

# GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

27 MARCH 2018

## REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION GOVERNANCE REVIEW REPORT

#### 1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To receive and note the Local Government Association's (LGA) report and recommendations at Appendix A and consider initial next steps.

#### 2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **To receive and note the report and recommendations from the LGA Governance Review set out at Appendix A.**
- 2.2 **To support the establishment of an informal member and officer development group to review the findings and develop proposals to improve, streamline and clarify the committee and related group structures. These proposals to be considered by an ad hoc Governance Committee in April with a view to any agreed changes being recommended to the Council AGM in May.**
- 2.3 **To ask the development group to undertake further research in relation to the other findings and recommendation set out in the report.**
- 2.4 **To ask the Leader of the Council to nominate up to 4 members to work with him and officers within the development group.**

#### 3.0 KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 Following the LGA Peer Challenge held in December 2017 a report and list of recommendations together with an Action Plan were accepted by Full Council on 22 February 2018. One of the recommendations is to improve the Council's governance and decision-making arrangements. The Local Government Association (LGA) has been invited to assist in this work and a review on the Council's current arrangements was held on 12-14 March 2018.

The remit of the review was to *explore where the council can improve, streamline and clarify its policy development, committee system and decision making arrangements*. The review was undertaken by a peer member and an officer from the LGA. They met with approximately 20 members during 3 different focus group sessions, alongside a number of officers involved in supporting the decision making processes. Having already provided some initial verbal feedback, the LGA's report is attached at Appendix A for the Committee's consideration. The recommendations reflect the opportunities to develop a clearer route for policy development, strengthening the role of committees as decision making structures, removing duplication, and clarifying the important role of lead members (Chairs and the Leader) in helping to shape policy. The report also sets out observations in relation to increasing trust between Members and Officers and streamlining and improving the approach to Officer delegations.

Members will have a further opportunity to hear the presentation from the LGA on 9<sup>th</sup> April at the corporate visioning and prioritisation exercise. To enable further consideration of the findings and recommendations it is proposed that an informal development group be established, where a small group of members and officers develop proposals to improve, streamline and clarify the committees and associated structures. It is further recommended that these proposals be presented to a future ad hoc Governance Committee with a view to making a number of recommended changes to the Council AGM in May 2018. It is also proposed that this group undertake further research on the other recommendations within the report.

#### **4.0 POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Ensuring effective governance is a key component to making the best use of resources and ensuring effective delivery against the Council's Corporate vision and objectives.

#### **5.0 FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Any financial and resource implications will be met from existing resources.

#### **6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS**

6.1 There are no direct legal implications associated with this report but any subsequent recommendations will need to be considered in the context of current legislation.

#### **7.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY**

7.1 There are no community safety implications relating to this report.

#### **8.0 EQUALITIES**

8.1 There are no direct equalities implications associated with this report.

#### **9.0 RISKS**

9.1 There are no direct risks associated with this report but any recommendations considered by a future committee will be need to have the risks carefully considered.

#### **10.0 CLIMATE CHANGE**

10.1 There are no direct climate change implications

#### **11.0 CONSULTATION**

11.1 A wide range of Members and relevant officers were involved in shaping the findings of the governance review.

#### **12.0 WARDS AFFECTED**

12.1 All wards are indirectly affected by this report.

Contact Officer      Edd de Coverly  
Date:                    March 2018

Appendices :            Appendices : Appendix A    LGA Governance Review report

Background Papers:    LGA Peer Challenge Report and Action Plan