
MODERNISING AGENDA – NEW POLITICAL STRUCTURES

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report seeks to progress the Council's work in connection with the development of a streamlined committee structure. It follows on from the report recently considered by Extraordinary Council on 30th May, 2001.
- 1.2 The Council is required by statutory guidance to submit a preferred decision making structure to the Secretary of State for Transport, Local Government and the Regions by July, 2001.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 At Extraordinary Council on 30th May, 2001, Members considered the outcome of the public consultation carried out to date and agreed that, subject to further consideration relating to size possibilities for a Planning Committee, work on the development of a streamlined committee structure should proceed.
- 2.2 In connection with the size of the Planning Committee, the Regional Office of Central Government has been asked for their views, and any received by the Sub Committee meeting will be reported orally. In addition, the Focus Group activity agreed at full Council, has been arranged for 14th June and again, any feedback received from that exercise will be reported orally.

3 DETAILED CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 Based on the outcome of consultation to date, the Council have agreed to develop a streamlined Committee system based on the model attached at Appendix 1, although with further consideration needing to be given to the size of the Planning Committee. The Focus Group work being carried out by ORC International should provide a useful input into this.
- 3.2 Attached as Appendix 2 is a draft of key parts of a new constitution for the District Council which is based on the Government's Modular Constitution.
- 3.3 The new Modular Constitution will eventually consist of 7 parts. The intention is that every matter affecting the decision making process of the Council will need to be made available in a simple, comprehensive

document easily accessible to any person wishing to inspect it. Based on the Government model, the parts are divided as follows:

Part 1	Summary and Explanation
Part 2	Articles of the Constitution
Part 3	Responsibility for Functions
Part 4	Rules of Procedure
Part 5	Codes and Protocols
Part 6	Member Allowances
Part 7	Management Structure

- 3.4 Appendix 2 deals primarily with Part 2 and part of Part 3. It sets out the powers of the Council, the role/responsibilities of Councillors, citizens' rights/relationship with the Council, the functions of the Council committees under the new structure and details of decision making.
- 3.5 Details of these aspects will have to be submitted to Central Government as part of this Authority's submission. Hence, Members' views are sought on their content.

4 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The cost of undertaking public consultation on the alternative decision making structures is being met from within the Council's existing consultation budgets.

5 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Council is required to introduce a new decision making structure by the Local Government Act 2000 and subsidiary regulations.

6 PARISH IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 In any new structure the Council will need to consider how it wishes to relate to the Parish and Town Councils around the District.

8 RECOMMENDATION

- 8.1 Members' views are sought on
- a) The model structure outlined in Appendix 1
 - b) The appropriate Membership of a Planning Services Committee within that structure
 - c) The form, terms and conditions of those parts of the new Constitution as outlined in Appendix 2.

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Background Papers:

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