

**REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION STEERING GROUP
13 April 2018**

PRESENT: Councillor David Kelsey in the Chair; Councillors Norman Decent and Chris Wakefield.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor John Beesley, Leader of the Council, Chair of the Cabinet and Cabinet Member for Resources; Councillor Anne Filer, Cabinet Member for Corporate Efficiency and Councillors Simon Bull and Kieron Wilson.

OFFICERS:

Karen Tompkins, Head of Democratic Services

The meeting commenced at 12 noon

Note: To see a copy of the public reports that was considered by the Group at this meeting please visit:

<https://www.bournemouth.gov.uk/councildemocratic/CouncilMeetings/CommitteeMeetings/ReviewoftheConstitutionSteeringGroup/2018/04/13/reviewoftheconstitutionsteeringgroup13-apr-2018.aspx>

SECTION I - BUSINESS RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

1. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION STEERING GROUP - STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Steering Group considered a report on proposed amendments to the Constitution relating to the membership of the Standards Committee. The Group was reminded of the current vacancy and the requirements of the Constitution in determining the membership.

The Head of Democratic Services reported on the membership of the Committee, voting arrangements and the quorum.

Councillor Beesley, Leader of the Council reported on a proposal to address the issue. He explained the need to ensure that an appropriate number of Councillors served on the Committee and that it was able to fulfil its functions. He indicated that an increase in the number of Councillors from 3 to 4 whilst retaining the proportionality would enable the Committee to operate. The Chairman reported that he had spoken to a minority Member suggesting the above as a way forward and moved the proposal suggesting that a seat may be offered to an opposition member.

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A Member of the Council suggested that the provisions in the Constitution relating to the membership of the Committee should include reference to an opposition Member. The Leader commented on the backlog of business for the Standards Committee indicating an increase in Councillor representation would provide additional members who would be eligible to serve on the Committee. He reported that although it may not always be an opposition member an increase from 3-4 Councillors would provide flexibility.

Members discussed the options available, the proposed amendments and the suggestion from a minority member to include an opposition member. The Head of Democratic Services reported how the political balance of the Council was calculated. The Leader of the Council explained that seats had previously been gifted by the Conservative Group to minority Members,

DECISION MADE:**Recommended to Council:**

1. That the Constitution be amended as follows
 - i 3 4 Councillors drawn proportionately from the Political Groups represented on the Council ~~but no Political group may provide more than 2 Members.~~ The Leader or Mayor cannot be appointed to this Committee. No more than one Cabinet member can be appointed to this Committee.
2. That subject to the above the Monitoring Officer be authorised to make all the necessary amendments to the Constitution.

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SECTION II - BUSINESS DECIDED UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

2. APOLOGIES

The Head of Democratic Services reported that apologies had been received from Councillors Andrew Morgan, Susan Philips and Lynda Price.

3. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

The Head of Democratic Services reported that notification had been received, in accordance with Procedure Rule 89, of the following substitute members for this meeting only:

- Councillor Chris Wakefield replacing Councillor Susan Philips
- Councillor Norman Decent replacing Councillor Lynda Price

4. ELECTION OF CHAIR

DECISION MADE:

That Councillor Andrew Morgan be appointed Chair of the Steering Group for the remainder of the municipal year.

5. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

DECISION MADE:

That Councillor David Kelsey be appointed Vice-Chair of the Steering Group for the remainder of the municipal year.

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

7. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

DECISION MADE:

That the minutes of the Steering Group held on 16 October 2017 were confirmed as a true and accurate record.

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8. PUBLIC ITEMS

There were no public items.

The meeting closed at 12.40 pm

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