



Name of meeting: Corporate Governance and Audit Committee

Date: 26th November 2021

Title of report: Committee System Proposal

Purpose of report: Corporate Governance and Audit to consider the Local Government report and recommend next steps

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	No
Key Decision - Is it in the <u>Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)</u> ?	No
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	No
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance? Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	Rachel Spencer- Henshall – 17 th November 2021 Julie Muscroft – 17 th November 2021
Cabinet member portfolio	N/A

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: No

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? No GDPR implications

1. Summary

On 24th September 2021 Council approved the appointment of the Local Government Advisor (LGA), Mark Edgell to advise and work with Councillors on the governance review process. Mr Edgell attended that session and discussed the various governance models available, the approach to a governance review and the issues specific to Kirklees.

- 1.1 Subsequently, an informal session was arranged on 13th October 2021 with this Committee to receive further advice from the LGA and discuss the approach to the review of the different governance models available.
- 1.2 The report of the Local Government Advisor is attached to this report at Appendix 1 and sets out the advice provided to the committee.

2 Information required to take a decision

- 2.1 Following advice received from the LGA as outlined in the report attached. This committee agreed to consider the approach to the governance review using the following design principles: -

- A. First, consider changes to the way people behave within the current arrangements (culture). If not, could they be met by;
- B. Changes to the way the current legal governance arrangements are defined and work, such as through the constitution. If not, then they are likely to be best met by;
- C. Change to the legal governance model

- 2.2 On 4th November 2021 an all-Councillor committee system session was held to discuss the issues together, in a balanced, neutral way and to capture the views of all members. The outcome of that session is set out in the attached report at Appendix 1 for consideration by this committee.

- 2.3 The report provides some recommendations for this committee's consideration at paragraph 5.

2 Implications for the Council

3.1 Working with People

The Council's capacity to work effectively and to deliver all aspects of its corporate outcomes is underpinned by ensuring that it takes informed and transparent decisions with openness and accountability. The Council's choice of governance arrangements is fundamental to this. The decision-making structure

of the Council should provide a framework of transparent accountability to users, stakeholders, and the wider community.

3.2 Working with Partners

No implications

2.1 Place Based Working

No implications

2.2 Climate Change and Air Quality

No implications

2.3 Improving outcomes for children

No implications

2.4 Other (e.g. Legal/Financial or Human Resources) Consultees and their opinions

There may be resource implications to the review dependent on the scope of reviewing governance models, complexity of work and timeframe involved. There may be need for additional legal support. The committee may recommend actions that have a financial implication, including an impact on the Members' Allowances Scheme, and these should be contained within the committee's findings.

A review of governance arrangements will need to ensure that the recommendations are in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 and other relevant legislation, particularly the Local Government Acts and the timeframes included therein.

Next steps and timelines

Subject to approval the Committee discuss the recommendations as outlined in the report at Appendix 1 and identify any further areas of work required and the key milestones and timetable of the work required.

Officer recommendations and reasons

- (i) That Corporate Governance and Audit committee consider the recommendations as outlined in the report attached at Appendix 1.
- (ii) That Corporate Governance and Audit committee consider and agree the next steps in relation to the governance review and timetable of the work required in consultation with the Chair.

3 Cabinet Portfolio Holder's recommendations

Not applicable

4 Contact officer

Samantha Lawton, Head of Governance

5 Background Papers and History of Decisions

Not applicable

6 Service Director responsible

Julie Muscroft, Legal, Governance and Commissioning