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**Decision Maker:**        **GENERAL PURPOSES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE**

**Date:**                    **Wednesday 6 July 2022**

**Decision Type:**        Non-Urgent                    Non-Executive                    Non-Key

**Title:**                    **CONSTITUTION WORKING GROUP**

**Contact Officer:**        Graham Walton, Democratic Services Manager  
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**Chief Officer:**            Tasnim Shawkat, Director of Corporate Services and Governance

**Ward:**                    All

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1.    Reason for decision/report and options

- 1.1    At its last meeting, the Committee agreed to set up a working group to review the Council's Constitution. This report provides further detail and suggested terms of reference.

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2.    **RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Committee agrees terms of reference for a Constitution Working Group (see paragraph 3.5 below) and appoints Members to serve on the Working Group.**

## Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact: Not Applicable
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## Transformation Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy:
  2. Making Bromley Even Better Priority (delete as appropriate):  
(5) To manage our resources well, providing value for money, and efficient and effective services for Bromley's residents.
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## Financial

1. Cost of proposal: No Cost Further Details
  2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable:
  3. Budget head/performance centre: Democratic Services
  4. Total current budget for this head: £376,460
  5. Source of funding: Revenue Budget
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## Personnel

1. Number of staff (current and additional): 6
  2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: Not Applicable
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## Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory Requirement:
  2. Call-in: Not Applicable: Non-executive matters are not subject to call-in
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## Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications: Not Applicable
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## Property

1. Summary of Property Implications: Not Applicable
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## Carbon Reduction and Social Value

1. Summary of Carbon Reduction/Sustainability Implications: Not Applicable
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## Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users or customers (current and projected): Not Applicable
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## Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? No
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: Not Applicable

### 3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 Under the Local Government Act 2000, the Council agreed a Constitution which came into effect in May 2002 when executive arrangements started. The Constitution has been amended many times since then, notably following recommendations from the former Constitution Improvement Working Group, which last met early in 2019.
- 3.2 The Constitution consists of the following parts –
- Part 1 – Summary and Explanation
  - Part 2 – 16 Articles
  - Part 3 – Responsibility for Functions
  - Part 4 – Rules of Procedure and Financial Regulations
  - Appendices - (11 Appendices)
- 3.3 At its meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022 the Committee agreed to set up a new working group to review the Council's Constitution and related matters. In particular, the overall structure and approach of the Constitution should be reviewed as a priority, but there are also other issues which the working group should consider, such as formal question time at meetings, and the Council's Petition Scheme, which has not been reviewed since 2012.
- 3.4 The composition of the working group is not required to be proportional, but there is a balance to be found between having a small, flexible group and encouraging representation from across different parts of the Council.
- 3.5 It is proposed that the Working Group operates under simple terms of reference as follows –
- (1) To consider the overall structure of the Constitution.
  - (2) To identify aspects of the Constitution that can be simplified and improved.
  - (3) To make recommendations to General Purposes and Licensing Committee for consideration by full Council.

<b>Non-Applicable Headings:</b>	Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children/Policy/Legal/Personnel/Financial/Procurement/Carbon Reduction/Customer Impact/Ward Councillor Views
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	None