

Full Council

14 March 2023



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| Report of: | Committee Model Working Group |
| Title: | Committee Model Working Group – Recommendations to Full Council |
| Ward: | Citywide |
| Member Presenting Report: | Cllr Jenny Bartle Chair of the Committee Model Working Group |

Recommendation

That Full Council approves the matters set out in paragraphs 6 and 7 of this report.

Summary

This report sets out a number of recommendations from the Committee Model Working Group which require Full Council approval as part of the preparations for the Committee Model of governance.

The significant issues in the report are:

This report sets out the matters considered by the Committee Model Working Group at its meetings on 27 January 2023 and 24 February 2023 relating to decision-making under the current Mayor and Cabinet Model of governance and scrutiny arrangements under the Committee Model of governance and which require the approval of Full Council.

Full Council is asked to approve the matters set out in paragraphs 6 and 7 of this report.



Policy

1. The Committee Model Working Group was established by Full Council to develop the proposals for the Committee Model of governance. At its meeting on 27 January 2023, the Working Group agreed to refer matters periodically to Full Council for approval. This is the first such report and it sets out a number of recommendations from the Working Group that require the approval of Full Council.

Consultation

2. **Internal**
The recommendations in this report have been considered by the Committee Model Working Group.
3. **External**
Not applicable

Context

4. Since January 2023, the Committee Model Working Group has been operating formal public meetings, which have taken place on 27 January 2023 and 24 February 2023. At its meeting on 27 January 2023, the Working Group considered decision-making under the current Mayor and Cabinet Model of governance and subsequently, at its meeting on 24 February 2023, the Working Group considered scrutiny arrangements under the Committee Model of governance. The Working Group has made a number of recommendations arising from these meetings which require the approval of Full Council. The full detail of these recommendations will be developed and incorporated into an updated Constitution which will be brought to Full Council for approval in due course.
5. For completeness, the reports considered by the Working Group at its meetings on 27 January 2023 and 24 February 2023 are appended to this report. A number of the matters in those reports have not been put forward for a Full Council decision in this report and will be the subject of further consideration by the Working Group and reporting to Full Council at a later date.

Recommendations from the Committee Model Working Group

6. The Working Group recommends that the following matters arising from the meeting on 27 January 2023 should be incorporated into the Committee Model of governance:
 - 6.1. That Full Council will have the power to appoint and remove the Leader of the Council and the Deputy Leader of the Council.
 - 6.2. That a minimum financial threshold of £500,000 should be in place for decisions taken to Policy Committees.
 - 6.3. That arrangements will be in place for the publication of a Forward Plan for meetings of the Policy Committees.

- 6.4. That procedures will be in place for emergency decision-making by Officers, in consultation with Chairs/Vice-chairs of Policy Committees.
- 6.5. That arrangements will be in place for the recording of Officer decisions, in consultation with Chairs/Vice-chairs of Policy Committees. Other details about the process will be confirmed at a later date.
- 6.6. That agenda-setting meetings will take place before Policy Committees attended by the party group leads for each of the Policy Committees.
- 6.7. That regular briefings will take place with the Chairs/Vice-chairs of Policy Committees.
7. The Working Group recommends that the following matters arising from the meeting on 24 February 2023 should be incorporated into the Committee Model of governance:
 - 7.1. That Full Council establish an Escalation Panel, which would consider matters escalated to it, in line with the principles of decision making set out in [Article 14.02](#) of the Council’s Constitution details as follows: proportionality; due consultation; taking of professional advice from others; respect for human rights; a presumption in favour of openness; clarity of aims and desired outcomes; due regard to public sector quality duty aims and; the highest standards of ethical conduct.
 - 7.2. That Full Council agrees that the scrutiny of decisions will take place in Policy Committees and/or sub-committees, including the statutory scrutiny functions of flood risk management, community safety partnerships and health.
 - 7.3. That the Policy Committees will be able to establish their own task and finish groups, working groups and inquiry days for matters that fall within their area of responsibility.
8. Full Council is asked to approve the matters in paragraphs 6 and 7 above.

Appendices:

Committee Model Working Group – reports to meetings on 27 January 2023 and 24 February 2023.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers:

None