

Report to Constitution Working Group

Date of meeting: 26 January 2016



**Epping Forest
District Council**

Subject: Constitution Review - Article 13 (Officers)

Officer contact for further information: S. Tautz (01992 564180)

Democratic Services Officer: M. Jenkins (01992 564607)

Recommendations/Decisions Required:

That the Working Group further consider proposed revisions to Article 13 (Officers) of the Constitution.

Report:

1. (Democratic Services Manager) The aim of the current review of the Council's Constitution is for the Working Group to look critically at each part of the Constitution to try and bring together and rationalise procedures against the relevant legislative background.
2. Under the current Constitution, the rules relating to the Council's officers are contained in Article 13 and a number of separate protocols and conventions. At its last meeting, the Working Group considered a revised version of Article 13 of the Constitution. This report presents the proposed final draft version of the revised Article. In particular:
 - the existing Statutory Officer Protocols have now been incorporated within Article 13;
 - the existing Conventions on the Relationships between Political Groups/Councillors and Officers have been revised as necessary and incorporated within Article 2 (Members) and the new Article 18 (Access to Information) as appropriate; and
 - the existing Member's Charter has been revised as necessary and incorporated within to Article 2 (Members).
3. The final version of Article 13 of the Constitution is attached as Appendix 1 to this report for consideration by the Working Group. The proposed additions to Article 2 (Members) and Article 18 (Access to Information) to reflect the issues set out above, are the subject of separate reports elsewhere in the agenda for this meeting.
4. As part of its ongoing review of the Constitution, the Working Group has previously decided that where rules apply generally, they should be taken into the main rules section. Therefore in the redrafting of the rules section of the Constitution, officers have attempted to take sections into the rules. Some of what was previously contained in separate protocols and conventions has been inserted into the new Article 13 and the re-drafted Article also seeks to address instances of relevant procedures being spread across the Constitution, making it difficult to use.
5. Members are reminded to bring their copies of the Constitution to the meeting.