

County Council – 15 February 2018

Recommendation from the Audit and Governance Committee meeting held on 19 January 2018

Constitutional Changes

- 15 The Committee considered a report by the Monitoring Officer suggesting 3 changes in relation to the Petition Scheme, Regulatory Committee membership and Pension Fund Committee membership.

The changes to the Petition Scheme were in line with that used by neighbouring county councils and retained the opportunity for the public to submit a petition from a threshold of 50 signatures.

Members discussed the size of the petition panel and it was suggested that a minimum of 3 panel members would be practical if the local member did not wish to attend and in terms of allowing a 2:1 vote on some decisions.

A membership of 10 councillors and 1 trained substitute for each political party on the Regulatory Committee, was supported. Nominations would be sought from Group Leaders in due course.

RECOMMENDED

That County Council approves the following constitutional changes as amended by the Audit and Governance Committee:-

1. County Council's Petition Scheme (including Petition Panels comprising a minimum of 3 members - the local member(s) should be given first choice and the relevant cabinet member should be expected to be involved).
2. Regulatory Committee Membership – 10 members (in accordance with political proportionality) plus one substitute for each political party; and
3. Pension Fund Committee Membership to include a maximum of 2 Cabinet members.

Reason for Recommendation

To contribute to the County Council's Corporate Plan "Working Together for a Strong and Successful Dorset".