

Somerset County Council
Constitution & Governance Committee
18 July 2022

Forward Work Plan

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Division and Local Member: All

1. Summary

- 1.1. This is a standing item for the Committee so that it can review and set its forward plan of work to support the delivery of the Council's priorities e.g the development of the new Somerset Council Constitution and its governance arrangements by February 2023.

2. Issues for consideration

- 2.1. Members are asked to review the LGR Implementation Programme and in particular the Governance Workstream in order to set its forward plan of work for 2022 and early 2023.

3. Background

- 3.1. The Committee's functions include its role in 'maintaining an effective, up to date and legally compliant Constitution' along with the 'developing the Constitution for the new Somerset Council'.

The County Council has maintained its Constitution for many years in line with legal requirements. This is reviewed annually at the Council's Annual General Meeting in May each year. The latest version of the Constitution and its supporting appendices is published on the Council's website at:

The development of the Constitution for the new Somerset Council needs to be completed by February 2023 so that it can be recommended for approval at the County Council meeting on 22 February 2023 ahead of vesting day on 1 April 2023.

The Committee has a key role in overseeing the development of the new Somerset Council's Constitution. That work should include reviewing the Constitution's of peer councils such as other former county councils that have undertaken local government reorganisation e.g. Buckinghamshire, Dorset, Wiltshire and Cornwall.

4. Consultations undertaken

- 4.1.** Members workshop held on 28 June to review potential areas of focus for the Committee with officers from Legal, Democratic Services and Local Government Reorganisation Programme Management Office.

5. Implications

- 5.1.** Any items requested not yet covered by the draft Forward Work Plan will require scheduling by officers, in conjunction with the Chair and Vice-Chair.

6. Background papers

- 6.1.** SCC Constitution

Note: For sight of individual background papers please contact the report author.