

Item No. 3.3	Classification: Open	Date: 16 September 2020	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Constitutional Changes: Updates 2020	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Constitutional Steering Panel	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That council assembly agree that the constitution contain a protocol outlining how virtual meetings will be run (Appendix 1).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. This report outlines one constitutional change. The constitutional steering panel recommends it to council assembly.

Reasons for proposing a change to the process: virtual meetings

3. With the changes in legislation and support from central government for virtual decision-making meetings, it is appropriate to set out clearly how virtual meetings will be run, to ensure accessible and understandable decision-making to the public. This will be presented as an addendum to the Committee Procedure Rules.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

4. The context for this report is the on-going review of efficient democracy, the Covid-19 pandemic and associated updates in legislation and government guidance.

Community impact statement

5. The proposal in this report provides additional benefits to the public and the local community and enhance the council's commitment to diversity and fairness.

Resource implications

6. The constitution is published on the council's website and is available for viewing online. Limited numbers of the constitution are produced in binder form with loose leaf pages and dividers. This means that any additional costs arising from the reproduction of small sections of the constitution are reduced compared to the reprinting of the whole constitution. It is anticipated that the cost can be contained within existing budgets.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Southwark Constitution	160 Tooley Street London SE1 5LX	Constitutional Team 020 7525 7228

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	New Addendum to Committee procedure rules

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Chidilim Agada, Head of Constitutional Team	
Report Author	Virginia Wynn-Jones, Principal Constitutional Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	7 September 2020	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments sought	Comments included
Director of Law and Democracy	Yes	Yes (Included in the body of the report)
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No	Not applicable
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		7 September 2020