



COUNCIL, 2 SEPTEMBER 2026

REPORT OF THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

**SUBJECT: CONSTITUTION REVIEW – PLANNING, PENSIONS AND
VARIOUS PARTS. APPOINTMENT OF THE INDEPENDENT
PERSON ON AUDIT COMMITTEE**

SUMMARY

As shown in the attached report, Council is asked to endorse the recommendations of Governance Committee that a number of amendments are made to the Constitution to reflect the requirements of recent national legislation covering the discharge of Planning and Pension functions.

Council is also asked to approve an amendment to the start time of meetings of full Council with a corresponding amendment to Council Procedure Rule 5.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Governance Committee (19/08/2026) agenda item 5 – Constitution Review

The Governance Committee recommends that:

- 1. Council approve amendments to the Constitution as shown in Appendix 1 of the attached report.**
- 2. Council approve that the membership of the new Planning Committee consist of 5 members of the Council.**
- 3. Council approve an amendment of the start time for Council meetings from 7.30 pm to 7.00 pm, with a corresponding amendment to Council Procedure Rule 5.**
- 4. Delegate authority to the Monitoring Officer to make consequential amendments to the Constitution arising from the changes in legislation and the proposed changes outlined in the report and in Appendix 1 (Table of**

changes to the Constitution), Appendix 2 (Planning Committee Procedure Rules) and Appendix 3 (Protocol on Probity in Planning Matters).

5. **Independent Person Audit Committee:** Delegate authority to the Chairperson of the interview panel and the Strategic Director of Resources to make a recommendation to the Chief Executive to appoint the successful candidate as the Independent Person on Audit Committee following the interviews.

REPORT DETAIL

At its meeting on 19 August 2026, Governance Committee approved the attached report recommending proposed changes to the Constitution covering matters relating to Planning procedures and the functions of the Council's Planning Committee. A change to the start time of Council meetings from 7.30 pm to 7.00 pm and a corresponding amendment to the relevant Council Procedure Rule was also agreed to be recommended to Council.

A full list of the proposed changes is shown in Appendix 1 to the report and the sections of the Constitution recommended to be amended are shown below for reference:

Part 3, Article 2 – Functions Delegated to General Council Committees

Part 3.3 – Officer Delegations

Section 3.4 – Functions not to be the responsibility of the Council's Executive

Part 4.3 – Committee Procedure Rules

Part 4.5 – Council Procedure Rules

Part 4.10 – Planning Committee Procedure Rules

Part 5.5 – Protocol on Probity in Planning Matters

Financial Implications and Risks:

None directly associated with this report.

Human Resource Implications and Risks:

None directly associated with this report, other than matters human resources matters relating to the LGPS Senior Officer and the Nominated Officer for Planning matters referred to in the Governance Committee Report.

Legal Implications and Risks:

The Council has a duty to prepare and keep up to date its Constitution which explains, in ordinary language, the content of their constitution – section 37(1A) Local Government Act 2000. The changes proposed are required to comply with changes in legislation relating to planning and pension matters and consequential changes. The Council has a duty to appoint the proposed Members of the newly constituted Planning Committee on a proportionate basis to the membership of the Council as nominated by the Political Groups – Local Government and Housing Act 1989, section 15 and Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

Public Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report:

None

List of appendices: Report of Governance Committee 19 August 2026 and associated appendices.

Staff Contact : Patricia Narebor
Designation: Monitoring Officer (Interim)
Email: Patricia.Narebor@Havering.gov.uk