

# Birmingham City Council

## Council Business Management Committee

19 October 2020



**Subject:** Amendments to the Constitution  
**Report of:** Catherine Parkinson, Interim City Solicitor  
**Report author:** Emma Williamson, Head of Scrutiny Services

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?  Yes  No

If relevant, state which appendix is exempt, and provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential: NA

### 1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out proposed amendments to the Constitution and asks CBM to consider these and make a recommendation to Full Council on 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

### 2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That CBM agree the proposed amendments set out in Appendix 1 and present these for approval at Full Council on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020.

### 3 Background

- 3.1 The Constitution underwent a major review and refresh last year, and the revised version was agreed by Full Council in September 2019. In order to get back to an annual review cycle that ends with the Council's AGM, a review was started with a view to taking amendments to Full Council in May 2020. However, this was paused during the pandemic.
- 3.2 Temporary amendments were agreed by Full Council on 28<sup>th</sup> April; these will expire no later than 25 May 2021.
- 3.3 It is now intended to take the attached amendments to November Full Council in order to tidy up outstanding issues, and then complete an annual review for the May Annual Meeting in 2021.

## **4 Proposed Changes**

- 4.1 The proposed changes are intended to pick up outstanding changes already agreed (such as previous CBM decisions), ensure the text is clear following feedback from users and to resolve some outstanding issues, notably:
- To amend Council rules of procedure to allow CBM to alter timings of a Full Council meeting, removing the need for a motion to Full Council repeating changes already agreed;
  - Settling the membership of Resources O&S committee and Audit Committee;
  - Agreeing changes to access to information for Audit Committee members;
  - Revising financial regulations (see Appendix 2).

## **5 Annual Review 2021**

- 5.1 The next Annual Review will take place in 2021 and will be presented to the Full Council in May of that year. As part of the review, officers would like to talk to officers and members to get feedback, and if members would like to participate, please let Emma Williamson know.
- 5.2 Outstanding issues that will be addressed in the review will include, but not limited to:
- Consideration of the continuation of the temporary amendments made in April 2020;
  - A review of the emergency decision making sections;
  - Consideration of amendments to the call-in process following any recommendations from Co-ordinating O&S Committee;
  - Consideration of the recommendation from Co-ordinating O&S Committee with regards to Cabinet delegations.

## **6 Appendices**

- 6.1 Appendix 1 summarises the proposed changes. The Constitution documents with tracked changes have been made available to members.
- 6.2 Appendix 2 is a briefing note on the revision to the financial regulations.