



NEWPORT

CITY COUNCIL

CYNGOR DINAS

CASNEWYDD

Model Constitution – Implementation
Mike Wallbank

Background

- A requirement for all local authorities – Local Government Act 2000
- Sets out rules, codes and protocols for Council business, including:
 - Meetings
 - Decision-making
 - Conduct
 - Procurement
 - Finance and contracts
- Must publish on Council's website with a guide to the Constitution

NCC's Constitution

- A collection of different documents
- Some inconsistencies
- Difficult to navigate
- Piecemeal updates over time
- Doesn't reflect latest legislative changes
- Requires review

WLGA Model Constitution

- Many Welsh local authorities in similar position
- WLGA – commissioned Browne Jacobson Solicitors
- Model Constitution published 2021
- Adopted by many Welsh Councils already

Model Constitution - Features

- A long document...
- ...but set out clearly and logically
- Can be made easier to navigate, e.g. clickable links
- Up to date and reflects current legislation
- Can/must be tailored to needs of NCC

Model Constitution – Proposed Timeline

Stage 1 – review by MO

- MO will review MC and existing constitution
- Edit MC so as to reflect current constitution
- Report to Committee in July 2024 for discussion of areas reviewed to date
- Further report in September 2024 for discussion of remaining areas

Model Constitution – Proposed Timeline

Stage 2 – review by Committee

- MO reports to Committee with drafts – July and September 2024
- Report and draft supplied to Committee members 1 month in advance to enable review
- September 2024 – Committee discusses draft and agrees final version

Model Constitution – Proposed Timeline

Stage 3 – adoption and implementation

- Draft agreed by Committee presented to Full Council for adoption – November 2024?
- Printed copies and website updated
- Awareness sessions for members and officers – Winter 2024/25

Options

Sub-Committee/Working Group?

Longer Timescale?