

### **Proposals for changes to governance arrangements:**

#### **1. Committees**

##### **Commons and Town Greens Sub Committee**

Given that the committee has met extremely infrequently over the last few years, it is felt that the need for such a separate sub committee no longer exists. It is proposed that the Commons and Town Greens Sub Committee be disestablished, and its functions re-absorbed by the Regulatory Committee.

##### **Joint Health Scrutiny Committee**

Whilst there is a continuing statutory requirement for the County Council to work with other Local Authorities on NHS proposals which cross local authority boundaries, it is felt that the current standing Joint Health Scrutiny Committee has not proved to be a flexible enough arrangement, given the different configurations the County Council is required to deal with due to its large number of geographical neighbours. It is proposed that this committee be disestablished, and alternative ad hoc arrangements be established.

##### **Complaints Committee**

Consultation responses from councillors were overwhelmingly positive about the value of this committee, and in favour of its retention. Therefore, the Complaints Committee will be retained as at present.

##### **Other Committees**

No other changes are proposed at present. However, the committee structure should be kept under constant review to ensure that it fits the needs of the authority. Any further changes will be fully discussed with councillors.

#### **2. Committee size**

The views of councillors were that there would be no particular benefit in amending committee sizes across the board, and that instead the number of members of each committee could and should be assessed on the individual nature and functions of the committee. No changes to committee sizes is therefore proposed.

#### **3. Overview and Scrutiny Call In rules**

There was an acceptance that the Call In rules should be amended in relation to decisions which had passed through the Executive Scrutiny Committee without any proposed amendments. However, it was equally important to retain the power of Call In in order to ensure accountability. It is therefore proposed to amend the 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."

It is also proposed that the current rules which require a Call In to be submitted in writing be amended to allow a submission to be made electronically via email.

#### **4. Locality Working**

The Working Group have agreed that a review of Locality Working and the 3 Tier Forums should be commenced with the agreement of Full Council and a further report on the outcome of a review will be submitted to a subsequent Full Council meeting.

#### **5. Full Council procedures**

Full Council is requested that options continue to be explored, and a report setting out any proposed options come to a later meeting of Full Council for consideration.