



Meeting: **Constitution Committee**

Date/Time: **Friday, 27 November 2020 at 11.00 am**

Location: **Microsoft Teams video link**

Contact: **Mr. E Walters (Tel: 0116 305 2583)**

Email: **euan.walters@leics.gov.uk**

Membership

Mr. N. J. Rushton CC (Chairman)

Dr. T. Eynon CC Mr. B. L. Pain CC
Mr. S. J. Galton CC Mr. R. J. Shepherd CC

Please note: This meeting will not be open to the public in line with Government advice on public gatherings. The meeting will be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWFpwBLs6MnUzG0WjejrQtQ>.

AGENDA

<u>Item</u>	<u>Report by</u>
1. Minutes of the meeting held on 18 September 2020.	(Pages 3 - 6)
2. Question Time.	
3. Questions asked under Standing Order 7(3) and 7(5).	
4. To advise of any other items which the Chairman has decided to take as urgent.	
5. Declarations of interest.	
6. Statement of Accounts and Pension Fund Accounts 2019/20.	Director of Corporate Resources (Pages 7 - 8)



7. Any other items which the Chairman has decided to take as urgent.



Minutes of a meeting of the Constitution Committee held via Microsoft Teams video link on Friday, 18 September 2020.

PRESENT

Mr. L. Breckon JP CC
Dr. T. Eynon CC
Mr. S. J. Galton CC

Mr. J. B. Rhodes CC
Mr. R. J. Shepherd CC

1. Appointment of Chairman.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That Mr. N. J. Rushton CC be appointed Chairman for the period ending with the date of the Annual Meeting of the County Council in 2021.
- (b) That as Mr. N. J. Rushton CC had given his apologies for the meeting on 18 September 2020, Mr. J. B. Rhodes CC be elected Chairman for this meeting only.

Mr. J. B. Rhodes CC – in the Chair

2. Election of Deputy Chairman.

RESOLVED:

That Mr. B. L. Pain CC be elected Deputy Chairman for the period ending with the date of the Annual Meeting of the County Council in 2021.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting.

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 2019 were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

4. Question Time.

The Chief Executive reported that no questions had been received under Standing Order 34.

5. Questions asked by Members.

The Chief Executive reported that no questions had been received under Standing Order 7(3) and 7(5).

6. Urgent items.

There were no urgent items for consideration.

7. Declarations of interest.

The Chairman invited members who wished to do so to declare any interest in respect of items on the agenda for the meeting.

Mr. L. Breckon CC declared a personal interest in agenda item 8: Independent Persons, as he was acquainted with one of the proposed appointees. It was also noted that Mr. J. B. Rhodes CC had chaired the Appointment Committee for the Independent Persons.

With regards to agenda item 9: Charitable Trust Future Arrangements it was noted that Mr. R. J. Shepherd CC had previously been a teacher at Loughborough Burleigh College and Mr. J. B. Rhodes CC had once been a Governor of Melton Mowbray King Edward VII Upper School.

8. Independent Persons.

The Committee considered a joint report of the Chief Executive and the Director of Corporate Resources regarding the proposed appointment of Independent Persons to support the Member Conduct Complaints Process and the procedures for dealing with the dismissal of the Chief Executive, the Monitoring Officer and the Chief Financial Officer. A copy of the report, marked 'Agenda Item 8', is filed with these minutes.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee recommends the County Council at its meeting in September 2020 appoint Richard Gough, Gordon Grimes, Tina Herring, Hema Kotecha, Surinder Sharma and Pamela Roberts to serve as Independent Persons for a term of four years ending on 30 September 2024.

9. Charitable Trust Future Arrangements.

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Law and Governance which provided an update on the proposals for the future arrangements for the Educational Trusts of which the County Council was the sole corporate Trustee and sought the Committee's approval to the closure and transfer of funds into a single fund called the Leicestershire Educational Trust Fund to be administered by the Leicestershire and Rutland Community Foundation. A copy of the report, marked 'Agenda Item 9', is filed with these minutes.

In response to a question from a member, the Director of Law and Governance confirmed that Charnwood College (formerly known as Burleigh College) had been written to regarding the proposals and the College had raised no objection.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the closure of the Trusts referred to in para 8 of the report and the transfer of assets into a trust to be administered and managed by the Leicestershire and Rutland Community Foundation be approved and the Director of Law and Governance be authorised to take any steps necessary to achieve this;

- b) That the Leicestershire and Rutland Community Foundation be requested to submit an annual report to the Constitution Committee on the operation of the Fund;
- c) That the Director of Law and Governance be authorised to explore the future arrangements for the trusts referred to in para 9 of the report and to report back to the Constitution Committee.

10. Date of next meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the next meeting of the Committee take place on 27 November 2020 at 11:00am.

2.00 - 2.18 pm
18 September 2020

CHAIRMAN

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CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE – 27th NOVEMBER 2020

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE RESOURCES

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS & PENSION FUND ACCOUNTS 2019/20

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this report is to:
 - a) present the 2019/20 financial statements, for approval;
 - b) inform the Committee of the main areas of the financial statements, and
 - c) report the key findings from the external audit of the accounts.
2. The external audit is progressing well and in accordance with the extended completion deadlines of the end of November, see section below. However, at the time of publication of the committee agenda papers the external auditors report is not yet available.
3. The report is expected in the next few days and will be forwarded to members of the committee before the meeting.

BACKGROUND

4. The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require authorities to approve and publish their accounts, including the auditor's opinion by the end of July following the end of the financial year. Following the outbreak of Covid-19, the Accounts and Audit (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 were issued in April 2020 which amended the deadlines for the completion and external audit of the financial statements to allow additional time. The revised dates are: draft accounts to be published by 31 August 2020 and the External Audit to be completed by 30 November 2020. This change applies to the 2019/20 financial accounts only.

OFFICERS TO CONTACT

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