

This Report will be made public on 25 April 2022



Report Number **A/22/07**

To: Council
Date: 4 May 2022
Status: Non - executive decision
Responsible Officer: Susan Priest, Chief Executive

SUBJECT: GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

SUMMARY: Following the report presented at the extraordinary meeting of Full Council on 10 February 2022, which summarised the work of the Governance Working Group and set out the various governance models available, Members are now asked to consider if they wish to make any changes to its governance arrangements to take effect from May 2023.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. To receive and note report A/22/07.
2. To consider if the Council:
 - a. should make any changes to its existing governance arrangements with effect from May 2023; and
 - b. if so, the nature of those changes.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 On 25 September 2019, Full Council resolved:

“That this Council believes that all Councillors should have the ability to participate fully in decision-making and that a range of governance options are available. This council believes that a cross party working group of all group leaders should be set up to consider the issues of moving to a committee system, or an alternative system, at the earliest opportunity reporting back to council.” Council 25 September 2019 (minute 43.2).

1.2 Following on from the decision a Governance Working Group was created, and it has subsequently met four times. At the meeting of the Governance Working Group held on 11 October 2021 it was agreed that a decision be put to Full Council at the Annual Meeting in May 2022 and, subject to that decision, any potential changes to existing governance arrangements would take effect from May 2023.

1.3 Since the original motion was proposed various changes have been made to the council’s existing governance arrangements. These changes, along with the progress against a set of agreed ‘goals for change’, are set out in Report A/21/22 which was noted by Full Council at the meeting on 10 February 2022 (minute 53), and is appended to this report as Appendix 1. The report also included an appendix prepared by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS) setting out the governance options available and factors for consideration. This is also appended to this report as Appendix 2.

2. OPTIONS

2.1 The report by CfGS (Appendix 2) sets out the different options for the model of governance the Council might wish to adopt.

2.2 The CfGS report reviews the three options which are as follows: -

- 1. Continue with the current arrangements (i.e. cabinet system);**
- 2. Adopt a “hybrid” governance system; or**
- 3. Adopt a committee system.**

2.3 The matter is now before the Council for decision. If the Council wishes to change its governance arrangements, in other words move to a hybrid or committee system, it must pass a formal resolution to that effect. Once a resolution to change the governance arrangements has been made a further resolution changing the governance arrangements again cannot be passed for a period of five years.

2.4 If it is council’s desire to change the governance arrangements, the selected model will form the basis of the new design. Procedures and protocols will be drawn up to ensure that the model can operate efficiently and effectively in accordance with the design principles. The financial implications of any new governance structure are difficult to assess at this stage without first determining its details and will form part of any report on those details.

3. LEGAL/FINANCIAL AND OTHER CONTROLS/POLICY MATTERS

3.1 Legal Officer's Comments (AK)

Any legal issues are covered in the main body of the report.

3.2 Finance Officer's Comments (LW)

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

3.3 Diversities and Equalities Implications (GE)

There are no equality or diversity issues arising as a result of the report.

4. CONTACT OFFICERS AND BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Councillors with any questions arising out of this report should contact the following officer prior to the meeting

Jemma West

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Report A/21/22 considered at Full Council on 10 February 2022

Appendix 2 – Report prepared by CfGS setting out options available.

The following background documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report:

[Minutes of the Governance Working Group meetings.](#)