

Chichester District Council

CABINET

5 April 2022

Governance Arrangements for Housing and Communities Panel

1. Contacts

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2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet approve the Terms of reference set out in the Appendix to this report.**
- 2.2 That Cabinet approves the numbers of members forming the Housing and Communities Panel, DPIP, Environment Panel and Economic Development Panel as set out in paragraph 5.2 of this report.**

3. Background

- 3.1 The Council directed the Corporate Governance Committee to consider the governance arrangements of the authority. In turn that Committee established a task and finish group, and reports were made to full Council and further detail on the subject reported to the Committee on 14th March. On the 14th March Corporate Governance debated various suggested elements in particular as to the terms of reference of a new Housing and Communities Panel.

4. Outcomes to be Achieved

- 4.1 The proposed terms of reference provide a clear outline of the matters within the consideration of the new Housing and Communities Panel.

5. Proposal

- 5.1 The first proposal is to apply the terms of reference as produced from the debate at Corporate Governance Committee in March. Some further detail has since been provided by the Director for Housing and Communities which can be seen as tracked changes in the appendix. These changes were made to reflect the fact that CGAC were clear that the Panel's role should be one of policy development rather than scrutiny.

5.2 The second proposal is to settle membership of four main panels established to facilitate debate on key areas of the Council activity. The recommendation of Corporate Governance Committee was that the number of seats across panels in total should equal that of whole membership and that DPIP – 10, Environment Panel – 8, Economic Development Panel – 8 and Housing and Communities Panel – 10. Cabinet is asked to note that this represents no change for DPIP, but that the Environment Panel currently has 6 members.

6. Alternatives Considered

6.1 As a panel there is wide discretion as to the terms of reference. As with other panels at the authority the terms may evolve in the future at the direction of the Cabinet.

6.2 CGAC debated having eight members on each of the panels, but that would represent a reduction for DPIP which was not considered desirable. On balance the committee settled that it would be preferable to be able to appoint to panels on a ratio of 1:1 versus Council membership ie 36 seats, as this avoids rounding issues that normally impact the smaller minority groups' entitlement.

7. Resource and Legal Implications

7.1 None

8. Consultation

8.1 The governance process has involved Cabinet, Full Council and detailed consideration at Corporate Governance. The relevant service Director has also been involved.

9. Community Impact and Corporate Risks

9.1 None beyond the normal requirement that governance arrangements for the authority are fit for purpose and effective.

10. Other Implications

	Yes	No
Crime and Disorder		√
Biodiversity and Climate Change Mitigation The project will facilitate the installation of energy efficiency heating and insulation measures resulting in a reduction in carbon emissions.		√
Human Rights and Equality Impact The installation of energy efficiency measures will ensure a reduction in fuel consumption and associated fuel costs for vulnerable residents occupying out temporary accommodation units.		√
Safeguarding and Early Help		√
General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)		√
Health and Wellbeing The improvements made to the standard of accommodation will increase the level of thermal comfort, having a positive impact on health and wellbeing.		√
Other (please specify)		

11. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Draft Terms of Reference (in tracked form).

12. Background Papers

None