

## ***Report to the Council***

**Title:** Review of Article 17 – Access to Information

**Committee:** Constitution Working Group (Councillor A Lion)

**Date:** 14 March 2024

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**(1) That the updated version of Article 17 (attached at Appendix A) be approved.**

### **Report:**

- 1.1 The Cabinet [Forward Plan](#) has recently been restyled and for reasons of public transparency it has been decided that it should be referred to in the Constitution as the Forward Plan, in preference to the Key Decision List. Currently both names are used which may cause confusion to the public, Members and officers that the Forward Plan is the same document as the Key Decision List. In addition, it was previously a legal requirement to publish the Forward Plan at least 14 days prior to its start date; however, this stipulation was removed by the Access to Information Regulation enacted in 2016.
- 1.2 In revising this Article, it was noticed that it contained references to practices that the Council has long since ceased to do. These include placing a hard copy of the agenda in the Welcome Area, referring to the Section 151 Officer as the Chief Financial Officer and the posting of notices at the Civic Offices,
- 1.2 The proposed updates to Article 17 are attached as Appendix A. For information: additional text is highlighted in yellow, while red strikethroughs refer to text that will be deleted.
- 1.3 Therefore, it is recommended to Council that the amended version of Article 17 – Access to Information be approved.