

COUNCIL	AGENDA ITEM. 13(a)
13 JULY 2016	PUBLIC REPORT

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE REVIEW GROUP

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S
FROM : CHAIR OF COMMITTEE REVIEW GROUP
<p>That Council</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note the stage 1 report of the Committee Review Group at Appendix 1. 2. Establish the Appeals and Planning Review Committee and agree the terms of reference in Annex 3 of Appendix 1 3. Establish the Corporate Parenting Committee and agree the terms of reference in Annex 4 of Appendix 1. 4. For the Corporate Parenting Committee and Appeals and Planning Review Committee: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) agree that both committees should each have a membership of 11 and should be subject to the political balance arrangements (b) agree the appointments to those committees (document to be tabled) (c) elect a Chair and Vice-Chair for each committee (document to be tabled) 5. Authorise the Monitoring Officer as Proper Officer to carry out the wishes of the Leaders of the Political Groups in allocating members to these committees, and appoints those Members with effect from the date at which the Proper Officer is advised of the names of such Members. 6. The Employee Appeals Sub-Committee should no longer hear appeals against dismissal by staff below Deputy Chief Officer level, that this function be delegated to Officers and the Employment Committee should be asked to review the employment policy. 7. That the Monitoring Officer be authorised to make the necessary changes to the Constitution and request the Employment Committee to review the employment policy to effect the Council's decision. 8. The Independent Remunerations Panel should be requested to take account of these changes as part of its review of the Member Allowances Scheme. 9. Agree that the Committee Review Group report back again to the October on the outcome of the scrutiny committee review.

1. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 Council at its annual meeting on 23 May 2016 agreed to set up a Committee Review Group to review the committee structure. As requested by Council, the Committee Review Group has

concluded the first stage of the review and has recommended changes to the Regulatory Committees. Council is asked to consider these.

2. BACKGROUND (& CONSULTATION)

2.1 Council at its annual meeting on 23 May 2016 agreed to set up a Committee Review Group to review the committee structure. The terms of reference agreed by Council requested that the Group report in two stages:

- (a) Stage 1: To review of the structure of regulatory and non-executive committees and report to this meeting ; and
- (b) Stage 2: in October with proposals for implementation of a new scrutiny structure.

2.2 The objective of the working group was to provide an effective and efficient committee structure to ensure delivery of the Council's functions.

2.3 The Committee Review Group met on 21 June and has recommended changes in respect of the Committees listed below. The reasons for the proposed changes are set out in the Group's report on stage 1 of their review.

- (c) Planning Review Committee
- (d) Appeals committee (Service Issues)
- (e) Employment Appeals Sub Committee
- (f) Corporate Parenting Panel.

2.4 The recommended changes are summarised below:

PLANNING REVIEW COMMITTEE AND APPEALS COMMITTEE (SERVICE ISSUES)

2.5 The Planning Review Committee and the Appeals Committee (Service Issues) are currently separate committees. For the reasons set out in its report, the Group recommends that the Planning Review Committee and the Appeals Committee (Service Issues) should be amalgamated into a new Committee called the Appeals and Planning Review Committee. The proposed terms of reference is attached (**Annex 3 of Appendix 1**). This Committee would have a wider remit and consider matters related to the outcome and effectiveness of any council appeals processes. For example, any Ombudsman reports that relate to appeals processes where a review of the process might be required.

CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

2.6 Members have an important role as corporate parents to looked-after children. Currently, Peterborough City Council has a corporate parenting panel. For the reasons set out in its report, the Committee Review Group recommends that the status of the panel be raised to a committee. The proposed terms of reference is attached (**Annex 4 of Appendix 1**).

MEMBERSHIP AND POLITICAL BALANCE

2.7 It is proposed that both the Appeals and Planning Review Committee and the Corporate Parenting Committee has 11 Members each and that both are subject to the political balance rules. The new structure is set out in the table below. The overall number of seats on the Council remain the same and therefore do not change the political balance calculations, subject to the completion of the second stage review of the scrutiny committee structure, to be reported to the next meeting of Council in October.

Committee	Seats
Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities	7
Scrutiny Commission for Health Issues	7
Strong and Supportive Communities Scrutiny Committee	7
Creating Opportunities and Tackling Inequalities Scrutiny Committee	7
Sustainable Growth and Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee	11
Employment Committee	7
Audit Committee	7
Licensing Committee (Regulatory)	11
Planning and Environmental Protection Committee	11
Appeals and Planning Review Committee	11
Appeals Committee (Service Issues)	11
Corporate Parenting Committee	11
TOTAL	97

2.8 Member appointments have been made to both the Appeals and the Planning Review Committees and to the Corporate Parenting Panel. Whilst there are 11 members on both committees, there are 16 members on the panel.

2.9 If established, Group Leaders will be asked to allocate members to the new committees. Members of the Planning and Environmental Protection Committee will be excluded from membership of the Appeals and Planning Review Committee as the Committee would review that Committee's decisions if called in.

2.10 The current allocation between political groups on these committees is:

Committee	Seats	Conservative	Labour	Liberal Democrats	Liberal Party	Werrington First	UKIP	Total
Planning Review Committee	11	6	2	1	0	1	1	11
Appeals (Service Issues) Committee	11	6	2	1	1	1	0	11

2.11 Under the revised structure (see below), whilst the overall numbers and distribution between parties are the same, UKIP and The Liberal Party would need to decide between the two committees; the overall total cannot exceed 11.

Committee	Seats	Conservative	Labour	Liberal Democrats	Liberal Party	Werrington First	UKIP	Total
Appeals and Planning Review Committee	11	6	2	1	0 or 1	1	0 or 1	11
Corporate Parenting Committee	11	6	2	1	0 or 1	1	0 or 1	11

- 2.12 The Independent Members Remuneration Panel will be asked to take account of the Council's decision when reviewing the Members' Allowance scheme.

EMPLOYMENT APPEALS

- 2.13 Appeals against dismissal by staff below Deputy Chief Officer level are currently heard by a sub-committee of the Employment Committee. For the reasons set out in the Committee Review Group's report, it is proposed that the hearing of these appeals is delegated to Officers.
- 2.14 This will require an amendment to the Constitution. The Employment Committee will also be asked to review its policy to take account of the Council's decision.

3. IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Finance Implications – There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.
- 3.2 Legal Implications - Appeals is a local choice function under schedule 2 of the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000. The Council has agreed that this function is a non-executive function.
- 3.3 Equalities Implications – There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report.

4. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- 4.1 All background documents used in the drafting of this report have been public documents and are largely referred to within the report.

5. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Report of the Committee Review Group.