

# Constitution Working Group

Folkestone & Hythe DC



For 15 November 2023

# From the last meeting

- Threshold for referral of key decision to Committee agreed:
  - at least 6 members from at least 2 political groups, inclusive of relevant spokesperson or a committee chair/vice chair;
  - requests submitted before expiry of 3 full working days prior to date decision to be made
- Threshold for rescission process agreed:
  - Requests submitted before expiry of 3 full working days from date of publication of decision notice;
  - Signed by at least half of Council members
- Financial limits for committee decisions to be considered further
- All member briefing to be finalised
- Comparison of previous Cabinet decisions – where would these be made in the new structure?
- Roles of spokespersons to be further discussed and clarified
- Roles of Chairs and Vice Chairs to be discussed

# Spokespersons

- Scope
- Alignment
  - Themes
  - Committees
  - Directorates
- Duties
- Reporting
- Protocol document?
- Appointment
  - By whom?
  - Term (subject to removal)?
- Risks

# Financial thresholds (1)

- Virements – current limits
  - HoPS can vire payroll budget to various budget headings, to facilitate delivery of existing policies
  - Chief Officers can vire within a budget heading, and across budget headings, up to £20k
  - HoPS (in consultation with Leadership Team) can transfer between budget headings up to £15k
  - Cabinet approval for virements over £25k
  - Full Council approval for virements outside Budget & Policy framework
  - All virements reported to Cabinet
  - Limits are cumulative for the financial year

# Financial thresholds (2)

- Virements – suggested
  - HoPS can vire payroll budget to various budget headings, to facilitate delivery of existing policies (SAME)
  - Chief Officers can vire within a budget heading, and across budget headings, up to £25k
  - Virements between £25 and £50k to be agreed by relevant Director and s.151
  - Virements between £50k and £100k to be agreed by relevant Director and s.151 in consultation with relevant Committee Chair

# Financial thresholds (3)

- Key decision financial threshold currently:
  - £300k standard
  - £500k where relates to entering into contractual obligation
  - £500k for acquisition or disposal of land or property
- Proposed thresholds for Committee decision:
  - Award of contracts – if outside of approved budget/non-routine?
  - Acquisition/disposal of land or property
  - Reference to “material” as being appropriate trigger?
    - HoPS, Directors and s.151 to determine what is material on a case by case basis?

# All Member Briefing

- 6pm Monday 11 December 2023
- Principles based
- Outline of work undertaken by CWG
- Overview of structure
- Timeline

# Discussion