

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

24 JULY 2018

REPORT OF DIRECTOR FOR LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

GOVERNANCE REVIEW – PHASE 2

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To note progress of the second phase of the Governance Review and the activities under consideration.
- 1.2 To consider the recommendation of the Governance Development Group for the removal of the annual appointment of a Chair to the Appeals Committee and the associated implications on the Member Allowances Scheme.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To note the update on the second phase of the Governance Review.
- 2.2 The following be considered by the Committee and subject to approval, they be referred to the Full Council for adoption and updating the Constitution accordingly :-

(a) To approve the removal of the annual appointment of a Chair to the Appeals Committee and that this appointment be made on an ad hoc basis as and when a meeting is required.

(b) To approve that the Special Responsibility Allowance allocated to the Chair of the Appeals Committee be deleted from the Member Allowances Scheme and the scheme be updated accordingly.

3.0 KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 Following completion of the first phase of the Governance Review which included approval of a set of 27 recommendations at the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 8 May 2018, the Governance Development Group has been working with officers on phase 2 of the review. To recap the remit of the group is as follows :-

Governance Committee :

'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 be supported. These proposals to be considered by an ad hoc meeting of this Committee in April with a view to any agreed changes being recommended to an Extraordinary Council in May;

'the development group be asked to undertake further research in relation to the other findings and recommendation set out in the Local Government Association's report;'

Extraordinary Council :

'it be approved that the Governance Development Group be retained in its current format and membership and continue to review the Council's

governance arrangements including a review of the scheme of delegation to officers to offer more flexibility and consider the merits of alternative governance models and report to the Governance Committee and subsequently the Full Council in due course.'

- 3.2 Phase 2 of the review is well underway and the Governance Development Group (the group) is making arrangements for exploratory discussions with several other local authorities which operate different models of governance. The four Councils selected for finding out about how they work and why they chose their method of governance have been recommended by the Local Government Association and include those operating a Cabinet and Committees system as well as a hybrid model. These soundings will help the group to determine the best option to deliver Melton's decision-making arrangements in the future. It is anticipated these discussions will take place in August and the outcome will be reported to the next Governance Committee in September along with a recommendation for the way forward. Following the Committee's consideration and subject to its agreement, a period of consultation will follow before any proposal for change is presented to a Full Council meeting.
- 3.3 The group has considered the role of the Appeals Committee given that it has not met since May 2009. Due to this lack of regular business requirement and the ongoing payment of a Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) to the Chair of this Committee, the group recommends the removal of the requirement to appoint a Chair on an annual basis and the corresponding SRA. The group considered that a Chair could be appointed on an ad hoc basis as and when the Committee was required to meet. The current Chair of the Appeals Committee has been consulted as has the Chair of the Welland Independent Remuneration Panel.
- 3.4 Other matters that remain on the work programme for Phase 2 primarily relate to the realignment of budgets into the new committee structure and responsibilities which will commence when the budgets are set for 2019/20 with budget monitoring under the new arrangements not implemented fully under the 2018/19 financial year. The Council's Constitution and scheme of delegation is to be fully reviewed including the Financial Procedure Rules and the policy framework. The group will also continue to consider any other matters which will reduce duplication and make potential efficiency savings to the Council.

4.0 POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Ensuring effective governance is a key component to making the best use of resources and ensuring the 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.
- 5.2 There is a potential saving to the Democratic Core budget with the removal of the SRA to the Appeals Committee. Should the proposals outlined in this report be approved, there will be a saving of the SRA to the Chair of the Appeals Committee in the sum of £2,163 per annum.
- 5.3 Streamlining of governance processes will inevitably have a productivity gain in

terms of officer time being released to focus on other priorities. Whilst this cannot be quantified currently it will be evaluated over the coming months and considered in more detail, particularly as alternative governance models are considered further and the scheme of delegation updated.

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 Equalities Screening Assessments have been drafted on constitution matters and most of the matters in this report relate to the legality around governance arrangements.

9.0 RISKS

9.1

L I K E L I H O O D	A	Very High				
	B	High				
	C	Significant				
	D	Low		1, 2		
	E	Very Low				
	F	Almost Impossible				
			Negligible 1	Marginal 2	Critical 3	Catastrophic 4
			IMPACT			

Risk No	Risk Description
1	To not have robust governance arrangements could mean the Council's aims and objectives cannot be met
2	Duplication of roles and functions impacts on the Council's resources and value for money

10.0 **CLIMATE CHANGE**

10.1 There are no direct climate change implications

11.0 **CONSULTATION**

11.1 The Governance Development Group continue to consider the way forward and work towards developing the Council's proposed Governance arrangements.

11.2 The Chair of the Appeals Committee and the Chair of Welland Independent Remuneration Panel have been consulted on the removal of the annual appointment of a Chair to the Appeals Committee and the associated SRA.

12.0 **WARDS AFFECTED**

12.1 All wards are indirectly affected by this report.

Contact Officer Adele Wylie
Date: July 2018
Background Papers: Peer Challenge Review – December 2017
 LGA Governance Review – March 2018
 Extraordinary Council decisions – 8 May 2018
Reference : X : Committees – Governance – 2018 19 – 240718 – Governance Review – Phase 2