

## PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

**Subject:** Amendments to the Council's Committee Structure  
**Committee:** Council  
**Date:** 18 May 2018  
**CMT Member:** Tracey Lee, Chief Executive  
**Author:** Ross Jago, Senior Panel and Partnership Advisor  
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**Ref:** N/A  
**Key Decision:** No  
**Part:** I

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### Purpose of the report:

Following a change to the political balance of the City Council, officers have been tasked to provide an amended Committee Structure for approval by Council. Changes are detailed in appendix one and two with nominations at appendix three to this report.

Constitutional amendments as appended to this report will give effect to a -

- new scrutiny structure, consisting of four committees;
- changes to the role of Audit Committee to include responsibilities for governance and constitutional review.

Political Groups have been advised of the proposed changes and have provided nominations.

The initial meetings will be held on the following dates –

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| <b>Brexit, Infrastructure and Legislative Change</b> | Wednesday 6 June 2018 (Time to be confirmed by Chair)  |
| <b>Health and Adult Social Care</b>                  | Wednesday 13 June 2018 (Time to be confirmed by Chair) |
| <b>Education and Children's Social Care</b>          | Wednesday 20 June 2018 (Time to be confirmed by Chair) |
| <b>Performance Finance and Customer Focus</b>        | Wednesday 27 June 2018 (Time to be confirmed by Chair) |

Subject to approval by Council of these proposed changes, the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) will need to meet to consider these changes in relation to Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs). It is intended that the Panel would report their recommendations to the 25 June Council meeting.

The Panel is convened under the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) England Regulations 2003 (SI 1021) and subsequent amendments to the regulations (SI 2003/1022 and SI 2003/1692 ['the Regulations']).

The IRP needs to appoint one further member to be quorate for this review. Given timescales, a member of Exeter City Council's IRP – Bryony Houlden, Chief Executive of South West Councils – has been approached to temporarily sit on Plymouth's Panel for a period of one year. Ms Houlden has agreed to the appointment subject to Council's approval. The other members of the Panel are as previously approved by Council – Mr Alan Wooderson and Mr Duncan Currall. Ms Houlden is an expert in the local government sector and has a deep understanding and experience of member remuneration issues and benchmarking.

To mitigate any future risk to the quorum of the IRP, it is proposed that a maximum of six members be appointed and a minimum of three selected from that pool for each review.

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### **Corporate Plan:**

Effective scrutiny impacts upon all aspects of the Corporate Plan by providing a process for challenge to decision making and the development of policy.

The new scrutiny structure will provide a review function to enable Members to assess the impact of Central Government policies affecting the City, demonstrate a check and balance to executive power within the City Council and reflect the values of the organisation as set out in the corporate plan.

The inclusion of governance and constitutional review with the terms of reference to the Audit Committee will ensure that discussions on amendments to the constitution will take place through an open and transparent process as governed by the Local Government Act 1972.

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### **Implications for Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications: Including finance, human, IT and land:**

Structural changes to scrutiny may be implemented at an increased cost overall, subject to a review of Special Responsibility Allowance by the Independent Remuneration Panel. Any such increase in costs will be offset by savings identified within the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

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### **Other Implications: e.g. Child Poverty, Community Safety, Health and Safety and Risk Management:**

An increase in the resources available to the scrutiny function is likely to increase the capacity of the Council to add value to the above functions.

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### **Equality and Diversity:**

Has an Equality Impact Assessment been undertaken? Yes (attached)

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### **Recommendations and Reasons for recommended action:**

That Council –

- I. approves the changes to Article 7 and Part D of the Constitution in relation to the terms of reference for the Overview and Scrutiny Function as set out at Appendix I

2. approves the changes to Part E of the Constitution in relation to the Terms of Reference for the Audit and Governance Committee as set out at Appendix 2
3. delegates consequential amendments to the constitution to the Monitoring Officer
4. agrees the appointments as set out at Appendix 3
5. in relation to the Independent Remuneration Panel, approves a maximum Panel size of six members, from which a minimum of three would be selected for each Review.
6. delegates to the Audit and Governance Committee the appointment of additional Independent Remuneration Panel members.

**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

Retaining the status quo would not reflect the administration’s commitment to enhanced overview and scrutiny arrangements.

**Published work / information:**

**N/A**

**Sign off:**

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| Originating SMT Member – Tracey Lee, Chief Executive |                    |     |                           |            |  |    |  |        |  |    |  |               |  |
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