

COMMITTEE: CONSTITUTION

DATE: 25TH MARCH 2013

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF THE COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

REPORT BY: DEMOCRACY MANAGER

CONTACT OFFICER: DEBBIE JANES

IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL ✓ COMMUNITY SAFETY

EQUALITIES ENVIRONMENT

FINANCIAL CONSULTATIONS

STAFFING OTHER

WARDS AFFECTED: NONE

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the Committee's approval to proposed changes to Committees of the Council.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. **Constitution Committee is requested to recommend the Council to approve the following changes to Part 3 of the Council's Constitution with effect from 21st May 2013:**
 - 2.1 **To disband the Community Improvement Board.**
 - 2.2 **To amalgamate the functions of Administration and Regulation Committees.**
 - 2.3 **To re-calculate the number committee places for each political group as they apply to the remaining Committees of the Council, in accordance with the Local Government & Housing Act 1989.**

BACKGROUND

3. As part of the Council's £48 million budget reductions over the next three years and the savings that need to be made across all council budgets, the Democracy Team have examined the Council's Committee structure, with a view to identifying any changes that could be made for the Municipal Year 2013/14.

REPORT

4. The current Committee structure has been examined and two areas for review identified, namely (a) the integration of Administration and Regulation Committees and (b) the discontinuation of the Community Improvement Board, which would reduce the number of meetings in the Calendar without compromising the business to be considered.
5. The Community Improvement Board was introduced as part of the changes to the Area Committee process in 2012. However it is felt that the Area Board structure would not be compromised by the removal of the Community Improvement Board. Instead the functions of the Board could, with the agreement of the Executive Leader, become part of an Executive portfolio responsibility.
6. The amalgamation of Administration and Regulation Committees would not restrict the business considered by those meetings, but would reduce the number of dates in the Calendar of meetings for those Committees by half.
7. In relation to other matters impacting on the frequency of meetings, Members may wish to note that Regulation Committee at its meeting held on 17th December 2012 approved changes in the arrangements for determining Taxi and Private Hire Licensing matters.
8. Whilst the majority of cases will now be handled by officers under delegated authority, there remain some aspects of that Committees business that will continue to be determined at Committee level including those cases outside the convictions policy, marginal cases and those cases where licensing officers are directly involved.
9. Whilst there should be a significant reduction in the work falling to be determined by the Taxi and Private Hire Panels meetings will be arranged on an as and when basis as business demands. If business requires a programme of meetings, they could be re-instated next year.

PROPOSAL/OPTION

10. That the Community Improvement Board be disbanded with effect from 21st May 2013.
11. That the functions of Administration and Regulation Committees be amalgamated with effect from 21st May 2013. The Committee is invited to suggest a name for the new Committee.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

12. There are no legal implications to this report. Agreed with John Newman, Legal Services on 13th March 2013.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, SECTION 100D**

None.