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Constitution Working Party

Held at Meeting Room 1 - Ryedale House, Malton, North Yorkshire YO17 7HH
on Wednesday 12 February 2020

Present

Councillors Clark, Arnold, Burr MBE, Cleary, Duncan (Chairman) and Di Keal

In Attendance

Ellen Walker and Simon Copley

Councillor Raper

Minutes

16 **Apologies for absence**

No apologies for absence were received.

17 **Minutes of the Meeting of the Constitution Working Party on 22 July 2019**

The minutes of the meeting of the Constitution Working Party held on 22 July 2019 were presented.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Constitution Working Party held on 22 July 2019 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

18 **Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business which the Chairman considered should be dealt with as a matter of urgency by virtue of Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

19 **Declarations of Interest**

No interests were declared.

20 **Motion on Council Governance Arrangements**

The Democratic Services Manager presented a report (previously circulated) in respect of the Motion on Council Governance Arrangements submitted to the Full Council meeting on 5 December 2019.

Members discussed each section of the motion in turn and made revisions to the original wording.

It was confirmed that there are no proposals to move to executive arrangements.

It was considered that the section on Committees should be given more consideration and that this would be taken out and reviewed separately in future.

Members stated that time was required to consult others within their groups on the proposed amendments. A further meeting of the Constitution Working Party will therefore be convened to consider the amended version of the motion, attached as Appendix 1 of the minutes.

21 **Any other business that the Chairman decides is urgent.**

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9:00pm.

APPENDIX 1

Following discussion and suggested revision by the Constitution Working Party of the motion proposed by Councillor Duncan and seconded by Councillor Arnold, the proposed motion now reads:

“This council tasks the Head of Paid Service to update and amend the constitution to reflect the following:

Leader

- *The Annual Council Meeting will elect a Councillor to be the Leader of the Council for the Municipal Year*
- *The Annual Council Meeting will also appoint the Leader to be a member of the Policy & Resources Committee and to act as its Chairman*
- *The Leader shall:*
 - *be the Chairman of the Policy & Resources Committee;*
 - *provide overall political leadership and strategic vision to the council;*
 - *work to ensure member priorities are delivered;*
 - *promote cross-party collaboration, collective decision-making and the flow of information between members;*
 - *act externally as the council’s main political representative;*
 - *be the council’s main public spokesperson;*
 - *and be answerable to council for performance*

Deputy Leader

- *The Annual Council Meeting will elect a Councillor to be the Deputy Leader of the Council for the Municipal Year*
- *The Annual Council Meeting will also appoint the Deputy Leader to be a member of the Policy & Resources Committee and to act as its Vice Chairman*
- *The Deputy Leader shall:*
 - *be Vice Chairman of the Policy & Resources Committee;*
 - *work closely with, and support the Leader, to provide overall political leadership and strategic vision to the council;*
 - *work closely with, and support the Leader, to ensure member priorities are delivered;*
 - *promote cross-party collaboration, collective decision-making and the flow of information between members;*
 - *deputise for the Leader when required to do so;*
 - *and be answerable to council for performance*

Lead Members

- *The Annual Council Meeting will elect Lead Members, each with a Lead Portfolio relating to key priorities within the Council Plan, for the Municipal Year;*
- *The Annual Council Meeting will appoint the Lead Members to be members of the Policy & Resources Committee, ensuring that political proportionality is adhered to;*
- *Lead Members shall:*
 - *be members of the Policy and Resources Committee;*
 - *provide political leadership and strategic vision to their portfolio area;*

- *work to ensure member priorities, relevant to their portfolio area, are delivered;*
- *promote cross-party collaboration, collective decision-making and the flow of information between members;*
- *act as a public spokesperson for their portfolio area;*
- *and be answerable to council for performance*

Accountability

- *The Leader and Lead Members will present a written report to each Full Council and take questions on that statement*
- *Members can ask a question on notice to the Chairman, Leader, Lead Members and Committee Chairmen at each Full Council*
- *Any council appointee can be removed from their role by a motion of no confidence, proposed and seconded in accordance with the council's procedure rules, and passed by a majority of the council. The vacancy will be filled at the next meeting of council*

Note: *The council operates under non-executive arrangements, with no individual member wielding decision-making powers*

The changes should come into effect as of the Annual Meeting of Council 2020, when council will elect in the following order:

- *Chairman of the Council*
- *Vice Chairman of the Council*
- *Leader of the Council*
- *Deputy Leader of the Council*
- *Lead Members*
- *Committee Chairmen*

and then allocate members to committees in accordance with political proportionality."