

## POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 14 JUNE 2021

### PART I – DELEGATED

#### 5. SUB-COMMITTEES OF POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE (CED)

##### 1 Summary

- 1.1 The report proposes that the Policy and Resources Committee re-establishes the following sub-committees for 2021/22: Local Plan, Constitution and Equalities.
- 1.2 The report proposes that the Covid-19 Response sub-committee is not re-established.
- 1.3 That the Members appointed to all the sub-committees have the following proportional membership: 9, 2 and 1.

##### 2 Summary of Main Points

- 2.1 All the sub-committees have no decision-making powers with their remits being:

###### ***Local Plan sub-committee***

- 2.1.1 To make recommendations to the Policy and Resources Committee in respect of the preparation of the Local Plan in line with the most up to date Local Development Scheme which includes preparation, consultation, publication, submission and examination stages.

###### ***Constitution sub-committee***

- 2.1.2 To review the Council's Constitution and Governance arrangements and to make recommendations to the Policy and Resources Committee for Council ratification.

###### ***Equalities sub-committee***

- 2.1.3 To review and consider Equalities matters and make recommendations.

###### ***Covid-19 Response sub-committee***

- 2.1.4 To review service restoration priorities and updates in response to Covid 19.
- 2.2 The Covid-19 Response sub-committee has not met since November 2020. It is proposed that any reports are provided directly to P&R Committee in the future.

##### 3 Details

- 3.1 As responsibility for the matters considered by the sub-committees is under the remit of this Committee, it is for this Committee to appoint Members to them.
- 3.2 All the sub-committees will need to be proportional to the number of seats each Political Group holds on the Council.
- 3.3 At the Constitution sub-committee held on 29 September 2020 there was a general discussion on allowing all Members of the Council to be members of the sub-committees – details of the debate from the meeting are provided below:

CSC14/20 GENERAL DISCUSSION

## Sub-committees

Noted that in the past the P&R Committee as the Parent Committee sets up the sub-committees with its membership taken from the P&R Committee although any Member of the Council is able to substitute on the sub-committee. Legal advice had been checked and it would be possible to appoint other Members of the Council onto the sub-committees but it would be subject to Political Proportionality Rules. This would be for the P&R Committee to consider as the Parent Committee.

### **4 Options and Reasons for Recommendations**

- 4.1 That the Committee re-establishes three of the existing sub-committees and appoints Members with the political proportionality being 6, 2 and 1 on each sub-committee.
  - 4.1.1 Due to the commercial confidentiality of the work on the Local Plan sub-committee, whilst the agendas for the meeting will be published on the Council's website it is highly likely that the majority of the meeting will need to be held in Part II. As such the reports will remain confidential until such time as the information can be published for the press and public.
  - 4.1.2 With regard to the Constitution sub-committee, Officers can see no reason at this time why these meetings cannot be held in public. The matters considered by the sub-committee would be amendments to the Council Constitution.
- 4.2 With regard to the Covid-19 Response sub-committee, it is proposed that this sub-committee is not re-established in 2021/22.
- 4.3 That substitute Members be allowed and all Members of Council can be substitute Members.
- 4.4 As detailed in Paragraph 3.3 above P&R Committee are asked to agree that other Members of Council can be appointed to the sub-committees subject to Political Proportionality Rules.

### **5 Policy/Budget Reference and Implications**

- 5.1 The recommendations fall within the Council's agreed policy and budgets.

### **6 Financial, Equal Opportunities, Environmental, Community Safety, Public Health, Customer Services Centre, Risk Management and Health & Safety Implications**

- 6.1 None specific.

### **7 Legal Implications**

- Policy and Resources Committee have the power to set up sub-committees;
- Membership of the sub-committees derives from the membership of the Committee itself;
- The membership has to be politically proportionate;

- The sub-committee can be given delegated authority to make decisions within its remit save where reserved to Council such as constitutional changes and some aspects of the local plan framework;
- The provisions of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 will apply to meetings of the sub-committee so they have to be held in public unless there are exceptions to the rule which allows for the meeting to move into private as Part 2 business; and
- Council has agreed that all Members can act as substitute Members. In view of the nature of the work of the Local Plan sub-committee it is of course desirable for there to be consistency within the attending membership. Substitutes should only be allowed in exceptional circumstances and not as a matter of course.

## **8 Equal Opportunities Implications**

8.1 None specific.

## **9 Communications and Website Implications**

9.1 Details of the meetings and agendas will be published for the sub-committees on the Council's website.

## **10 Risk Management and Health & Safety Implications**

10.1 The Council has agreed its risk management strategy which can be found on the website at <http://www.threerivers.gov.uk>. In addition, the risks of the proposals in the report have also been assessed against the Council's duties under Health and Safety legislation relating to employees, visitors and persons affected by our operations. The risk management implications of this report are detailed below.

10.2 The subject of this report is covered by the Committee service plan. Any risks resulting from this report will be included in the risk register and, if necessary, managed within this service plan.

10.3 There are no risks to the Council in agreeing the recommendations.

## **11 Recommendation**

11.5 That three sub-committees be re-established (Constitution, Local Plan and Equalities) and that Members be appointed with the following proportional membership: 9, 2 and 1 and the Members names to be advised to the Committee Team.

11.6 That the Committee be asked to agree that other Members of Council can be appointed to the sub-committees subject to Political Proportionality Rules.

- a. That the Covid-19 Response sub-committee is not re-established.
- b. That no decision making powers be delegated to the sub-committees;
- c. That all Members of Council to be substitute Members.

Report prepared by: Sarah Haythorpe, Principal Committee Manager

**Data Quality**

Data sources:

Extra Policy and Resources Committee – 14 May 2020 and Policy and Resources Committee 15 June 2020

Data checked by: James Baldwin, Solicitor to the Council

Data rating:

<b>1</b>	<b>Poor</b>	
<b>2</b>	<b>Sufficient</b>	√
<b>3</b>	<b>High</b>	

**Background Papers**

None