

Divisions affected – All

COUNCIL

12 DECEMBER 2023

FUTURE COUNCIL GOVERNANCE GROUP – FINAL REPORT

Report of the Director of Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To establish an Education and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee comprising nine elected members. Terms of reference to follow.
2. To note the work undertaken by the Future Council Governance Group including the findings and recommendations at paragraphs 35 to 40 of the report (please refer to the report at Annex 1).

Audit and Governance Committee

3. The final report of the Future Council Governance Group was presented to the Audit and Governance Committee on 29 November 2023 by Cllr Stefan Gawrysiak, chair of the cross-party group.
4. The Audit and Governance Committee welcomed the findings and recommendations of the Future Council Governance Group. Although the only recommendation that needs to be formally presented to Council is the one relating to the formation of the Education and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee, members of the committee requested that the group's full report be appended to the committee's report to full Council.
5. A number of the recommendations, including the inter-relationship between Cabinet and Scrutiny, Deputy Cabinet Members, participatory process, locality working and futures planning, will need to be taken forward by the Cabinet, Leader of the Council and individual Cabinet Members. Cllr Gawrysiak will be presenting the group's report to a future meeting of the Cabinet.

Corporate policies and priorities

6. The Council has a stated priority to ensure a vibrant participatory democracy

Financial implications

7. There will be additional costs associated with the recommendations included in the report, in particular participatory process, expanding the remit of locality meetings and embedding 'futures planning' across the Council. These have not yet been assessed in any detail.

Legal implications

8. Governance arrangements are included in the Local Government Act 2000 (LGA 2000), as amended by the Localism Act 2011. Section 9B of Part 1A of the LGA 2000 sets out the three governance models: executive arrangements, committee system or prescribed arrangements. Section 9BA sets out the power of the Secretary of State to prescribe additional permitted governance arrangements. *Comments checked by – Anita Bradley, Director of Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer*

Staff implications

9. The actions identified by the Future Council Governance Group will require the involvement of staff across the organisation, most notably Democratic Services and Scrutiny, in helping to facilitate some of the recommendations.

Anita Bradley

Director of Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer

Annex – Future Council Governance Group final report

Background papers:

- a) Report to full Council on 12 December 2022 – Review of Council Governance Arrangements
- b) Report to Audit and Governance Committee on 20 September 2023 – Future Council Governance Group
- c) Report to the Audit and Governance Committee on 29 November 2023 – Future Council Governance Group
- d) Centre for Governance and Scrutiny paper: Rethinking Council Governance

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