

## GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

20 NOVEMBER 2018

### REPORT OF DIRECTOR FOR LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

#### GOVERNANCE REVIEW

##### 1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To receive the Leader's report on the Governance Development Group's work on the review of Governance arrangements which is to be considered by the Extraordinary meeting of the Council on 21 November 2018.
- 1.2 To request the committee's comments on the Leader's report attached as Appendix 1 which will be presented to the Extraordinary meeting of the Council on 21 November 2018.

##### 2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **To consider and comment on the Leader's report to the Extraordinary meeting of the Council to be held on 21 November 2018 regarding the future governance of the Council. The Committee's comments to be reported to the Extraordinary Council Meeting.**

##### 3.0 KEY ISSUES

###### 3.1 Background

Following on from the decisions of the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 8 May 2018 and this Committee's involvement in the Governance Review prior to that meeting, the Governance Development Group ('the Group') has met regularly and undertook extensive research and consultation on the principles of good governance and potential decision-making structures. The Group concluded its review of alternative governance models in October 2018.

###### 3.2 Extraordinary Council Meeting – 21 November 2018

The Group has concluded that the current Committee system does not provide the Council with the right structure to achieve our strategic vision and commercial aspirations. This conclusion was based upon a thorough assessment of the alternative governance options and consideration of how best to meet the following objectives:

- To ensure public accountability with clearly identified responsibilities for members
- To increase engagement with stakeholders and the public in policy development and decisions that affect their area
- To ensure that there is effective review and challenge of our decisions
- To make quicker decisions when needed so as to fulfil our aspirations to be more agile and commercial.

Therefore as Chair of the Group, the Leader is to present the Governance Development Group's findings at an Extraordinary meeting of the Council to be held on 21 November 2018. The report is attached as follows :-

- Appendix 1: Leader's Report on Review on Governance Arrangements
- Appendix A : Review of Governance Arrangements by the Governance Development Group
- Appendix B : Public Survey Results
- Appendix C : Action Plan

### **3.3 Governance Committee role**

As the lead committee on governance arrangements, this committee is requested to make any representations on the Leader's report and these will be reported to the Extraordinary meeting of the Council on 21 November 2018.

It should be noted that this Committee will be consulted on any constitutional reform and there is a timetable set out in the Council report which confirms this.

## **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. The Council's Corporate Delivery Plan includes a specific commitment to become a 'more agile and commercial council.'

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

5.1 Financial comments on alternative governance arrangements are included within the body of the Extraordinary Council report at Appendix 1 and apply to this report.

## **6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS**

6.1 Legal comments on alternative governance arrangements are included within the body of the Extraordinary Council report at Appendix 1 and apply to this report.

## **7.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY**

7.1 Community Safety implications are included within the body of the Extraordinary Council report at Appendix 1 and apply to this report.

## **8.0 EQUALITIES**

8.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed.



Background Papers: Peer Challenge Review – December 2017  
LGA Governance Review – March 2018  
Extraordinary Council – 8 May 2018  
Reference : X : Committees\Governance\2018-19\201118