

Extract from Joint Governance Committee - 27 March 2018

JGC/061/17-18 Amendments to the Constitution

Before the Committee was a report by the Monitoring Officer, copies of which had been circulated to all Members and copies are attached to the signed copy of these Minutes as Item 12.

The report updated the Joint Governance Committee with recent amendments made to the Councils' Constitutions by the Monitoring Officer, and asked Members to note those amendments.

The report also sought Members' approval, and recommendation to each Council, of revised terms of reference for the Joint Governance Committee and the revised Council Procedure Rules relating to Motions on Notice.

Members sought clarification regarding the proposed changes to the Terms of Reference of the Joint Governance Committee outlined in paragraph 3.1.1. of the report. In particular, the co-opting of Parish Councillors onto the Joint Governance Committee for the consideration of Parish matters such as determining allegations that a Member of a Parish Council, within the District of Adur, had failed to comply with the relevant Parish Council Code of Conduct.

The Monitoring Officer advised that it was a statutory provision that Adur District Council undertook Code of Conduct investigations on behalf of Parish Councils within the District and that such complaints would be heard by a Sub-Committee of the Joint Governance Committee. Co-opted Parish Councillors would have an advisory role rather than voting capacity and the proposed changes would reflect provisions elsewhere in the constitution, in particular, the Standards Procedure Rules.

A Member queried the proposed wording of 14.3.3 (as set out in Appendix A) regarding the maximum number of accepted motions to be presented at a Council meeting by the largest political groups. The Monitoring Officer acknowledged that some flexibility would be required if the Council had 4 main political groups and agreed to amend the wording to reflect this.

Resolved,

The Joint Governance Committee

- noted the Monitoring Officer's use of her delegated powers to make minor and consequential amendments to the Constitution;
- **recommended to each Council the adoption of the amended terms of reference for the Joint Governance Committee, with effect from 1st May 2018;**
- **recommended to each Council the adoption of the amended Council Procedure Rule 14, relating to Motions on Notice, with effect from 1st May 2018.**

<https://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/media/media.148400.en.pdf>