

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Partnerships and Steve Thompson, Director of Resources
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Simon Blackburn, Leader of the Council
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	23 November 2016

## CONSTITUTIONAL AND COMMITTEE CHANGES

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To consider the recommendations of the Executive from its meeting on 7 November 2016 relating to updating the Council's constitution and also changes to Committee membership following the appointment of Councillor Benson to the Executive and subsequent Committee changes.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To agree the revised Petitions Scheme at Appendix 2(a) to the Executive report.
- 2.2 To approve the revised definition for a key decision, as set out in paragraph 5.2.3 in the Executive report.
- 2.3 To agree the amendment to the Executive Procedure Rules set out at paragraph 5.2.5 in the Executive report.
- 2.4 To approve the revised Contracts Procedure Rules at Appendix 2(b) to the Executive report.
- 2.5 To approve the amendment to the Protocol on Member/ Officer Relations as set out at paragraph 5.5.2 in the Executive report and the revised Protocol at Appendix 2(d) to the Executive report.

- 2.6 To agree the appointment of the following Committee Chairman and Vice Chairmen:

Chairman – Resilient Communities Scrutiny Committee – Councillor Debbie Coleman

Vice Chairman - Planning Committee – Councillor Alistair Humphreys

Vice Chairman – Audit Committee – Councillor Jim Elmes

Vice Chairman – Licensing Committee – Councillor David Collett

### **3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):**

3.1 It is considered timely to report to Council on these proposals following this annual review of the constitution. The proposed changes will add clarity and consistency to the ways of working of the Council. The change to financial thresholds for Executive decisions will allow the speedy acquisition of property/ land and easier intervention in terms of support for small and medium sized businesses. Decisions delegated to officers will be of a level reflecting the regular payments made by the Council.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

To make different recommendations to Council on these proposals.

### **4.0 Council Priority:**

4.1 The proposals in particular help the Council achieve the priority 'The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool.'

### **5.0 Background Information**

5.1 The proposals requiring Council consideration seek the necessary approvals to update the Council's constitution to reflect the Council's future direction.

5.2 The appointment of Chairmen and Vice Chairman of Committees can be undertaken by either the Council or the Committees themselves and this is normally undertaken at Annual Council meetings. Due to changes to the Executive membership, a number of changes have been to Committee membership and the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen positions, require Council approval.

(The appointment of the Vice Chairmen for the Public Protection Sub-Committee is a matter for the Licensing Committee to deal with).

5.3 When the Executive considered the report regarding the Protocol on Member/ Officer Relations it noted that although the recommendation for the response time to Member enquiries would be amended to ten working days, every intention would be to responds earlier, where possible. It was also noted that members could raise enquiries in a number of ways.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

**List of Appendices:**

Appendix 7(a) - Executive Decision Notice EX46/2016

A copy of the supporting documentation to this decision notice was submitted with the agenda for the Executive and can be found on the [Council's website](#)

**6.0 Legal considerations:**

- 6.1 A Council has to have an agreed definition for a key decision, a Petition scheme and Contracts Procedure Rules. This report again seeks to update the current definition and schemes to make them more relevant and also has revised the Executive Procedure Rules to take account of the current Executive structure.

**7.0 Human Resources considerations:**

- 7.1 None.

**8.0 Equalities considerations:**

- 8.1 Equality considerations would be considered as part of the decision making process when each Executive and Cabinet Member decision is taken.

**9.0 Financial considerations:**

- 9.1 There are no other financial considerations relating to the proposals in this report, other than changing the decision making thresholds as set out.

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

- 10.1 Additional clarity over corporate governance arrangements will reduce the risk of decisions being taken at the wrong level or not properly recorded.

**11.0 Ethical considerations:**

- 11.1 None.

**12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

- 12.1 Consultation has taken place with similar authorities relating to their key decision thresholds.

**13.0 Background papers:**

- 13.1 None.