



CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE – 29th JULY 2025

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

REVISION OF THE CONSTITUTION

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to ask members to consider whether they wish to make changes to the terms of reference of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Bodies set out in Table A of Part 2 of the Council's Constitution, following a previous proposal being voted against by the full Council at its meeting on 2nd July.

Background

2. Article 15 of the County Council's Constitution gives the Chief Executive a duty to monitor and review the operation of the Constitution to ensure that the aims and principles of the Constitution are given full effect. It requires that changes to the document should only be approved by the full County Council after consideration of the proposal by the Chief Executive and the Constitution Committee or, in the case of Financial Procedure Rules, Contract Procedure Rules and Members' Code of Conduct, the recommendations of the Corporate Governance Committee.

Review of Scrutiny Arrangements

3. As previously presented to this Committee in June, following the election and the Leader's appointment to his Cabinet the terms of reference of the Council's overview and scrutiny committees need to be reviewed to align with the newly appointed Cabinet Lead Member portfolios.
4. The proposed changes to the terms of reference which were considered by this Committee on 23rd June included changing the name of the Environment and Climate Change Overview and Scrutiny Committee to the Environment and Flooding Overview and Scrutiny Committee. These changes were presented to the Council at its meeting on 2 July, but were not approved, due to concerns regarding the removal of reference to climate change from both the Committee title and its terms of reference.

5. The options available to address the Council's decision are to change the current Environment and Climate Change Overview and Scrutiny Committee:
 - (a) to the 'Environment and Flooding Overview and Scrutiny Committee' **and** include the following into its terms of reference:

"1. The executive functions of the County Council in respect of the Council's Environment Agenda, **including Climate Change**, and Flooding Risk.

OR
 - (b) to the 'Environment, Flooding **and Climate Change** Overview and Scrutiny Committee' **and** include the following into this Committee's terms of reference:

"1. The executive functions of the County Council in respect of the Council's Environment Agenda, **including Climate Change**, and Flooding Risk."
6. As previously reported, the Scrutiny Commission's terms of reference have also been amended to provide clarity regarding property energy efficiency matters, which will now fall within its remit. Reference to the Leicester and Leicestershire Local Enterprise Partnership and the Leicester and Leicestershire Transport Board has also been removed and replaced with the establishment of the Leicester and Leicestershire Business and Skills Partnership.
7. The Adults and Communities and Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committees' terms of reference remain unchanged.
10. There will be consequential amendments to the Constitution arising from the changes now proposed.

Recommendation

11. The Committee is recommended to:
 - (a) Agree one of the options to change the Scrutiny terms of reference as set out in paragraph 5 above;
 - (b) That, subject to (a) above, the County Council be recommended to approve the proposed changes and those changes set out in Appendix A to this report and to consequential amendments being made to the Constitution.

Background Papers

The Constitution of Leicestershire County Council.

The Constitution Committee, 23 June 2025 – Review of Constitution -
<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=150&MId=8197&Ver=4>

Council, 2 July 2025 – Review of Constitution -
<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=134&MId=7859&Ver=4>

Circulation under Local Issues Alert Procedure

None.

Officer to Contact

Rosemary Whitelaw
Head of Democratic Services
Email: rosemary.whitelaw@leics.gov.uk
Tel: 0116 305 6098

Equality and Human Rights Implications

None.

This page is intentionally left blank