
RESTRUCTURING OF COMMITTEES 2019/20

Committee: Council

Date: 21 February 2019

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[T209]

1.0 ISSUE

1.1 Proposals to restructure Committees from 2019/20.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Members are requested to:

- (i) approve the revised Committee structure as detailed in Appendix 2 for implementation from municipal year 2019/20;
- (ii) revise the role of Service Delivery Champions and make provision for member champions for key services and projects (when and if appropriate);
- (iii) authorise the Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer to make the necessary consequential amendments to the constitution and shareholder agreement to implement the above recommendations;
- (iv) authorise the Democratic Services Manager (Deputy Monitoring Officer) to consult with the existing Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) to consider the implications of the new responsibilities and job profiles for Leader and Deputy Leader as detailed in Appendix 3.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 The current Committee structure was agreed by Council on 11 April 2017 (ref: Agenda Item No. 10). The current Committee structure is detailed in Appendix 1.

3.2 There are a number of reasons to review the Committee structure for the new Council in 2019/20, specifically:-

- the reduction in elected members from 39 to 28 for the new Council in 2019/20;
- the current and varied workload of individual Committees.

3.3 Based on the 63 Policy, Statutory and Shareholder Committee places, each member has an average of 1.62 places. Based on the reduction of members from 39 to 28, the average places for each new member based on the current structure would be 2.25 places.

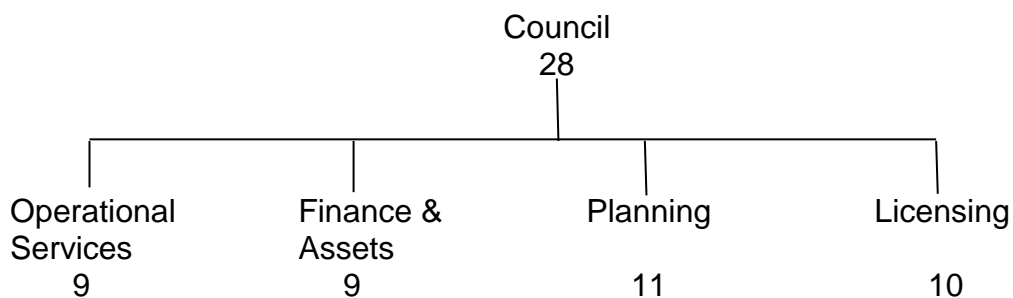
- 3.4 To maintain the current ratio of Committee places to members, the number of places available would need to be 45 (ie a reduction of 18 places). If Council were minded to retain the current structure, this would be the equivalent of reducing the membership of Community Services/Regulatory Services/Resources & Finance from 9 to 7, Shareholder/Asset Development from 7 to 5 and Planning/Licensing from 11 to 7. Whether these reductions are acceptable or otherwise, it does not address the varied workload between individual Committees.
- 3.5 It's also worth noting that with reduced members serving larger wards, with more constituents and Parish Councils, it will be more difficult to maintain the status quo.
- 3.6 There are two other issues worthy of consideration whilst undertaking the review, specifically:-
- the continuing role of Service Delivery Champions;
 - the changing role of Leader and Deputy Leader of Council.

These issues are dealt with in paragraphs 4.3 and 4.4.

4.0 PROPOSALS

- 4.1 The proposals outlined below reflect on the analysis detailed in paragraph 3.2 and conclude that reducing the number of Committees is the preferred option. The proposals also reflect that the existing Regulatory Services and Resources and Finance have significantly heavier workloads than the other Policy Committees.

Revised Structure



The average number of Committee places would be 1.39 (1.4 if Leader does not sit on Committees).

- 4.2 Under these arrangements, the functions of the existing Asset Development Committee would be transferred to Finance and Assets and Community Services Committee to Operational Services Committee.
- 4.3 Although the proposals delete the current Shareholder Committee, the all Member Shareholder meeting will increase from one to two per annum and will include all Members of the Council. The functions of the existing Shareholder Committee would be transferred to Finance and Assets.

4.4 Service Delivery Champions were initially set up to support new managers following the restructuring of the Council, in the development and presentation of Service Delivery Plans. Given that the new structure is now fully embedded, the 'raison d'être' for these permanent roles are no longer valid. Nevertheless, Service Delivery Champions can make a useful contribution to services and specific project delivery (when and where required).

4.5 Since the inception of the Combined Authority and the establishment of ECTC and ECSS, the role of Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council have changed considerably. There is a necessity to reevaluate the roles and refer to the existing members of the IRP, in order to inform this work, a revised role and responsibilities profile is attached for members' consideration as Appendix 3.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The detailed financial implications of these proposals will be known following consideration by the IRP in relation to the Leader and Deputy Leader of Council. Nevertheless, there is very likely to be savings in the 2019/20 budget given the reduction in Special Responsibility Allowances, in addition to the overall reduction in total members.

6.0 APPENDICES

- 6.1 Appendix 1 - Current Committee Structure
- Appendix 2 - Proposed Committee Structure
- Appendix 3 - Draft Job Profiles - Leader and Deputy Leader of Council

Background Documents

Council, 11 April 2017
Agenda Item No. 10

Location

Room 103
The Grange
Ely

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