

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

COUNCIL

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To propose changes to the Constitution in relation to the council's current working arrangements.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Local Government Act 2000 requires the council to adopt a Constitution. The Constitution is a "living document" which requires frequent amendment to keep up with changes made by the council to its management structure and procedures.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 The Constitution has been amended on a number of occasions since it was first adopted.
- 3.2 It is now necessary to consider changing the Constitution as regards the council appointing a designated "Scrutiny Officer".
- 3.3 Section 31 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act, 2009 introduces a new Section 212A to the Local Government Act, 2000. Every County Council and single tier authority must appoint a designated "Scrutiny Officer" to -
- promote the role of overview and scrutiny committees
 - provide support for overview and scrutiny committees and,
 - provide support and guidance to members and officers in relation to overview and scrutiny committees

The officer concerned may not be the Monitoring Officer, Chief Finance Officer or Head of Paid Service.

- 3.4 The council's scrutiny function has been an integral part of Democratic Services since it was introduced by the Local Government Act 2000 in 2001. The activities set out above have been carried out by Democratic Services since that time and it would appear sensible therefore to confirm that arrangement by designating the Head of Democratic Services as the council's "Scrutiny Officer".

4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

4.1 There are no staffing, financial, property or IT implications associated with this report.

5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17 - CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)

5.1 Changes to the council's Constitution must be approved by the council in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000.

6. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION

6.1 The proposed changes to the Constitution are as a result of the details referred to above.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 That the Head of Democratic Services be designated as the council's Scrutiny Officer for the purposes of Section 31 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

SERVICE DIRECTOR LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC

Pittwood House
Ashby Road
SCUNTHORPE
North Lincolnshire
DN16 1AB
Author: Mike Wood
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Background papers used in the preparation of this report - The Council's Constitution.