
COMMITTEE RESTRUCTURING

Committee: Council

Date: 11 April 2017

Author: Chief Executive

[R264]

1.0 **ISSUE**

1.1 The restructuring of the Council's Committee structure.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 Members are requested to:

- (i) approve the Committee structure detailed in Appendix 6;
- (ii) increase the number of substitute members for each Committee to a maximum of three members per Political Group;
- (iii) authorise the Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer to make any necessary amendments to the terms of reference and any consequential amendments to the Constitution arising from these changes.

3.0 **BACKGROUND/OPTIONS**

3.1 The Council agreed on 16 November 2016 (ref: Agenda 9B) to instigate a review of the Committee structure including consideration of the recommendations of the LATC Shareholder Review Committee.

3.2 The LATC Shareholder Review Committee on 26 October 2016 recommended to Council:

"That a standalone Shareholder Committee be established, separate to the Council's Policy Committees and reporting directly to full Council."

3.3 A Members Seminar was held on 29 March 2017 to consider options for the restructuring of the current Committee structure and the establishment of a standalone Shareholder Committee.

3.4 The core Committee structure currently operating was established by Council (ref: 15 April 2014 Agenda Item No. 6). The status quo is detailed in Appendix 1. (Please note that all appendices exclude the Planning and Licensing Committees and any existing Sub Committees/Working Parties).

4.0 ARGUMENT

4.1 As with any review, there is a spectrum of change varying from retaining the status quo, making modest changes to existing portfolios to more radical proposals, which seek to establish a totally revised structure.

4.2 In assessing the options, members need to consider the following issues, specifically:

- consideration of the recommendations of the LATC Shareholder Review Committee for the establishment of a standalone Shareholder Committee;
- the number and membership of the current Committees;
- the balance of portfolios between Policy Committees;
- the challenges of the commercialisation and devolution agenda.

4.3 The Members Seminar on 29 March 2017 considered a number of options, which are attached as Appendices 2 – 6.

The issues raised at the Seminar and subsequent discussions with Members are highlighted below and have informed the recommended option in Appendix 6, and paragraph 2.1, specifically:

- the workload of specific Committees, in particular, Regulatory and Support Services Committee;
- the members of Policy Committees and the proposed Shareholder Committee to ensure full attendance and a subsequent increase in substitutes;
- clarification of the role of the current Commercial Services Committee;
- the relationship between Planning Committee and Asset Development Committee with the Shareholder Committee;
- the strong case for a standalone Shareholder Committee.

4.4 The recommended option is attached as Appendix 6. The key features of these proposals and summarised below, specifically:

- the establishment of a standalone Shareholder Committee with a membership of 7;
- reduction from 11 to 9 members on Policy Committees (excluding Asset Development);
- renaming of Committees, specifically Regulatory Services, Community Services and Resources and Finance Committee;

- realignment of portfolios between Policy Committees as set out in Appendix 6.

4.5 There were two other proposals arising from the Member Seminar which were recommended for approval, specifically:

- increase in the maximum number of substitutes to 3;
- prohibit members of the Shareholder Committee being members of Planning and Asset Development.

4.6 It seems sensible to increase the number of substitutes given the proposal to reduce the membership of Policy Committees.

4.7 The case to exclude members of the Shareholder Committee from Planning and Asset Development is less clear. The Shareholder Committee is a representative of the Council not ECTC so there does not appear to be any apparent conflict.

Nevertheless, the relationship between the Asset Development Committee and the Planning Committee may well need to be considered.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

5.1 Based on the current members allowance scheme, there will be an additional Special Responsibility Allowance for the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Shareholder Committee of £3210 and Group Spokesperson allowance of £257.00. The total additional costs of these proposals are £3467. The IRP report will be considered at the July Council.

5.2 EIA not required.

6.0 APPENDICES

- 6.1 Appendix 1 - Status Quo
 Appendix 2 - Introduction of Standalone Shareholder Committee into current structure
 Appendix 3 - Rebalancing the current structure
 Appendix 4 - Significant Change
 Appendix 5 - Alternative Option
 Appendix 6 - Recommended Option

Background Documents

Council
 15 April 2014
 Agenda Item No. 6

16 November 2016
 Agenda Item No. 9B

Location

Room 103
 The Grange
 Ely

Contact Officer

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