

ADDENDUM 4

ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO THE GOVERNANCE WORKING PARTY ON 3 DECEMBER 2019

SUBJECT: Alternative Governance Arrangements - Draft Committee Structure

REPORT AUTHOR: Nigel Lynn, Chief Executive

DATE: November 2019

EXTN: 01903 737610

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

As agreed at its last meeting on 12 November 2019, this report provides a revised draft Committee Structure for review taking account of the views of the Working Party and Senior Management Team (SMT).

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Working Party is asked to consider:

- (1) If the revised draft committee structure should be put forward for consideration by the Audit & Governance Committee on 19 December 2019 as one option for an alternative governance arrangement; and
- (2) Any other work that they wish the officer team to take forward on this element of their review.

1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 As part of its review of governance arrangements, the Working Party considered alternative options for a committee structure at its last meeting based on submissions put forward by the four political groups and the Senior Management Team (SMT). The Working Party decided to explore the SMT option further and requested officers to bring back a revised option to this meeting taking account of the views raised in the debate.

2.0 PROPOSALS – LATEST DRAFT COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

2.1 The latest draft is set out as Appendix A. This takes account of the views raised at the last meeting, namely a structure based on:

- a) six service committees; and
- b) four regulatory committees

2.2 Changes made in response to the views of the Working Party, as shown in shaded text, are:

ADDENDUM 4

- (i) to the committee name of 'Neighbourhood and Technical Services' to amend this to read: *"Environment and Technical Services"*
- (ii) Emphasising that the Corporate Policy and Performance Committee would deal with the Climate Change Action Plan, in response to the Council's decision on 13 November 2019 to make Climate Change a Corporate Target. The expectation would be that this Committee would act as the strategic lead, whilst the relevant service committee would be involved in the operational delivery of the Action Plan
- (iii) Emphasising how performance would be dealt with – the Corporate Policy and Performance Committee dealing with corporate performance, in particular monitoring and review of the Corporate Plan; whilst service committees would set targets and monitor and review performance in the areas they are responsible for. Full Council would retain overall responsibility for approving the Corporate Plan, as confirmed in the Policy Framework at Article 4 of the Council's Constitution
- (iv) Delivering on the 'Digital Agenda' would sit with the Corporate Support Committee
- (v) Audit & Governance Committee would be responsible for reviewing reports on both Internal Audit matters together with considering the annual and ongoing reports from the External Auditors.

2.3 This latest review did consider if there should be any further changes to committee names or responsibilities. However, the same conclusions were drawn as explained at the last meeting of the Working Party. Firstly, that the draft structure mirrored the existing senior management structure which met with the aim of the Working Party to keep their review simple; and secondly, that the remit of each service committee was based on an even spread of workload and combined services that worked cohesively together.

3.0 OPTIONS:

1. To support the recommendation as presented.
2. To propose alternative recommendations for taking forward the review.

4.0 CONSULTATION:

Has consultation been undertaken with:	YES	NO
Relevant Town/Parish Council		✓
Relevant District Ward Councillors		✓
Other groups/persons (please specify) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Corporate Support • Leader of the Conservative Group • Senior Management Team 	✓	

5.0 ARE THERE ANY IMPLICATIONS IN RELATION TO THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL POLICIES: (Explain in more detail below)	YES	NO
Financial	✓	
Legal	✓	
Human Rights/Equality Impact Assessment		✓
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime & Disorder Act		✓

ADDENDUM 4

Sustainability		✓
Asset Management/Property/Land		✓
Technology		✓
Other (please explain)		✓

6.0 IMPLICATIONS:

Previous reports to the Working Party and the Strategic Targets agreed by Full Council on 13 November 2019 confirm that a change of governance arrangements to a committee structure would have financial costs in the region of £40,000 to fund additional consultancy support and increased officer resources.

7.0 REASON FOR THE DECISION:

To implement the decision of Full Council on 18 September 2019.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Localism Act 2011, Schedule 2

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/20/schedule/2/enacted>

Report to Full Council – 18 September 2019

Review of Governance Arrangements

<https://democracy.arun.gov.uk/mglssueHistoryHome.aspx?lId=2259>

Local Government Association and Centre for Public Scrutiny guidance

Rethinking governance – practical steps for councils considering changes to their governance arrangements

<https://www.cfps.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Rethinking-Governance.pdf>