely and proportionate way.

- 3.4 The established review arrangements have enabled issues to be identified early and dealt with through incremental updates rather than requiring significant revision. This approach supports stability while allowing flexibility for continuous improvement.

4. Other potential alternative(s) and why these have not been recommended

- 4.1 The Constitution requires that the Monitoring Officer reports on the annual review of the Constitution. Not providing such a report would create a situation of non-compliance with the Constitution.
- 4.2 The Constitution requires that the non-Executive scheme of delegations is approved annually at the Annual Meeting of the council.

5. Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)

Topic	Impact
Financial (including Social Value)	Monitoring the effectiveness of the Constitution supports strong financial stewardship and helps to deliver social value.
Procurement	The Constitution supports efficient, effective and economic procurement activity. The recommended decision supports assurance of procurement activity by audit committee.
Legal	An effective Constitution underpins strong decision-making which supports efficient, effective and economic use of public funds to have a positive impact on the communities the council serves.
Risk	The Constitution creates a framework for good governance which reduces organisational risk.
Human Rights, Public Sector Equality Duty and Community Cohesion	An effective Constitution promotes adherence to the public sector equality duty and transparency in decision making on behalf of the communities the council serves.
Reducing poverty	Monitoring the effectiveness of the Constitution enables a positive impact on poverty reduction.
Climate Change / Environmental	Monitoring the effectiveness of the Constitution enables a positive impact on climate change reduction by creating a strong decision-making framework that is focussed on the council's priorities.
Children and Young People Cared for by the Authority and Care Leavers	Monitoring the effectiveness of the Constitution enables a positive impact on Middlesbrough's children by creating a strong decision-making framework that is focussed on the council's priorities.
Data Protection	An effective Constitution supports effective information management and data protection.

Appendices

1	Part B Constitution
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Background papers

Body	Report title	Date
Constitution and Member Development Committee	Constitution updates – quarterly report	11.12.25
Constitution and Member Development Committee	Constitution updates – Quarterly report	26.03.26
Constitution and Member Development Committee	Constitution	26.03.26

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