

**AUDIT COMMITTEE
4 NOVEMBER 2024**

CONSTITUTION UPDATE

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider the Constitution Update report so far as matters that are related to the Audit Committee.

Summary

2. Attached at **Annex 1** is a report setting out the changes that are being proposed to the Constitution. The final report is intended to go forward to be considered by Council at its meeting on 28 November 2024.

Audit Committee – Terms of Reference

3. The changes include a proposal to about the terms of reference of the Audit Committee.
4. The rationale for the change is to make it the terms of reference easier to read and align with the format used for other committees (which is an outline approach)
5. The amended text is based on the terms of reference that are used by Stockton on Tees Council (with whom we have a shared Internal Audit Service) [Constitution - July 24 accessible](#) with some minor amendments.
6. The proposed amended text is set out in the Appendix to the Council Constitution Update Report (Annex 1) under the heading of Schedule 1 – Council Committees.
7. The current text is set out in Schedule 1 – Council Committees Constitution [SCHEDULE 1](#)

Other changes

8. The changes also include proposals concerning:

Schedule 4 – Scheme of Delegation – Finance exceptions
Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules
Financial Procedure Rules
Whistleblowing Policy
Corporate Governance

The details are all set out under the relevant headings in the Appendix to the Council Constitution Change Update Report (Annex 1), including details of the reasons.

Recommendation

9. It is recommended that Members consider and discuss the proposed amendments to the Constitution.

Luke Swinhoe
Assistant Director Law and Governance

Background Papers

Stockton on Tees Borough Council Constitution, page 29, para 2.49 [Constitution - July 24 accessible](#)

Constitution of the Council

<https://democracy.darlington.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=202&MId=284&Info=1>