

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	Council
<b>DATE:</b>	13 December 2023
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Constitution Amendment
<b>PURPOSE:</b>	To receive a recommendation from the Audit and Governance Committee to amend the Constitution.
<b>KEY DECISION:</b>	N/A
<b>PORTFOLIO HOLDER:</b>	N/A
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	John Medler, Assistant Director, Governance & Monitoring Officer
<b>REPORT AUTHOR:</b>	John Medler, Assistant Director, Governance & Monitoring Officer
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	None
<b>EXEMPT REPORT?</b>	No

#### **SUMMARY**

This report highlights recent work undertaken by the Constitution Working Party and a subsequent recommendation from the Audit and Governance Committee to Council that the Constitution be amended to remove Area Forums and references to them.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That the Constitution be amended to remove Area Forums and references to them.

#### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

To ensure the Council's Constitution remains up to date and reflects previous decisions not to continue with Area Forum meetings.

#### **OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

None

## **1. BACKGROUND AND REPORT**

1.1 The Constitution Working Party works with the Monitoring Officer to assist him with reviewing and monitoring the Council's Constitution. The Audit and Governance Committee's Terms of Reference set out that the Constitution Working Party shall comprise of three elected members drawn from different political groups. The members of the Working Party are Cllr Grover, Cllr Jackson, and Cllr Makinson-Sanders.

1.2 The Working Party meets as required to review the Council's Constitution to ensure it remains fit for purpose and reports any proposed changes to the Audit & Governance Committee (with a view to an appropriate report being made by the Audit & Governance Committee to the Council on any changes proposed).

## **2. REPORT**

2.1 The Working Party recently met to consider various matters and requests relating to the Constitution, details of which were reported to the Audit and Governance Committee Meeting in November 2023.

2.2 One of the requests asked that consideration be given to the removal of Area Forums from the Constitution as the Forums were redundant and previously the Council had agreed to discontinue these meetings.

2.3 Details relating to Area Forums are contained in Article 10 of the Constitution, a copy of which is attached at Appendix A.

2.4 The Working Party considered the Forums to be obsolete and noted that the Council had existing powers to convene informal meetings with Parish Clerks and Councillors as required. Furthermore it was noted that Ward Members often attended Parish/Town Council Meetings to provide updates and consider local matters.

2.5 The Constitution Working Party agreed to recommend that the Constitution be updated to remove Area Forums and references to them. The Audit and Governance Committee considered this proposed amendment at its meeting on 22 November 2023 and agreed to recommend it to Council.

## **EXPECTED BENEFITS TO THE PARTNERSHIP**

None

## **IMPLICATIONS**

### **SOUTH AND EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCILS PARTNERSHIP**

None

## **CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

None

## **STAFFING**

None

**CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

A decision of the full Council is required to amend the Council Constitution.

**DATA PROTECTION**

None

**FINANCIAL**

None

**RISK MANAGEMENT**

None

**STAKEHOLDER / CONSULTATION / TIMESCALES**

None

**REPUTATION**

None

**CONTRACTS**

None

**CRIME AND DISORDER**

None

**EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY/ HUMAN RIGHTS/ SAFEGUARDING**

None

**HEALTH AND WELL BEING**

None

**CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

None

**LINKS TO 12 MISSIONS IN THE LEVELLING UP WHITE PAPER**

None

**ACRONYMS**

None

<b>APPENDICES</b>
Appendix A – Article 10 - Area Forums

<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS</b>
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None
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<b>CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THIS REPORT</b>
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None
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<b>REPORT APPROVAL</b>
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Report author:	John Medler, Assistant Director – Governance & Monitoring Officer
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Signed off by:	John Medler, Assistant Director – Governance & Monitoring Officer
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Approved for publication:	Councillor Jackson, Audit and Governance Committee Chairman
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