

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

COMMUNITIES AND PLACE REVIEW AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Purpose of the Report

1. To establish a new committee to review the provision of services that fall under the remit of Communities and Place Committee.

Information

2. The Communities and Place Committee was established in May 2017 and has an extensive remit including highways, community safety, waste disposal, libraries and country parks. It is also responsible for scrutiny in relation to crime and disorder and flood risk management.
3. There is a high level of public interest in many of the services which fall under the remit of this Committee as the majority are universal services that everyone living, visiting or working in Nottinghamshire benefits from. The Council and individual Councillors receive more queries about highways issues than any other area of the Council's work.
4. Due to the breadth of services managed by the Committee there is now a need to build additional capacity in order to focus on review and development of key areas in greater detail to ensure continued high quality services which provide value for money and reflect latest developments and best practice in this area of service. It is proposed to establish a new committee for this purpose; to review the work undertaken by the Communities and Place Committee, to benchmark against other local authorities and consider where things could be done differently.
5. The intention is for the committee to explore individual areas of service delivery in-depth. For the first year a work programme with a focus on highways delivery will be developed. The new Committee will undertake reviews in relation to the services that fall under the remit of Communities and Place Committee, which may include researching different methods of working from elsewhere, and undertaking site visits. The committee's findings and recommendations will be presented to Communities and Place Committee for final consideration.
6. The draft terms of reference for the Communities and Place Development and Review Committee are attached at **Appendix A**.

7. There will be a membership of 9, drawn from members of the County Council. The Committee will meet at least 6 times a year.

Composition

8. In determining the composition of the Council's committees, account must be taken of regulations that require seats on committees and sub-committees to be allocated to political groups in a way which reflects the overall balance on the Council. The advice of the Monitoring Officer is that to comply with legislative requirements the allocation of seats should be based on overall seat numbers rather than on individual committee numbers. The chart in **Appendix B** sets out the allocation of places on committees which Council is asked to agree. The addition of Communities and Place Development and Review Committee has not altered the allocation of seats on other committees.
9. It is proposed that Councillor Gordon Wheeler is appointed as Committee Chairman and Councillor Errol Henry is appointed as Committee Vice Chairman until the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2019. The Vice Chairman will always be a member of the Main Minority Group. Councillor John Handley will replace Councillor Wheeler as Vice Chairman of Communities and Place Committee.

Financial Implications

10. It is a legislative requirement that before a council makes or revises a member's allowances scheme it must have regard to a report from an Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP). The last report of the Council's Independent Remuneration Panel (June 2017) recommended that all committee chairs and vice chairs receive the same level of allowance. It also recognised that the Council may wish to make minor amendments to its committee structure, and considered the possible cost implications of further changes. It concluded that where the overall cost of the scheme is kept broadly within the same cost envelope, the IRP would be content for the Council to apply the principles set out in its report without reconvening it. In light of this it is not proposed to reconvene the IRP to consider the proposal for one additional committee.
11. Two additional Special Responsibility Allowances will be attached to the new Committee. This represents approximately 5% of the budget for the Members' Allowances Scheme and is therefore considered to be broadly within the same cost envelope.
12. Democratic Services will be required to provide clerking support for the new Committee. There is concern that current resources within Democratic Services are already stretched. A review of the resource requirements within Democratic Services will therefore need to be undertaken. If any additional posts are required these will have to be funded from savings elsewhere within the Chief Executive's Department. Departmental colleagues will be expected to lead on work required ahead of meetings.

Other Options Considered

13. The Council considered a number of different ways of supporting the work of Communities and Place Committee. The approach set out in the report was considered to be the most effective overall by providing a focus on key priorities and areas of service.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

14. To undertake detailed consideration of specific areas of service delivery in order to ensure the Council is delivering the right services in the most cost effective way.

Statutory and Policy Implications

15. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the Council establishes a Communities and Place Review and Development Committee with terms of reference as set out in **Appendix A** of the report and that the Council's Constitution be amended accordingly.
- 2) That Councillor Gordon Wheeler is appointed as Chairman and Councillor Errol Henry as Vice Chairman of the new Committee until May 2019 and that the Vice Chairman will always be a member of the Main Minority Group.
- 3) That Councillor John Handley is appointed as Vice Chairman of Communities and Place Committee until May 2019.
- 4) The Council confirms the composition of committees and sub-committees as set out in **Appendix B**.

Anthony May
Chief Executive

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (KSK 10/09/2018)

16. The proposals in this report are within the remit of Full Council.

Financial Comments (SES 11/09/18)

17. The financial implications are set out in paragraphs 10 to 12 of this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- Members Allowances Scheme – Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel – Council report dated 13 July 2017 is published

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All