

Governance Committee

13 May 2019

Part I

Select Committee Business Planning Group Membership

Report by Director of Law and Assurance

Summary

Current practice is that all Select Committee Vice-Chairmen are members of the Committee's Business Planning Group. However, this is not reflected in the Constitution. Vice-Chairmen work closely with Chairmen in overseeing the scrutiny work programme planning process, and will deputise for Chairmen where necessary. It is therefore proposed to formalise current practice and stipulate that Vice-Chairmen should be members of the Business Planning Group (and should be Vice-Chairmen of these).

Recommendation

That a recommendation be made to the County Council that the Constitution should require the Vice-Chairman of a Select Committee to be a member of its Business Planning Group and to be Vice-Chairman of this Group, as set out at paragraph 2.1.

Proposal

1. Background and Context

1.1 The Constitution makes provision for each Select Committee to have a Business Planning Group (BPG), an informal group of five members of the Committee which oversees the planning of its business. BPGs also have a responsibility for deciding whether call-in requests should be accepted for that Committee and whether Task and Finish Groups should be established.

1.2 The membership of the BPG is currently set out in the Constitution, Part 3 Appendix 8 as follows:

'Each Select Committee shall have a Business Planning Group comprising the Chairman of that Committee and four other members, two of whom shall be minority group members. The Chairman of the Select Committee shall be the chairman of the Business Planning Group.'

1.3 It is a long-standing arrangement that the Committee's Vice-Chairman has been one of the appointees to the BPG. This is helpful as the Committee's Vice-Chairman will generally deputise for a Chairman in their absence and will naturally work closely with the Chairman in carrying out work programme planning and finalising arrangements for Committee meetings.

2. Proposal

2.1 As the Committee Vice-Chairman is generally always appointed to the BPG, it

is proposed to formalise the arrangement through the following amendment to the Constitution (Part 3, Appendix 8):

'Each Select Committee shall have a Business Planning Group comprising the Chairman **and Vice-Chairman** of that Committee and ~~four~~ **three** other members. **Two of the five members** ~~whom~~ shall be minority group members. The Chairman of the Select Committee shall be the chairman of the Business Planning Group **and the Vice-Chairman of the Select Committee shall be the vice-chairman of the Group.'**

3. Resources

3.1 Not applicable

Factors taken into account

4. Consultation

4.1 Select Committee Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen have been consulted and all those responding (six of eight, including all Chairmen) are in support of the proposal.

5. Risk Management Implications

5.1 Not applicable.

6. Other Options Considered

6.1 The existing wording in the Constitution could be retained, but it is considered better to amend it to reflect existing practice.

7. Equality Duty

7.1 Not applicable.

8. Social Value

8.1 Not applicable.

9. Crime and Disorder Act Implications

9.1 Not applicable.

10. Human Rights Implications

10.1 Not applicable.

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Background Papers: None