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Minutes of the meeting of the **GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE** held at the Council Offices, Whitfield on Tuesday, 5 March 2024 at 5.30 pm.

Present:

Chairman: Councillor H M Williams

Councillors: T J Bartlett (as substitute for Councillor R M Knight)  
M Bates  
S H Beer  
J P Loffman  
L M Wright

Officers: Strategic Director (Corporate and Regulatory)  
Democratic Services Officer

## 34 APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received from Councillor R M Knight.

## 35 APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

It was noted that, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4, Councillor T J Bartlett was appointed substitute for Councillor R M Knight.

## 36 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made by Members.

## 37 REDISTRIBUTION OF FUNCTIONS AMONGST CHIEF OFFICERS

The Strategic Director (Corporate & Regulatory) presented the Redistribution of Functions Amongst Chief Officers report to the Committee. Following recent staffing changes within the organisation it was necessary to reallocate functions amongst the Council's Chief Officers. The report set out the proposed changes to Article 12 of the Council's Constitution which identified the Chief Officers, and the resultant changes to the Officer Scheme of Delegations within the Constitution.

Members considered the distribution of functions and the fact that it was necessary to re-organise since changes had been made to the staffing structure. It was further confirmed that it had never been envisaged that the Chief Executive would retain direct responsibility for functions since a third director had been added to the structure. They were assured that staffing levels amongst Chief Officers were adequate and that functions had been decided upon and distributed where they were considered most appropriate by the Head of Paid Service.

It was proposed by Councillor H M Williams that the addition of 'natural environment' should be added to the list of functions responsible to the Strategic Director (Place & Environment). Whilst it was noted that 'Planning and Development' encapsulated that function, Members further suggested that the addition of 'climate change' would be more appropriate and would still achieve Councillor Williams' proposal.

**RESOLVED:** That it be recommended to Council that 'climate change' be included in the list of functions of the Strategic Director (Place &

Environment), and that the proposed changes to Article 12 and the Scheme of Officer Delegations be approved and be incorporated into the Council's Constitution version 25a.

The meeting ended at 5.49 pm.