

**Meeting of the Full Council
Meeting to be held on 21 May 2015**

Report submitted by the Director of Governance, Finance and Public Services

Part A

Electoral Division affected:
All

Political Governance Working Group
(Appendix A refers)

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Executive Summary

At the meeting of the Full Council on 18 December 2014, the initial recommendations of the Political Governance Working Group were presented. At that meeting, it was agreed that a small number of outstanding issues should continue to be explored by the Working Group, with a further report to this meeting.

Recommendation

Full Council is asked to:

1. Consider the recommendation of the Political Governance Working Group on governance arrangements, and resolve whether to:
 - i. Disestablish the Commons and Town Greens Sub Group and Standing Joint Health Scrutiny Committee.
 - ii. Amend the Overview and Scrutiny Call In rules to include the following:
"Where a decision was subject to consideration by the Executive Scrutiny Committee, and where
 - i. no amendments had been proposed by the Executive Scrutiny Committee, and
 - ii. the decision made was as set out to the Executive Scrutiny Committee

Then the Call In request must come from 5 county councillors representing more than one single political group."

- iii. Amend the Call In rules to allow a submission to be made electronically via email.

2. Request the Political Governance Working Group to conduct a review of Locality working and Full Council procedures and report on the outcome to a future meeting of Full Council.
3. Authorise the Director of Governance, Finance and Public Services to approve any consequential amendments to the Constitution arising from the decisions at 1 above.

Background and Advice

At the meeting of the Full Council on 18 December 2015, the initial recommendations of the Political Governance Working Group were presented. At that meeting, it was agreed by Full Council that the current system of cabinet and Scrutiny decision making should be retained. However there were a small number of related issues which the Full Council requested that the Working group consider further.

The issues that have been given further consideration by the Working Group were:

- Consideration of whether certain committees, particularly the Corporate Complaints Committee, the Commons and town Greens Sub Committee and the standing Joint Health Scrutiny Committee were still required or whether they should be disestablished.
- Whether there should be changes to the size of Committees, including the idea of whether a standard committee size of 13 could be applied across all committees.
- Changes to the Overview and Scrutiny Call In rules in relation to decisions which had been subject to consideration by the Executive Scrutiny Committee
- The future of locality working and the 3 Tier forums
- The potential for changes to be made to Full Council processes and procedures to ensure that meeting remained relevant and engaging for councillors and the public.

All Councillors were given an opportunity to comment on a number of these issues, and comments made were considered by the Working Group.

The proposals of the Working Group are outlined at Appendix A.

Consultations

All members of the County Council were consulted on the proposals related to the Complaints Committee, the "Call In" rules, Committee membership and Full Council procedures.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

The County Council must ensure that its decision making arrangements continue to be effective and efficient in discharging all statutory duties.

In relation to "Call In", all Local Authorities operating a Cabinet and Scrutiny model are required to have arrangements for a "Call In" to be made, but may make their own rules for how the process should work.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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N/A

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A