

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Council is entering a period of more intense work following the appointment of the new Clerk and with a staffing review due to commence shortly. With the introduction of Levelling Up, the recovery from the pandemic and the need to consider the strategic direction of the Council in these times this report suggests a slight reconfiguration of the meetings timetable for the year 2022 – 2023 i.e., from the Annual Parish Meeting in May 2022.

2.0 CURRENT GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

Currently the Council, Estates and Facilities Committee and Policy, Resources and Personnel Committee meet on a rota with one meeting undertaken every month.

There is no delegated decision making to Committees and decisions can only be taken at the Council meeting; this negates any agile work of the Council. Planning considerations are dealt with at each committee and are often submitted by an officer under delegated authority; this is not a recognised best practice and with considerable planning challenges anticipated councillors might wish to realign the way in which it considers planning matters.

3.0 POTENTIAL REVISED GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

A structure that would provide increased agility is:

3.1 Council

Council to be convened between Committee meetings to a total of 6 minimum per annum.

3.2 Estates and Facilities Committee

This Committee to be convened 3 times a year with delegated powers introduced for matters related to estates and facilities.

3.3 Policy, Resources and Personnel Committee

This Committee to be convened 3 times a year with delegated powers introduced for matters related to policy, resources and personnel.

3.4 Planning Committee

This new Committee to be introduced on a pilot basis as a hybrid meeting held once a month; potentially trialling a daytime meeting dependent on councillor views. Councillors will be able to attend or join online and it is intended to set up a hybrid meeting room at Gang Warily.

3.5 Standing Orders

The Standing Orders will need to include the new arrangements and the delegated authorities to the Committees.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

4.1 The Committee agree to recommend the proposed Committee structure to the Council

4.2 The Committee instructs the Clerk to revise the Standing Orders in order to facilitate the proposed governance structure to be considered by Council

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