



## **Committee System Working Group**

### **Purpose**

- 1.1 The Committee System Working Group is continuing its discussions around our governance arrangements with a view to bringing forward a report to Council. In the meantime, some procedural matters have arisen in the working group meetings which can be resolved at this stage.

### **Recommendations**

- 2.1 To amend Article 15 of the Council's Constitution to remove the requirement that a "binding referendum" takes place as a prerequisite to any change in governance arrangements.
- 2.2 To agree that Councillor Marshall, as an independent councillor, will formally join the Committee System Working Group in addition to the representatives of the council's four political group representatives.

### **Reasons**

- 3.1 The recommendation to remove the requirement for a constitutional referendum reflects a change in legislation since the Articles of the Constitution were drafted. The anomaly between the Council Constitution and current legislative requirements was identified as part of the working group's considerations. It is considered that, irrespective of what proposals the group may bring forward in due course, it would be appropriate to tidy up this part of the Council Constitution, noting that consultation requirements will remain.
- 3.2 The nomination of Councillor Marshall has been specifically requested by the group.

### **Supporting information**

- 4.1 The Committee System Working Group was established by Council in May 2018 and comprises one member of each political group. Councillor Marshall was initially involved as the Conservative representative but has remained involved as an observer since becoming an independent councillor. The other members are Councillors Care, Eldret, Graves and Wood.

**Public/stakeholder engagement**

5.1 Not applicable

**Other options**

6.1 To not amend the Council Constitution and to not appoint Councillor Marshall. The recommendations reflect the view that the change and the appointment are appropriate.

**Financial and value for money issues**

7.1 Not applicable.

**Legal implications**

8.1 The proposed change to the Articles of the Constitution reflects that the referendum prior to changing our governance system is no longer required by law. It is within Council's powers to change its local arrangements to reflect the law.

**Other significant implications**

9.1 None.