

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA CITY COUNCIL

Meeting of General Purposes Committee

Date: Thursday, 13th June, 2024

Place: Committee Room 1 - Civic Suite

Present: Councillor M O'Connor (Chair)
Councillors K Robinson (Vice-Chair), M Faulkner-Hatt, P Kinsella,
R McMullan and N Ward

In Attendance: Councillors D Cowan & I Gilbert (Cabinet Members)
C Shuter, J Chesterton, S Zeiss, C Gamble and T Row

Start/End Time: 5.00 pm - 5.15 pm

1 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

2 Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared at the meeting.

3 Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 6 February 2024

Resolved:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 6th February 2024, be confirmed as a correct record and signed.

4 Report of Monitoring Officer on Proposed Immediate Changes to Southend-on-Sea City Council Constitution - attached

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director (Strategy & Change) regarding an immediate change to the Council's Constitution relating to the appointment of Chairs and Vice Chairs of Overview and Scrutiny Committees and to make such recommendations to Council for decision.

Resolved:-

That Council be recommended to approve the following:

1. An amendment to the second sentence in Part 3 Schedule 2 paragraph 5.1(a) of the Constitution to read as follows: "The Chairs and Vice-Chairs shall be drawn from members of the committee", as set out in paragraph 3.3.1 of the submitted report.

2. An amendment to Part 4(e) Overview & Scrutiny Procedure Rules Rule 5. "Who chairs the Scrutiny Committee?" to read as follows: "Chairs and vice chairs of the

scrutiny committees will be drawn from among the Councillors sitting on the committee”, as set out in paragraph 3.3.2 of the report.

3. Authority is delegated to the Monitoring Office to make the agreed amendments and to amend any other associated provision in the Constitution to reflect the decision of Council (if made) and to publish a revised version of the Constitution on the Council’s website.

5 Report of Monitoring Officer Requesting a Review of the Constitution - attached

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director (Strategy & Change) that sought approval to commission a complete review of the Council’s Constitution and the proposed scope of that review. The report also recommended that cross-party Member engagement with the progress of the review should be by the Council’s Standards Committee and that the delegation of functions to Standards Committee be amended to include the receipt of reports from the Monitoring Officer on any amendments and alterations to the Constitution. The Standards Committee will then make recommendations for the adoption of a new Constitution, in whole or in part, to Council.

Resolved:-

That Council be recommended:

1. That authority be delegated to the Monitoring Officer to commence a review of the whole of the Council’s Constitution and to report on all proposed changes to the Standards Committee for recommendation to Council in a future report or series of reports.

2. That those future amendments and alterations to the Constitution first be considered at the Standards Committee through a report or reports from the Monitoring Officer and that the Standards Committee makes recommendations on the suggested amendments and alterations to Council for decision and eventual adoption of a new Constitution.

3. That the Monitoring Officer be authorised, in consultation with the Leader, to make all necessary amendments to the Responsibility for Functions (Part 3 Schedule 2 paragraph 7), Terms of Reference for Standards Committee and other relevant parts of the constitution to reflect the Council’s decision (if made) in Recommendation 2 above.

Chair: _____