
CONSTITUTION AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

18 July 2022
(Published on 20 July 2022)

Item No.	Title
4	Constitution and Governance Terms of Reference
	<p>DECISION</p> <p>The Committee considered a report from the Council’s Monitoring Officer and Strategic Manager – Governance and Democratic Services, Scott Wooldridge which detailed the membership and terms of reference of the new Committee, agreed at the Council AGM on 25 May 2022.</p> <p>The Committee NOTED the Terms of Reference, as set out in Appendix 1 to the submitted report.</p>
5	Stage 2 Consultation regarding Taunton Community Governance Review
	<p>DECISION</p> <p>The Committee received a PowerPoint presentation concerning the consultation regarding the Taunton Community Governance Review.</p> <p>The Council’s Monitoring Officer, Scott Wooldridge introduced the item and invited Cllr Derek Perry, Deputy Leader Somerset West and Taunton Council and Chair of the working group to address the Committee. Marcus Prouse, Specialist Governance & Project Lead and Amy Tregellas, Governance Manager, Somerset West and Taunton Council (SWT) provided further context and information on the Somerset West and Taunton community governance review with the creation of a Town Council for Taunton from 1 April 2023 and in particular the Stage 2 consultation proposals (the consultation runs from 14 June to 26 July 2022).</p> <p>The Monitoring Officer also highlighted the timeline in the lead up to the Council meeting at SWT on 6 September 2022 and the special SCC meeting of Full Council in September / October 2022 and key dates beyond this.</p> <p>The Committee NOTED the update and the opportunities to contribute and participate in the consultation.</p>

Item No.	Title
6	Local Government Reorganisation Implementation Plan
	<p>DECISION</p> <p>The Committee considered a report from the Council’s Programme Manager, LGR, Alastair Higton, which outlined proposals for developing the proposed LGR work plan for the Committee. The core / key piece of work for the Committee is the new Constitution which must be agreed at the February 2023 meeting of SCC Full Council.</p> <p>The Committee said that Local Community Networks (LCNs) needed to be included in the work plan and Planning and Licensing functions needed to be a key focus.</p> <p>The Committee:</p> <p>(a) Noted the LGR Implementation Plan.</p> <p>(b) Approved the following items, listed in section 1.3 of the report to the Committee’s forward plan and with the addition of LCN’s: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civic arrangements • Governance framework • Democratic arrangements – including how planning and licensing functions will be delivered • Constitution • Scheme of delegation • Contract Standing Orders • Financial Regulations • Taunton Town Council Community Governance Order <p>(c) That an informal workshop for the Committee be arranged at the earliest opportunity (date to be agreed) to look at the Constitution and other matters and the forward work plan.</p> <p>(d) That in preparation for the workshop, the Monitoring Officer share the link to the current SCC Constitution and other Councils which have been through LGR process (Dorset, Wiltshire, Buckinghamshire and Cornwall).</p>
7	Work Programme
	<p>DECISION</p> <p>The Committee considered a report from the Council’s Monitoring Officer and Strategic Manager – Governance and Democratic Services, Scott Wooldridge. This invited the Committee to review the LGR Implementation Programme and in particular the Governance workstream, to set its forward plan of work for 2022</p>

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	<p>and early 2023.</p> <p>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 ahead of vesting day on 1 April 2023. The Monitoring Officer reminded the Committee of the work of the other bodies / the Executive / Committees and that this Committee’s main responsibilities relate to reviewing and updating the Council’s Constitution and its governance framework.</p> <p>The Committee discussed the items to be considered at the September 2022 meeting and referred to the discussions on the previous agenda item regarding the items on the forward work plan for the Committee.</p>
8	Constitution and Governance Committee meeting dates
	<p>DECISION</p> <p>The Committee considered a report from the Council’s Monitoring Officer and Strategic Manager – Governance and Democratic Services, Scott Wooldridge, concerning the proposed meeting dates for the Committee.</p> <p>The Committee noted the dates are flexible and that additional meetings and workshops may be scheduled as required and AGREED the proposed meeting dates, as set out in the report as follows:</p> <p>Monday 12 September 2022 Monday 17 October 2022 Monday 5 December 2022 Monday 30 January 2023</p> <p>The meetings will commence at 2pm and will be held in the Luttrell Room at County Hall, Taunton.</p>