

**ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
REPORT TO THE CONSTITUTION WORKING PARTY  
ON 1 NOVEMBER 2021**

**SUBJECT: New Committee System – Changes to the Constitution – Referral Back and Changes to Service Areas Covered by Committee**

**REPORT AUTHOR: Sameera Khan – Group Head of Corporate Support & Monitoring Officer**

**DATE: October 2021**

**EXTN: 37611**

**DEPT: Corporate Support**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

At the meeting of Full Council on 14 July 2021, Councillors considered a range of recommendations from this Working Party requesting that amendments be made to the Constitution following implementation of the Committee style of governance and first cycle of Committee meetings.

Following lengthy discussion on proposed name changes of Committees, it was agreed that this matter be referred back to the next meeting of the Working Party.

The Working Party is also asked to consider a recommendation made to it by the Environment & Neighbourhood Services Committee to add 'Biodiversity' to its service areas. The minutes from this meeting have been supplied as an E-link in the background papers part of this report.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The Working Party is asked to recommend to Full Council:

1. To agree to the name changes of Committees as set out in the report;
2. To add 'Biodiversity' to the service areas covered by the Environment & Neighbourhood Services Committee at Part 3 – Responsibility for Functions; and
3. To add 'Biodiversity Net Gain' to the service areas covered by the Planning Policy Committee at Part 3 – Responsibility for Functions.

**2. BACKGROUND**

The Full Council made a binding statutory resolution on 15 January 2020 (Minute 388) to change its form of governance to a Committee system effective from the Annual Council Meeting on 19 May 2021.

Back in June 2021 it was suggested that some of the names of the Committees were not descriptive enough or if they were, they meant more to Officers than they did to residents and the names needed to be resident focused.

Set out below are proposals to change some Committee names. The argument for is that the new names represent a better understanding of what the Committee does and would be better understood by the public. The argument against is that these names have been known by Members for some time now and there is no evidence of public confusion.

Current Name	New Name
Corporate Policy & Performance Committee	<b>Policy and Finance Committee</b>
Residential and Wellbeing Services Committee	<b>Housing and Wellbeing Committee</b>
Environment and Neighbourhood Services Committee	<b>Environment Committee</b>
Economic	<b>Economy Committee</b>
Planning Committee	<b>Development Management Committee</b>

In line with Full Council's request on 14 July 2021, this matter is being brought back to the Working Party for reconsideration.

At its meeting held on 27 May 2021, the Environment & Neighbourhood Services Committee asked for Biodiversity to be added to its list of service areas. Officers have considered this request and have confirmed that although general biodiversity issues would sit under the remit of the Environment & Neighbourhood Services Committee, Biodiversity Net Gain would also need to be added to the service areas covered by the Planning Policy Committee.

The Working Party is asked to consider this in making a recommendation to Full Council.

### 3. OPTIONS:

N/A

### 4. CONSULTATION:

Has consultation been undertaken with:	YES	NO
Relevant Town/Parish Council	N/A	
Relevant District Ward Councillors	N/A	
Other groups/persons (please specify) – Yes – Councillor Chapman as Chair of the Planning Committee	Yes	
<b>5. ARE THERE ANY IMPLICATIONS IN RELATION TO THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL POLICIES: (Explain in more detail at 6 below)</b>	YES	NO
Financial		NO
Legal		NO
Human Rights/Equality Impact Assessment		
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime & Disorder Act		NO

Sustainability		NO
Asset Management/Property/Land		NO
Technology		NO
Other (please explain)		NO
<b>6. IMPLICATIONS:</b> N/A		

#### **7. REASON FOR THE DECISION:**

To consider the referral back of items from Full Council in July 2021 and to give business efficacy to the Constitution.

To consider a recommendation made to this Working Party by the Environment & Neighbourhood Services Committee to add Biodiversity to the service areas covered by this Committee.

#### **8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

The Council's Constitution

[The Constitution](#)

Minutes from Full Council meeting held on 14 July 2021

[Minutes](#)

Minutes from the Environment & Neighbourhood Services Committee held in May 2021

[Minutes](#)