

Governance Committee

18 January 2021

Minor change to Joint Scrutiny Arrangements

Report by Director of Law and Assurance

Electoral division: Not applicable

Summary

Arun District Council is moving to the committee system in May 2021. This report proposes a change to the Council's Constitution to take account of the impact of this on joint scrutiny arrangements.

Recommendation

That the Council be recommended to approve the change to the constitution of the Joint Scrutiny Steering Group, with effect from 1 May 2021, as set out in paragraph 2.1 below.

Proposal

1 Background and context

- 1.1 Arun District Council has given notice that it will be adopting the committee system of governance from May 2021 removing separate scrutiny committees. The County Council's constitution is affected in one minor way.

2 Proposal details

- 2.1 The current wording of the Joint Scrutiny Steering Group in Part 3, Appendix 19 of the Constitution states that the members from borough and district councils will be their chairmen of overview and scrutiny committees. It is proposed to amend this wording as follows with effect from 1 May 2021:

'The Chairmen of the West Sussex County Council Scrutiny Committees and the Chairmen of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees of the West Sussex borough and district councils, **or in the case of a Council operating the committee system, the chairman of a committee.**'

- 2.2 This is proposed on the basis that committees at Arun will still undertake scrutiny of council services and should have equal opportunity of taking part in joint scrutiny projects in future.
- 2.3 At the same time as considering the impact of the changes to the Joint Scrutiny Steering Group membership, the portfolios of scrutiny committees were also reviewed. One change is recommended.

3 Other options considered (and reasons for not proposing)

- 3.1 The other option would be to exclude Arun District Council from joint scrutiny arrangements but this would reduce the ability of Arun District Council to take part in joint scrutiny projects that may impact on its services.

4 Consultation, engagement and advice

- 4.1 Discussions have taken place with officers from Arun District Council to identify any impacts on the County Council's arrangements.

5 Finance

- 5.1 None.

6 Risk implications and mitigations

Risk	Mitigating Action (in place or planned)
Reputational risks and adverse impact on quality of scrutiny if Arun District Council were not part of joint scrutiny arrangements.	The proposal will ensure that Arun District Council has equal access to joint scrutiny arrangements in future.

7 Policy alignment and compliance

- 7.1 Not applicable.

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Background papers

None