

Subject:	Annual Review of the Constitution		Status:	For Publication	
Report to:	Annual Council		Date:	22 nd May 2015	
Report of:	Monitoring Officer		Portfolio Holder:	Customers, Legal and Licensing	
Key Decision:	No - reserved for Council	Forward Plan <input type="checkbox"/>	General Exception <input type="checkbox"/>	Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>	
Equality Impact Assessment:		Required:	No	Attached:	No
Biodiversity Impact Assessment		Required:	No	Attached:	No
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1.	RECOMMENDATION(S)
1.1	That the Council adopts the Constitution for the 2015/16 Municipal Year.
1.2	That future minor amendments to the Constitution be delegated to the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 To agree the Constitution for the 2015/16 Municipal Year.
- 2.2 The purpose of the Constitution is to:
- Enable the Council to provide clear leadership to the community in partnership with citizens, businesses and other organisations.
 - Support the active involvement of citizens in the process of local authority decision-making.
 - Help councillors represent their constituents more effectively.
 - Enable decisions to be taken efficiently, effectively and transparently, with due regard to probity and equity.
 - Create a powerful and effective means of holding decision makers to public account.
 - To ensure that no one will review or scrutinise a decision in which they were directly involved.
 - Ensure that those responsible for decision-making are clearly identifiable to local people and that they explain the reasons for decisions.
 - Provide a means of improving the delivery of services to the community.

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 3.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following of the Council's corporate priorities:
- Responsive Value for Money Services: This priority is about the Council working collaboratively, being a provider, procurer and a commissioner of services that are efficient and that meet the needs of local people.

4. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 All the issues raised and the recommendation in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:
- Failure to maintain and follow an up-to-date Constitution risks legal proceedings being taken against the Council, and risks members of the community being dissatisfied with the action of the Council.

5. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

- 5.1 The Council agreed amendments to the Constitution in March 2015. Minor amendments under delegated authority were also made at this time relating to incorrect post titles, incorrect contact details or incorrect information. There are no further changes to report other than the changes identified in the previous report (item B9).
- 5.2 A link to the amended version of the Constitution was circulated to all councillors and managers on 28th April, a copy of which can be found at the following link:
www.rossendale.gov.uk/constitution

COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:

6. SECTION 151 OFFICER

- 6.1 Any financial implications arising will be contained within existing budgets.

7. MONITORING OFFICER

- 7.1 All legal implications are commented upon in the body of the report.

8. POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

- 8.1 There are no Human Resource implications arising from the report.
- 8.2 Consultation with statutory officers, legal officers, Committee and Member Services and elected members.

9. CONCLUSION

- 9.1 The Council is required by law to implement a Constitution and agree the contents on an annual basis.

Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
The Constitution of the Council	www.rossendale.gov.uk/constitution