

EXTRACT FROM REPORT THAT WAS PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL ON THE 22ND MAY, 2013

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

NEW MODEL WELSH CONSTITUTION

- 1 The national law firm Bond Dickenson have been commissioned by the Association of Council Secretaries and Solicitors (Wales Branch) to produce a new 'Model Constitution' for local authorities in Wales.
- 2 This presents an opportunity to improve the 'articles' format of the 2001 Wales Model Constitution (upon which the Council's current Constitution is based) and move towards a more simplified and 'user friendly' modular version.
- 3 It will not be a 'one size fits all' model but instead be a framework within which an authority can incorporate its existing arrangements.
- 4 I will report back to Members at a later meeting as to the progress and estimated completion of the new model and the process for its adoption by this Council however should Members agree to establishing a Corporate Governance and Constitution Committee as discussed below it is envisaged this committee would be best placed to oversee the implementation of the new Model Constitution.
- 5 The Committee will oversee the transfer of the Constitution into the new user-friendly format. There will be no change in content but better clarity of presentation.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

1. The Local Government Act 2000 requires the Council to keep its Constitution under review and up to date. In order to facilitate this it is recommended that Council establish a Corporate Governance and Constitution Committee consisting of seven (7) Members which would be a body to which the political balance requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 applies.
2. The following terms of reference are suggested: -

To review the Council's Constitution, and to recommend to Council and/or the Cabinet any changes in respect of:-
 - (a) drafting improvements to enhance clarity and remove minor anomalies;
 - (b) updating to reflect legislative changes and matters of record; and

- (c) amendments to the Budget and Policy Framework, Financial and Contracts Procedure Rules (subject to the advice of the Section 151 Officer being sought); and
 - (d) overseeing the implementation of the new Welsh 'Model Constitution' in respect of (i) incorporating the Council's existing constitutional framework into the new model and (ii) suggesting amendments and recommending changes to the existing framework in place for consideration by Council which can be included in the new model.
3. Currently the Member/Officer Cross-Party Working Group's terms of reference include reviewing the Council's Constitution as well as Members' training and development. As Members' training and development forms part of the terms of reference of the Democratic Services Committee and should Members agree to establishing a Corporate Governance and Constitution Committee it is proposed that in future the working group will meet on an ad-hoc basis as required.