

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

16 JULY 2024

REVIEW OF CONSTITUTION OF COMBINED AUTHORITY

Report of the Interim Deputy Monitoring Officer

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 This report sets out the proposals for undertaking a review of the Constitution and Governance arrangements for the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Audit and Governance Committee is asked to establish a working group to undertake a review of the Constitution of the Combined Authority and report back to the Audit and Governance their recommendations before final consideration by the Combined Authority.

3.0 Background

3.1 The York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority, like all Combined Authorities, must make decisions that have far reaching implications for the way that services are delivered which impact on the lives of local people. Local people need to be confident that such decisions are evidence based and considered openly and accountably.

3.2 The Constitution sets out the framework within which decisions are taken and it is therefore imperative that it is accurate to ensure that all decisions taken are within the Combined Authority's powers and are compliant with legislative requirements.

3.3 Good governance is essential to ensure decision-making is effective and therefore, the Combined Authority must regularly review its governance arrangements including the decision-making structures as set out in the Constitution.

4.0 Purpose of Constitution Review

4.1 The Constitution was approved by the Combined Authority in January 2024, shortly after the inception of the Authority. It has had several amendments to date, including the addition of Police and Crime and Fire and Rescue functions, with the transition of the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and the Fire and Rescue Service and Authority into the Combined Authority.

4.2 Since its creation, the main aim of the Constitution was to ensure that the organisation could, in its early days, operate on a safe and legal basis, however, it was always acknowledged that the model adopted would not be a long-term model, but was necessary to get the Authority up and running.

4.3 Feedback has been received from various sources, including the public, officers and Members of each Constituent Authority and, should the Committee approve the review of the Constitution, it is expected that the Working Group will speak with subject matter experts, Members and Officers again to seek their views on any amendments necessary.

4.4 It is anticipated that this work would take until the end of this financial year, with a view that the draft Constitution could be presented to the Combined Authority towards the end of this municipal year for adoption at the start of the next municipal year.

5.0 Financial Implications

5.1 There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

6.0 Legal Implications

6.1 The legal implications are set out within this report.

7.0 Equalities Implications

7.1 The review of the Constitution will need to take into account a number of equalities issues to ensure that the final proposals are compliant with equalities legislation.

8.0 Environmental Implications

8.1 There are no environmental implications arising directly from this report.

9.0 Combined Authority Areas Impacted (Council Areas/Wards/Divisions)

9.1 York and North Yorkshire.

10.0 Recommendations

10.1 The Audit and Governance Committee is asked to establish a working group to undertake a review of the Constitution of the Combined Authority and report back to the Audit and Governance their recommendations before final consideration by the Combined Authority.

11.0 Reasons For Recommendations

11.1 To facilitate a review of the Constitution to ensure that it is accurate and effective and to enable a thorough and robust review of the governance arrangements taking into account the impact of any potential changes on all interested parties.

12.0 Contact Details

For further information please contact the author of this Report.

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Background papers - [YNYCA-Constitution-June-2024.pdf \(yorknorthyorks-ca.gov.uk\)](#)

Appendices – None

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