



REPORT TO:	COUNCIL
DATE:	31 OCTOBER 2013
REPORT OF THE:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE JANET WAGGOTT
TITLE OF REPORT:	POLITICAL MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE
WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Council is required to have in place a political decision making structure which delivers efficient, transparent and accountable decision making. This report proposes a revision to the current committee structure for 2014/15 to ensure that the Council's decision making structure continues to meet these requirements.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That Council is recommended to support in principle a revised committee structure for 2014/15 which has the following 3 main Committees:
- Policy and Resources
 - Regulatory (Planning and Licensing)
 - Overview and Scrutiny (including Audit, Crime and Disorder and Standards)

3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 It is incumbent upon the Council to ensure that it has a Committee structure that is "fit for purpose". The proposal within this report will ensure the evolution of the Council's decision making structure to respond to changing demands and expectations placed upon it.

4.0 SIGNIFICANT RISKS

- 4.1 There are no significant risks associated with this report. The risk is rather that the Council may not have the capacity to support its decision making processes as the pressure on staff and member resources increases.

5.0 POLICY CONTEXT AND CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The Council operates a revised committee system following the adoption of a new constitution in November 2001 and in line with the provisions made in the Local

Government Act 2000. Public consultation was undertaken as part of this review process and was supportive of maintaining a revised committee system.

- 5.2 The decision making arrangements of the Council are vital to ensure the leadership, capacity and capability to deliver services in future and in doing so deliver the fifth of the Council's aims – to Transform the Council.

REPORT

6.0 REPORT DETAILS

- 6.1 The Local Government Act of 2000 required all local authorities to have in place a political decision making structure which delivers efficient, transparent and accountable decision making. In 2001 Ryedale District Council chose the fourth option available – to operate a revised committees structure. A number of revisions have been made since 2001 and the current structure is as follows:

- Commissioning Board and Licensing (11 members)
- Policy and Resources (10 members)
- Planning (10 members)
- Overview and Scrutiny (including Audit, Crime and Disorder and Standards) (9 members)

- 6.2 The proposals in this report are brought before members at this time in principle in order that the timetable of meetings can be considered by Council in January 2014. This will then enable Annual Council to agree the size and composition of Committees. The changes proposed in this report will result in changes to the timetable of meetings beyond the usual minor adjustments.

- 6.3 Following a review of decision making arrangements by the Chief Executive and discussions with group leaders, the following committee structure is suggested for consideration by members for implementation in the 2014/15 municipal year:

- Policy and Resources (10 members scheduled to meet 5 times per year)
- Planning and Licensing (10 members scheduled to meet 13 times per year)
- Overview and Scrutiny (10 members scheduled to meet 5 times a year as the Overview and Scrutiny (including Crime and Disorder functions) Committee and 5 times per year as the Audit and Standards Committee).

- 6.4 The benefits of revising the committee structure include the following:

- The meeting dates can be better aligned to fit with the budgetary and accounts processes.
- It would enable further scrutiny work by splitting the many roles of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and meeting more frequently.
- Based on the size of Committees proposed it would result in each member having a single seat on a Committee, thereby building a specialism and being more focussed on a particular role.

- 6.5 The risks of the changes include:

- Members of the Overview and Scrutiny would see an increased workload.
- Members would not be able to sit on more than one Committee as occurs presently and some experience and expertise may be lost as a result.

- 6.6 Timeline of further consequential decisions required:

Date		Decision
January 2014	Council	Timetable of Meetings 2014/15
February 2014	Policy and Resources	To consider any changes to the Constitution required to implement any decision made by Council
May 2014	Annual Council	Composition of Committees – number of members and membership (proportionality) Chairmanship of each

7.0 IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The following implications have been identified:

- a) Financial
The revised committee as proposed will result in a more efficient use of officer and Member resources.
- b) Legal
The recommendation contained in this report would require a number of changes to the constitution. The Chief Executive has authority to amend the constitution to reflect decisions made by Council
- c) Other (Equalities, Staffing, Planning, Health & Safety, Environmental, Crime & Disorder)
There are no additional implications within this report.

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Background Papers:

Local Government Act 2000 - <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/22/contents>
Constitution - http://www.ryedale.gov.uk/pdf/Constitution_Vers%203.0_July%202013_final.pdf