



**Governance and Audit  
Committee**

**21 April 2026**

**Subject: Annual Review of the Constitution – Position Update and Ongoing Work**

Report by:

Monitoring Officer

Contact Officer:

Lisa Langdon  
[Lisa.Langdon@west-lindsey.gov.uk](mailto:Lisa.Langdon@west-lindsey.gov.uk)

Purpose / Summary:

This report provides the Governance and Audit Committee opportunity to consider and note the contents of the Annual Review of the Constitution – Position Update and Ongoing Work report (attached at Appendix A) prior to its submission to Annual Council.

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

- 1) That Members consider and note the Annual Review of the Constitution – Position Update and Ongoing Work Report (attached at Appendix A) prior to its submission to Annual Council.**

## IMPLICATIONS

### **Legal:**

The Council is required by law to prepare, and keep up to date, the Constitution (Section 9P Local Government Act 2000 as amended).

West Lindsey's Constitution commits to a review being done at least annually

### **Financial :**

There are no financial implications associated with this report

### **Staffing :**

There are no staffing implications associated with this report

### **Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :**

N/A

### **Data Protection Implications :**

N/A

### **Climate Related Risks and Opportunities:**

N/A

### **Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations:**

N/A

### **Health Implications:**

N/A

### **Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report :**

### **Risk Assessment :**

Good governance and up to date practices and procedures for decision making ensure the organisation is legally compliant, whilst protecting against ultra vires

decisions. Further, good governance is essential for ensuring value for money and protecting against reputational damage, and financial loss. Ensuring good governance at all levels protects the organisation from external claims and challenges. “Failure to comply with legislation” and “inability for the Council’s governance to support quality decision making” are strategic risks for the organisation and these risks are considered regularly by the Management Team prior to consideration at the Governance and Audit committee. The Constitution is Council’s key document for governance and powers, and compliance with the Constitution is essential to keep the organisation safe and legally compliant.

**Call in and Urgency:**

**Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?**

*i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)*

**Yes**

**No**

**Key Decision:**

*A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications*

**Yes**

**No**

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 Under Section 9P of the Local Government Act 2000, Councils are legally required to prepare, adopt, and keep up to date a Constitution, which acts as the Council's rulebook and ensures the organisation operates transparently, efficiently, and lawfully.
- 1.2 West Lindsey's Constitution commits to a review being done at least annually, and the outcome being reported to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Council following consideration by the Governance and Audit Committee.
- 1.3 Attached at Appendix A is the draft report to be submitted to Full Council at its AGM.
- 1.4 The Financial Procedure Rules and the Contract and Procurement Procedure Rules referred to in the appended report, are matters for consideration by the Committee at its meeting on 21 April, and as such are not currently appended.
- 1.5 As agreed at the Full Council meeting on 13 April, the organisation will now move to a 3 Policy Committee model and draft terms of reference were produced. Further consideration will be given to these terms of reference and engagement through a member briefing prior to these being presented to Full Council for final adoption at the Annual General Meeting.

## **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 That Members consider and note the Annual Review of the Constitution – Position Update and Planned Work Report (attached at Appendix A) prior to its submission to Annual Council.