

Review of Governance arrangements Working Group

1. Scope & Objective

The Working Group will consider the issues of moving to a committee system, or an alternative system, as per the council resolution dated 25 September 2019 (minute 43.2) below:

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

2. Membership

Five members (The Group Leader from each political group – ie Councillors McConville, Monk, Meyers, Prater and Whybrow).

The group will be facilitated and chaired by an independent party.

The group will be supported by the Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer and Democratic Services Manager.

3. Authority

The Working Group is advisory and has no decision making powers. Their recommendations will be reported to Full Council.

4. Accountability

The Working Group shall report to Full Council as appropriate.

5. Methods of working

Members of the Working Group are expected to work co-operatively and come to conclusions that are agreed by the group.

Formal votes should therefore be rare with decision of the Working Group taken by general consent.

6. Meetings

The access to information procedure rules in the constitution do not apply. However members should receive any papers for the meetings in sufficient time for them to prepare for the meeting. There is a presumption that papers will be distributed electronically.

Proper records of the deliberations of the Working Group will be kept.

Three members of the Working Group must be present for the meeting to proceed.

7. Frequency of Meetings

The frequency of meetings will be informed by the need to have the Working Group consider issues.

8. Confidentially

Those present will keep the discussions of the Working Group confidential unless the Working Group decides otherwise. The relationship between the Working Group and the media should follow the council's communications protocol at all times.

9. Freedom of information /Environmental Information Regulations

The papers and notes/minutes of a Working Group will be the subject of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 and will be documents that the public may have unless an exemption or exception applies.

10. Interests

Councillors should treat the Working Group as a formal meeting of the council for the purpose of the declarations of any interests and withdrawal from the meeting.