

13. REVIEW OF DECISION-MAKING ARRANGEMENTS

The Panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Governance Manager considering improvements that could be made to the council's decision-making arrangements.

The report recalled that part of the council's decision on the revenue budget on 13 February 2018 was "to review the economy, efficiency and effectiveness of its present decision-making arrangements and to report to the Partnership and Resources PDSP for consideration of possible changes".

The Group Leaders and the independent councillor were consulted before the summer recess in 2018 on the council's existing decision-making arrangements. The Corporate Management Team and Committee Services were also consulted. There emerged some areas of common interest and/or concern, although not a consensus on how to address them all. Those common themes were fed back to the Partnership and Resources PDSP at meetings held on 24 August 2018 and on 5 October 2018.

After discussion at the October meeting officers were requested to circulate additional information to members, details of which was summarised in Appendix 2 attached to the report. It was noted that this list whilst not exhaustive contained a number of suggestions that were either completed or already in hand, could be taken forward by officers and those that required a decision or direction by elected members

At the various meetings held with councillors a number of constraints were explained and included :-

- Statutory requirements
- Volume and timing of business
- Meeting dates and times
- Political composition
- The need for some committees to exist
- The council's response to the 2016-17 external audit report and the Best Value Assurance Report; and
- Existing Senior Councillor posts and payments

In moving forward the Panel was asked to :-

1. To note the updated note of themes and concerns that had emerged from officers' discussions with members and at the PDSP meetings following council's instruction in February 2018 to review decision-making arrangements; and
2. To consider those issues to assist in identifying potential improvements and in taking the review forward for decision-making.

Decision

1. To note the content of the report;
2. To agree that a report to Council Executive was required outlining options and seeking further direction from elected members; and
3. To note that officers would discuss those options on request with members or political groups prior to the report being presented to Council Executive