
COMMITTEE RESTRUCTURING

Committee: Council

Date: 23 February 2021

Author: Chief Executive and Democratic Services Manager

[V134]

1.0 **ISSUE**

1.1 Restructuring of the Council and its Committees.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 Members are requested to:

- (i) agree the revisions to the terms of reference as summarised in paragraph 4.2 and detailed in Appendix 1 to take effect from the Annual Council meeting;
- (ii) authorise the Monitoring Officer to make the necessary and consequential amendments to the Constitution to implement the Council's resolution;
- (iii) authorise the Democratic Services Manager to consult with the existing Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) to consider the implications of the new Audit Committee.

3.0 **BACKGROUND/OPTIONS**

3.1 The Council on 21 February 2019 (ref Agenda 12) agreed a revised Committee structure with the establishment of two Policy Committees, specifically Finance and Assets and Operational Services, in addition to Licensing and Planning Committees.

3.2 Concern has been expressed at the length of recent agendas for Finance and Assets Committee and the imbalance between the two Policy Committees.

3.3 There are a number of options for member consideration, specifically:

- a) redistribute responsibilities between existing Policy Committees;
- (b) establish new Policy Committee and/or revise existing sub Committees;
- (c) increase frequency of Finance and Assets Committee;
- (d) reserve further powers to full Council.

The options may not be exclusive.

4.0 PROPOSALS/CONCLUSIONS

4.1 The proposals outlined below reflect consideration of the options detailed in 3.3 and concludes that a mix of options (a), (b) and (d) is the preferred and most effective option.

4.2 Appendix 1 details the preferred option, specifically:

- establish a new Audit Committee with a membership of 5;
- transfer responsibility for the operations of the Revenues and Benefits service through Anglia Revenues Partnership (ARP), the responsibility for the operations of Leisure Services and the making of a final car parking order to Operational Services Committee;
- extend the powers reserved fully to Council to include Corporate Plan, Members Allowance Scheme and Economic Development Strategy.

This establishment of the new Audit Committee will necessitate a review of the Special Responsibility for this member body through the IRP and will be reported to next Council.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

5.1 Any change to the current SRA will be determined by Council following the recommendation from the IRP.

6.0 APPENDICES

6.1 Appendix 1 - Proposed revised terms of reference (tracked)

Background Documents

Council – 21 February 2019
Agenda Item No. 12

Location

Room 103
The Grange
Ely

Contact Officer

John Hill
Chief Executive
(01353) 616271
E-mail: john.hill@eastcambs.gov.uk