

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA BOROUGH COUNCIL

Meeting of General Purposes Committee

Date: Wednesday, 14th July, 2021

Place: Council Chamber - Civic Suite

Present: Councillor T Harp (Chair)
Councillors S George (Vice-Chair), D Jarvis, M Kelly, D McGlone,
A Moring, J Moyies and *D Cowan

*Substitute in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 31.

In Attendance: J Williams, S Brown and R Harris

Start/End Time: 6.30 pm - 7.15 pm

137 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Robinson (substitute: Cllr Cowan) and Thompson (substitute: Cllr Wexham who also sent apologies).

138 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this meeting.

139 Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 20 November 2020

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 20 November 2020, be confirmed as a correct record and signed.

140 Review of the Council's Constitution

The Committee considered a report of the Chief Executive proposing that a review of the Council's Constitution takes place to help improve the effectiveness of the Council's decision-making processes.

The Committee welcomed the review and the involvement of the Local Government Association (LGA) to support the review.

Resolved:

1. That the report, including the review undertaken by Bevan Brittan set out at Appendix 1, be noted.

2. That a review of the Constitution is required and that changes made need to stand the test of time. It is essential that all Councillors are given the opportunity to contribute to the review. The review should not be rushed, although the aim should be to complete the task during the current municipal year.

3. That the LGA be engaged to provide briefings and deliberation sessions with all Councillors within their group setting and separately with the non-aligned independent Councillors. The LGA will collate and feedback Councillor's contributions which will then be considered by this Committee to help it formulate recommendations to Council on the review of the Constitution.

4. That it be noted that the review of the Constitution is one element of improving the Council's culture, including enhancing the support provided to Councillors; enhancing officer/councillor relations and enhancing the political awareness and practice of officers.

5. That the revisions to the officer delegation scheme in Part 3, Schedule 3 of the Constitution be undertaken immediately to reflect the Council's latest senior management structures.

Chair: _____