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CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW WORKING PARTY

Minutes of the meeting held on 24 August 2016 at 10.00 am in Austen Room, Cecil Street, Margate, Kent.

Present: Dr Jonathan Sexton (Chairman); Mrs Janet Bacon (Independent Member of the Standards Committee)

Councillors: Dixon, Jaye-Jones, Townend, Campbell and Elenor

88. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Savage.

89. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

90. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Working Party AGREED that the minutes of the Constitutional Review Working Party held on 8 June 2016 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

91. SEALING OF DOCUMENTS

Tim Howes, Director of Corporate Governance and Monitoring Officer outlined the proposed change to the arrangements for the sealing of documents to be reflected in the Council's constitution.

The Working Party was advised that the proposed changes would make the process more efficient and that there was no benefit in maintaining the current arrangements.

Further to discussion, Tim Howes agreed to make amendments to the report going forward to further clarify the process and purpose of the sealing of documents

The Working Party agreed changes proposed by Tim Howes to arrangements for sealing of documents and recommended them to the Standards Committee.

92. REMOVAL OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW WORKING PARTY FROM CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE PROCESS

Nick Hughes, Committee Service Manager outlined the proposal to change the constitutional change process from a 3 stage process to a 2 stage process in line with other councils in Kent.

The Working Party felt that it was valuable for detailed work on the consideration of changes to the constitution to be done prior to the Council meeting.

Members also considered that the expertise and focus of the Working Party was valuable to constitutional change the process and therefore, CRWP should be maintained.

Further to this debate, the Working Party agreed:

That the constitutional change process is amended but not in a way that would result in the dissolution of the CRWP and for new options with regard to this be created and brought back before this panel.

Meeting concluded : 12.30pm