

County Council – 21 July 2016

Recommendation from the Audit and Governance Committee meeting held on 8 June 2016

Constitutional Changes

- 11 The Committee considered a report by the Monitoring Officer proposing changes to the Council's Petition Scheme.

The Monitoring Officer explained that changes to the Constitution would be part of the remit of the Committee in future as part of its governance role. The change to the Petition Scheme related to petitions containing between 50-999 signatures and it was suggested that these were considered by a Panel so that each petition could be heard in a shorter timescale than the current scheme. The Panel membership would include the relevant Cabinet Member, the Local Member and 3 other members, not politically proportioned.

The Chairman requested that the 3 other members were made up of Councillors from other groups wherever possible to avoid the Panel being dominated by one political group and it was confirmed that officers would strive to achieve this, bearing in mind the availability of members in forming a Panel.

It was further suggested that the list of actions under the section "How will the Council respond to petitions" should not be exhaustive and include other methods of response when necessary.

RECOMMENDED

That the Petitions Scheme be updated as outlined in Appendix 1, and replaced in the Constitution by the County Council.

Reason for Recommendation

To contribute to the corporate aim to 'provide innovative and value for money services'.