

Report to: **Governance Committee**

Date: **12 July 2016**

By: **Assistant Chief Executive**

Title of report: **Amendments to Constitution – Scheme of Delegation to officers**

Purpose of report: **To consider proposals to amend the Council’s Constitution in relation to the scheme of delegation to officers**

RECOMMENDATION: The Committee is recommended to recommend the County Council to agree to the Constitution being amended as set out in paragraph 1.2 below

1. Supporting Information

1.1 East Sussex Coroner: Responsibility for appointing coroners and their deputies was previously governed by the Coroners Act 1988 which required the approval to such appointment by the Chairman of the County Council. The coroner service was amended by the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 which is gradually being brought into force. The new act provides for the offices of Senior Coroner, Area Coroners and Assistant Coroners and when vacancies occur for these persons to be appointed by the County Council following consent to their appointment from the Chief Coroner and the Lord Chancellor. There is no longer a statutory requirement for the Chairman of the Council to approve such appointments and it is for each relevant authority to determine who should sign off coroner appointments for their area.

1.2 The scheme of delegation to officers: The County Council’s scheme of delegation delegates to officers particular powers. The Committee is recommended to amend the Constitution as set out below to permit the Assistant Chief Executive to appoint the Senior Coroner, Area Coroners and Assistant Coroners. It is therefore recommended that Part 3, of the Constitution; Responsibility for Functions, Assistant Chief Executive, is amended to include:

To discharge the County Council’s responsibilities for the Coroner service and for the provision of support for the administration of the Coroner’s Office. including the appointment of the Senior Coroner, Area Coroners and Assistant Coroners.

2. Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to recommend the County Council to agree to the proposed amendments to the Council's Constitution as set out in paragraphs 1.2 above

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Background Documents: None