

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to Audit and Governance Committee

Date **10 March 2014**

Report of: **Monitoring Officer**

Subject: **FUNCTIONS OF THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

SUMMARY

This report confirms updates to the Part Two of the Constitution – Functions of the Audit and Governance Committee, following changes agreed by Council at its meeting on 12 December 2013.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Audit and Governance Committee:

- (a) notes the updates to its functions, as specified in Part Two of the Council's Constitution – Functions of the Audit and Governance Committee relating to the Standing Orders with Respect to Meetings, as attached at Appendix A to the report; and
- (b) recommends to Council the updates to the Functions of the Audit and Governance Committee that relate to the review of Financial Regulations, as highlighted in Appendix A to the report.

INTRODUCTION

1. The Head of Democratic Services undertook a review of the Council's Standing Orders with Respect to Meetings and following consultation with the Scrutiny Board, the Executive and the Audit and Governance Committee, presented the recommended updates to the meeting of the Council on 12 December 2013.

BACKGROUND

2. The views of the Executive were sought at its meeting on 2 December 2013 regarding a change to Standing Order 62 – Variations and Revocations of Standing Orders. Officers considered that it would be more appropriate and less bureaucratic for future amendments of the Standing Orders with Respect to Meetings to become part of the function and Terms of Reference of the Audit and Governance Committee. This would help to clarify and support changes to the Constitution which require Parts One to Three to be considered by the Executive, in consultation with the Scrutiny Board. Parts Four to Eight would then be under the function of the Audit & Governance Committee.
3. The Executive agreed to the change and the wording of Standing Order 62.1 was amended to reflect this.

PROPOSAL

4. To take account of the decision of the Executive and of the Council on 12 December 2013, the Audit and Governance Committee is asked to note the amendments to Part Two of the Constitution – Functions of the Audit and Governance Committee, which is attached at Appendix A.
5. To reflect changes to be considered by the Audit and Governance Committee regarding the Review of Financial Regulations (item 11 on the agenda for the meeting of 10 March 2014), the Audit and Governance Committee is asked to recommend updates to its functions to the Council.
6. Additional and amended wording is highlighted in bold text and underlined (for ease of reference) in Appendix A.

RISK ASSESSMENT

7. There is a risk to the Council that not having a Constitution and specifically, the Functions of the Audit and Governance which are robust and up to date could damage its reputation for good governance and undermine public confidence in the Council as a whole.

CONCLUSION

8. That the updates to Part Two of the Council's Constitution - Functions of Audit and Governance Committee be noted and that Council be recommended to approve the additions that relate to the review of Financial Regulations, as highlighted in Appendix A to the report.

Reference Papers: Fareham Borough Council Constitution.
Report to Council (cl-131212-r03-lus) 12 December 2013

Enquiries: For further information on this report please contact Leigh Usher. (Ext 4553)