

SUBJECT:	Review of Political Management Arrangements
REPORT OF:	Monitoring Officer
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Jim Burness, Director of Resources
REPORT AUTHOR	Joanna Swift, Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer
WARD/S AFFECTED	N/A

1. Purpose of Report

To consider possible changes to the Council's current decision-making arrangements following consultation and consideration of the options by members within their political groups.

RECOMMENDATION

That Members consider whether they wish officers to bring forward proposals on any of the following options to a future meeting:-

- (i) **Whether to reduce the current cycle of meetings from 6 to 4**
- (ii) **Whether to establish a single Overview Committee**
- (iii) **Whether to agree the principle of establishing joint scrutiny functions with South Bucks District Council subject to in principle agreement by South Bucks**
- (iv) **Whether the current PAG arrangements require any amendment**
- (v) **Whether to introduce individual cabinet member decision-making**

2. Reasons for Recommendation

To enable the Committee to review the current decision-making processes in the light of consultation within political groups.

3. Content of Report

3.1 A report on options for reviewing the current decision-making arrangements alongside the review of the Council's Constitution, was brought to the Committee on 30 November 2016. A copy is attached as Appendix 1 for ease of reference. The committee decided to defer consideration of the following options to enable consultation and consideration within their political groups:-

- Whether to reduce for current cycle of meetings from 6 to 4
- Whether to establish a single Overview Committee
- Whether to agree the principle of establishing joint scrutiny functions with South Bucks District Council subject to in principle agreement by South Bucks
- Whether the current PAG arrangements require any amendment
- Whether to introduce individual cabinet member decision-making

3.2 The Head of Legal & Democratic Services was asked to produce further information and the spread sheet attached as Appendix 2 to the original report, showing the number of meetings held and cancelled, has been updated. This now covers the 2015/16 Council year and 2016/17 to date. The inclusion of meetings/cancellations in 2014/15 did not provide a valid comparison, as the reduction in the meeting cycle from 8 to 6 was not in place for the full year. The updated spread sheet also groups ad hoc meetings separately, as they would not be affected by any change to meeting cycles. The update spread sheet is attached at Appendix 2.

4. Consultation

If the Committee decide to proceed with any of the options they can decide whether, and if so how, they wish to consult further on the proposals with members more widely, either via committees/cabinet or individually.

5. Options

The Committee can decide whether or not to proceed with any of the options discussed above or to suggest alternatives.

6. Corporate Implications

Financial – There are no financial implications arising directly from this report
Legal – As set out in the report and Appendix 1
Risks issues – None specific
Equalities - None specific

7. Links to Council Policy Objectives

There are no direct links to the Council's policy objectives. But efficient and effective decision-making processes accord with best practise and good governance generally.

8. Next Steps

Any actions agreed will be included in the Committee's work programme

Background Papers:	None except those referred to in the report
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