



Report of:	Meeting	Date
Councillor Michael Vincent, Prospective Leader of the Council and Rebecca Huddleston, Chief Executive	Council	18 May 2023

Constitution Amendments

1. Purpose of report

1.1 To enable changes to be made to the Council's Constitution.

2. Outcomes

2.1 More up to date and effective governance arrangements.

3. Recommendations

3.1 That the proposed terms of reference for a combined Audit and Standards Committee as set out at Appendix 1 be approved.

4. Background

4.1 The Local Government Act 2000 requires all local councils to have a written Constitution. Most still very closely follow a national model drawn up when the 2000 Act was implemented. The Council's Constitution outline's Wyre's organisational structure and decision-making process. It also contains the procedures that make sure Wyre Council is efficient, transparent and accountable to local people. Reports are submitted by the Chief Executive on a regular basis to enable the Council to approve changes to the Constitution to take account of new legislation, changes to functions, structures, roles, responsibilities or procedures.

5. Key issues and proposals

5.1 Article 7 – Audit and Standards Committee

Many local authorities merge these two Committees and in the interests of good governance and by making better use of council resources, particularly officer and member time, it is proposed that we adopt the same approach. The Monitoring Officer supports this proposal.

The committee is an essential component of the Council's corporate governance arrangements and oversees, evaluates and provides advice to the Council on the suitability and efficacy of the Council's risk management, control and corporate governance arrangements. By approving the Statement of Accounts, it also oversees and supports the statutory financial reporting requirements.

Additionally, the Committee seeks to uphold the Members' Code of Conduct, monitoring complaints that a Member may have broken the Code and encouraging high standards of conduct by Councillors and co-opted members.

The full terms of reference are set out at Appendix 1.

Financial and legal implications	
Finance	There are no direct financial impact arising from this report.
Legal	The Council is required to have an up to date Constitution, including Rules of Procedure and Scheme of Delegation to ensure that all decisions are taken lawfully.

Other risks/implications: checklist

If there are significant implications arising from this report on any issues marked with a ✓ below, the report author will have consulted with the appropriate specialist officers on those implications and addressed them in the body of the report. There are no significant implications arising directly from this report, for those issues marked with a x.

risks/implications	✓ / x
community safety	x
equality and diversity	x
sustainability	x
health and safety	x

risks/implications	✓ / x
asset management	x
climate change	x
ICT	x
data protection	x

Processing Personal Data

In addition to considering data protection along with the other risks/ implications, the report author will need to decide if a 'privacy impact assessment (PIA)' is also required. If the decision(s) recommended in this report will result in the collection and processing of personal data for the first time (i.e. purchase of a new system, a new working arrangement with a third party) a PIA will need to have been completed and signed off by Data Protection Officer before the decision is taken in compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018.

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List of background papers:		
name of document	date	where available for inspection
None		

List of appendices

Appendix 1 – Article 7 – Audit and Standards Committee