

## CABINET MEETING – 8 June 2023

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I

**Title of Report:**

Revisions to Constitution - Area Committees

**Author(s):**

Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities

**Purpose of Report:**

To present proposals to amend the terms of reference of the Council's Area Committees and to make the associated changes to the Constitution.

**Description of Decision:**

To recommend Council to:-

- (1) Approve the changes to the terms of reference of the Council's Area Committees together with the other ancillary changes as set out in the report, with immediate effect and
- (2) authorise the Assistant Director of Law and Governance to make the associated amendments to the Constitution as set out in Annex 2 to the report, together with such other amendments as may be required to ensure consistency between the updated provisions and the remainder of the Constitution

**Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework?** Yes

**If not, Council approval is required to change the Budget/Policy Framework**

**Suggested reason(s) for Decision:**

The proposed changes represent more clearly the role of Area Committees and particularly emphasise the key focus in terms of supporting residents and communities to maximise Community Resilience at an area level.

**Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected:**

To leave the Constitution unchanged

This option was considered and rejected as the current Constitution does not fully reflect the role of Area Committees.

**Impacts analysed:**

Equality ☒ Privacy ☒ Sustainability ☒ Crime and Disorder ☒

**Is the Decision consistent with the Council's co-operative values?** Yes

**Is it included in the 28 day Notice of Decisions?** No



**Revisions to Constitution - Area Committees**

**Report of the Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities**

**1.0 Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To present proposals to amend the terms of reference of the Council's Area Committees and to make the associated changes to the Constitution.

**2.0 Description of Decision (Recommendations)**

- 2.1 To recommend Council to:-

- (1) Approve the changes to the terms of reference of the Council's Area Committees together with the other ancillary changes as set out in the report, with immediate effect and
- (2) authorise the Assistant Director of Law and Governance to make the associated amendments to the Constitution as set out in Annex 2 to the report, together with such other amendments as may be required to ensure consistency between the updated provisions and the remainder of the Constitution

**3.0 Introduction/Background**

- 3.1 Following the recent review and consultation with Members regarding Area Committees and how they operated, it was agreed that some changes to the Constitution would be required to reflect the actual working arrangements more appropriately. Therefore, this report reflects the changes proposed to the Constitution Part 2 – Article 10 Area Committees.
- 3.2 The new arrangements will apply to all Area Committee operational delivery in the future and be applied as part of the Area Committees' review of their Area Priorities and in the development of Area Committees' Area Plans for 2023 – 2026.
- 3.3 The main reasons for the required changes are that the Constitution currently refers to Neighbourhood Investment Plans and as such the title does not clearly explain that they are the plans of the Area Committee to agree and deliver Area Committee priorities at an area level. The revised terms of reference now clearly articulate the role of the Area Committees in relation to supporting residents and communities to maximise community resilience, and how Area Committees achieve this through working collaboratively with services and partners to develop, deliver and effectively implement Area Committee priorities.

**4.0 Proposed Constitutional changes**

- 4.1 The proposed changes to the terms of reference of the Council's Area Committees include: -
- (1) renaming Neighbourhood Investment Plans as Area Committee Area Plans,
  - (2) replacing references to monitoring and reviewing the quality and effectiveness of Council Services and other main providers and instead referring to

collaborative working with services and partners (including the voluntary community sector, public and private sector) to influence delivery at a local level,

- (3) retaining the monitoring and review role in relation to projects and activities that are funded through Area Committee resources and increasing emphasis on Area Committees' influencing role in relation to services and activities meeting local area priorities as outlined in Area Committee Area Plans, together with the Area Committees' lead role in relation to the development, delivery and effective implementation of the Area Committee Area Plans.

## **5.0 Reasons for the Decision**

- 5.1 The proposed changes represent more clearly the role of Area Committees and particularly emphasise the key focus in terms of supporting residents and communities to maximise Community Resilience at an area level.

## **6.0 Alternative Options**

- 6.1 To leave the Constitution unchanged
- 6.2 This option was considered and rejected as the current Constitution does not fully reflect the role of Area Committees.

## **7.0 Other Relevant Considerations / Consultations**

- 7.1 The proposed amendments to the constitution have been consulted upon with Elected Members via Area Committee Workshops held in March and April 2023 and as part of the process for reviewing area priorities and developing Area Committee Area Plans for 2023 – 2026.
- 7.2 Specific points raised by members during the consultation were in relation to:-
  - (1) Area Committee continuing to have a monitoring and review role in relation to activities funded by Area Committee, which is reflected in the terms of reference.
  - (2) Area Plans being specifically referred to as Area Committee Area Plans.

## **8.0 Legal Implications**

- 8.1 The Assistant Director of Law and Governance has been consulted and her comments taken into account in preparing this report.

## **9.0 Financial Implications**

- 9.1 There are no direct additional financial implications arising from the proposal set out within the report. Financial provision for the delivery of the five Area Committee Area Plans is included within the relevant service revenue budget (Neighbourhood Funding) and additionally through other approved Council resources and external funding sources as appropriate.

## **10.0. List of Appendices**

Annex 1 – Constitution Part 2 – Article 10 Area Committees

Annex 2 – Proposed changes to Constitution Part 2 – Article 10 Area Committees

