

<b>MEETING</b>	<b>AUDIT COMMITTEE</b>
<b>DATE</b>	<b>20, FEBRUARY, 2014</b>
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>REVIEWING THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION.</b>
<b>PURPOSE OF THE REPORT</b>	<b>REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE ON THE WORK OF THE WORKING GROUP.</b>
<b>AUTHOR</b>	<b>COUNCILLOR MICHAEL SOL OWEN, CHAIRMAN OF THE WORKING GROUP.</b>
<b>LIAISON OFFICER</b>	<b>DILYS PHILLIPS, MONITORING OFFICER.</b>

1. The Working Group was established to undertake the detailed work of reviewing the Council's Constitution and 7 members of the Committee were appointed, namely Councillors: Michael Sol Owen; Trefor Edwards; John Pughe Roberts; Gethin Glyn Williams; Dafydd Meurig; Dilwyn Morgan; Robert Wright.
2. The Working Group has met twice on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December and 16<sup>th</sup> January and two other meetings have been programmed, namely on the 20<sup>th</sup> February and 18<sup>th</sup> March.
3. The purpose of establishing a Working Group was to review the Council's Constitution with the intention of approving a new constitutional document to be submitted to full Council for adoption at its annual meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> May. The Constitution in its new form is standard to all Councils in Wales. It has been drafted by the organisation which represents Monitoring Officers in Wales with the support of the Welsh Local Government Association and Welsh Government. The standard Constitution was drawn up because the law in Wales, as it pertains to local authorities, differs substantially from the law in England due to the decisions of Welsh Government, as well as the fact that all councils in Wales by now operate the Leader and Cabinet model.
4. At its first meeting the Working Group adopted a methodology which meant that it looked closely at four parts of the Constitution at each meeting, consulting on any changes to them with the relevant stakeholders (e.g. Leader and Cabinet, Democratic Services Committee, Forum of Chairs of Scrutiny Committees, etc.)

5. Attached for the Committee's information is the timetable which shows the different parts of the Constitution which are receiving the Working Group's attention and the bodies which will be consulted.
6. Wherever possible the Working Group has kept to the Council's present governance arrangements and only a few significant changes will be recommended although the format of the Constitution is substantially different to the present one. Where there are significant changes to the present arrangements, there will be a need to inform members of these before the Council on the 1<sup>st</sup> May, and the Working Group will be considering the process for this at its next meeting.
7. As there isn't another meeting of the Committee before the full Council, and as can be seen, there is still quite a lot of work to be accomplished, the Committee is requested to authorise the Working Group to present its report directly to the Council for attention.

**RECOMMENDATION.**

8. The Committee is requested to :-
  - (a) accept the report and note the work of the Group;
  - (b) authorise the Working Group to present a report on the amended Constitution to the Council on the 1<sup>st</sup> May.

**APPENDIX**

<b>PART</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>CONSULTEE</b>	<b>DATE</b>
4	The Council	Democratic Services Committee	March 18
5	The Executive	Cabinet	January 16
6	The Leader	Cabinet	January 16
7	Scrutiny Committees	Forum of Chairs of Scrutiny Committee	January 16
9	Regulatory	Planning and Licencing Committees	March 18
12	Finance	Head of Finance	February 20
13	Delegated Decisions	Management Team Cabinet	February 20
14	Access to Information	Democratic Services Committee	March 18
15	Policy and Budget	Forum of Chairs of Scrutiny Committee	January 16
16	Financial Rules	Head of Finance	February 20
19	Planning Code of Practice	Planning Committee	March 18
21	Protocol Member-Officer	Standards Committee	February 20