

## **CITY COUNCIL – 14 MAY 2012**

### **REPORT OF THE LEADER**

### **PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

#### **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report summarises proposed amendments to the Constitution since it was ‘refreshed’ by full Council and the Leader in September 2011. In working with the revised arrangements for the past nine months a number of minor revisions and updates have been identified. The appendices to this report track in detail the changes proposed and reasons for them. The report also proposes changes to Area Committee boundaries.
- 1.2 The full Constitution document can be viewed online via the link below and paper copies have been deposited in the political group rooms at Loxley House.  
<http://open.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/comm/agenda.asp?CtteMeetID=4099>  
Councillors who require a paper copy for their sole use may request a copy from Constitutional Services by telephoning 0115 87 64301.

#### **2 RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that:

- 2.1 (i) the changes (as detailed in the table below and shown on the plan attached at appendix 4) to Area Committee boundaries, and consequent reduction from ten Area Committees to nine (including the City Centre), be approved;
- (ii) in support of these changes and of closer partnership working, the establishment of North, Central, South and City Centre Locality Boards be noted:

Area One	Bulwell and Bulwell Forest	North Locality
Area Two	Basford and Bestwood	North Locality
Area Three (known as West Area)	Aspley, Bilborough and Leen Valley	North Locality
Area Four	Arboretum, Dunkirk and Lenton, Radford and Park	Central Locality
Area Five	Berridge and Sherwood	Central Locality
Area Six	Mapperley and St Anns and Dales	South Locality
Area Seven	Wollaton West and Wollaton East and Lenton Abbey	Central Locality
Area Eight	Bridge, Clifton North and Clifton South	South Locality
City Centre	(covering those parts of Areas 4,6 and 8 that fall within the City Centre area)	Central Locality

- 2.2 the revisions to the Constitution, as set out in appendices 1 and 2, be adopted with immediate effect, noting that amendments to executive matters are within the authority remit of the Leader of the Council but that they are presented to full Council for noting.

### **3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)**

- 3.1 The Constitution must be kept up to date in accordance with section 37(1) of the Local Government Act 2000. The Constitution was last reviewed and adopted in September 2011; the changes made then reflected recent changes to executive governance arrangements and local government law. Having worked with the revised Constitution for nine months, a number of minor revisions and updates are required in order to continually improve the City Council's governance arrangements.

### **4 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 The Council would be in breach of its statutory duty if it were not to update its Constitution and failure to do so would also create confusion and uncertainty about sources of authority within the

Council.

## **5 BACKGROUND**

- 5.1 The revised Constitution adopted by full Council in September 2011 addressed key issues such as:
- (i) accommodating the changes to the Constitution as a result of adopting the Strong Leader and Cabinet Model of Executive Governance;
  - (ii) general update and review of the Constitution to improve governance arrangements within the City Council (including a revised and updated scheme of delegation, and a review of financial regulations and Contract Procedure Rules).
- 5.2 The Council has been working with the new arrangements for nine months and during that time, a number of revisions have been identified. A number of the revisions presented are executive matters and these are for full Council to note as part of the overall Constitution.

### **Area Committee boundaries**

- 5.3 Executive Board at its meeting on 19 July 2011 resolved to recommend to full Council that the boundaries for some Area Committees in 2012/13 be amended. These arrangements will make it easier for the City Council and key partners, including the Police and Nottingham City Homes, to reduce management costs whilst improving services to citizens through aligned delivery and an improved focus on service improvement.
- 5.4 Neighbourhood working in Nottingham is well established and built on a structure of ten Area Committees supported at ward level by councillors championing their community through use of ward allocations, area capital and activities such as ward walks. Operationally council staff and other agencies work at a ward level through Neighbourhood Action Teams. The current model, although effective at driving service improvement, has been hampered by the practical problem of agency boundaries such as police beats and housing patches that do not coincide, and this has

hindered both front line delivery and the ability for partnership working to focus effectively on performance improvement, particularly through engagement with councillors and citizens.

- 5.5 Discussions with stakeholders, including partner agencies, opened the possibility to align boundaries in such a way as to improve the effectiveness of partnership working and deliver ongoing budget savings. The proposed move to three co-terminus operating localities plus the City Centre, also offers a means to both support the contract design and quality assurance elements of service commissioning. It further offers a coherent structure whereby neighbourhood working can address a wider range of outcomes and involve more services moving the focus beyond crime and public realm to a stronger response to the drivers of deprivation.

## **6 RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES (INCLUDING LEGAL IMPLICATIONS, CRIME AND DISORDER ACT IMPLICATIONS AND EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS)**

- 6.1 Under provisions within the Local Government Act 2000 the Council is required to review and keep its Constitution up to date.
- 6.2 Advice has been sought from the Equality and Community Relations Team with regard to the implications of revisions to the Constitution and associated documents.

## **7 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)**

An EIA of the revisions as a whole has been carried out and is attached at Appendix 3.

## **8 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION**

- 8.1 Email correspondence between colleagues within the Council providing commentary and advice to Democratic Services on proposed revisions to the constitution.

**9      PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT**

- 9.1      Executive Governance Arrangements report to City Council – 12 May 2008, and the minutes of the meeting.
- 9.2      Executive Arrangements report to City Council – 13 December 2010, and the minutes of the meeting.
- 9.3      Proposed Amendments to the Constitution and Financial Regulations report to City Council – 12 September 2011, and the minutes of the meeting.
- 9.4      Local Government Act 2000.
- 9.5      Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.
- 9.6      Localism Act 2011.
- 9.7      Neighbourhood Working Boundaries Change – report to and minutes of Executive Board dated 19 July 2011.

**COUNCILLOR JON COLLINS  
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**