

Report on	Council & Committee Governance Arrangements 2019-2023
Date of Meeting	Thursday 4 th April, 2019
Reporting Officer	P Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
Contact Officer	P Moffett, Head of Democratic Services

Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	X

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To update committee members of the existing council and committee governance arrangements and those to be applied during the new Council term 2019-2023.
2.0	Background
2.1	The committee will be familiar with the council's form of governance in considering and arriving at decisions of council to be subsequently actioned by officers. Business has been transacted through a traditional committee system, where it is initially considered by one of its committees forming part of its governance decision-making framework and then recommendations presented to full Council in the form of minutes. In some instances delegated authority on some matters has been delegated to Committees, particularly on planning and licensing arrangements.
2.2.	Sec. 19 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 confirms that " <i>A Council must operate a committee system unless the council decides to operate executive arrangements or prescribed arrangements</i> ". The Council, however, may resolve to operate executive arrangements or prescribed arrangements and a decision to do so must be arrived upon by way of a qualified majority.
2.3	The traditional committee system of governance has facilitated the transaction of council business since its establishment on 1 st April 2015 and during the 'shadow' period leading to local government reform on the aforementioned date.
2.4	<p>The traditional committee system method of decision making is summarised as;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Chair and Deputy Chair being nominated under Sch. 1 of the 2014 Act (i.e. d'Hondt) as positions of responsibility • Membership being filled under Sch. 2 of the 2014 Act (i.e. Quota of Greatest Remainder) • Establishment of as many Committees as is required • Committees having as many members as determined by council • Committees being able to appoint one or more sub-committee

3.0	Main Report																		
3.1	<p>Current committees, membership and those identified for the new Council term, 2019-2023 are as detailed;</p> <table><tr><th>Committees</th><th>No. of Cllrs</th></tr><tr><td>Audit</td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>Development</td><td>16</td></tr><tr><td>Environment</td><td>16</td></tr><tr><td>Planning</td><td>16</td></tr><tr><td>Policy & Resources</td><td>16</td></tr></table>	Committees	No. of Cllrs	Audit	8	Development	16	Environment	16	Planning	16	Policy & Resources	16						
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3.2	<p>The Council’s document, <i>Terms of Reference & Delegation to Committees</i>, sets out and confirms those matters referred to each committee for consideration and recommendation to Council - attached as appendix A. The Policy & Resources Committee, in addition to the matters referred to it also consides issues that do not fall within the remit of any of the other committees.</p> <p><u>Meeting Arrangements</u></p>																		
3.3	<p>That the committee meetings continue to be held, as detailed (unless to avoid for example, public holidays);</p> <table><tr><th>Committees</th><th>Day</th><th>Time</th></tr><tr><td>Audit</td><td>Tues on week prior to Council mtg.</td><td>7pm</td></tr><tr><td>Development</td><td>2nd Thursday</td><td>7pm</td></tr><tr><td>Environment</td><td>2nd Tuesday</td><td>7pm</td></tr><tr><td>Planning</td><td>1st Tuesday</td><td>7pm</td></tr><tr><td>Policy & Resources</td><td>1st Thursday</td><td>7pm</td></tr></table> <p>That the Council meeting held on 4th Thursday of every month as confirmed within the Council Standing Orders.</p> <p><u>Working Groups</u></p>	Committees	Day	Time	Audit	Tues on week prior to Council mtg.	7pm	Development	2 nd Thursday	7pm	Environment	2 nd Tuesday	7pm	Planning	1 st Tuesday	7pm	Policy & Resources	1 st Thursday	7pm
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3.4	<p>During the 2015-2019 term, committees considered it necessary to establish a number of working groups of members to consider and make recommendations on a series of non-policy related and/or to help in the formulation of policy on a task and finish basis. Committees have chosen to establish working groups rather than establish sub-committees given the advantages associated with convening and progressing issues through the former.</p>																		
3.5	<p>The working groups officially report to and make recommendations to the committee which it is formed and does not have power to exercise on behalf of the council. Appendix B provides detail on the working groups established throughout the 2015-19 term. Sec. 11 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 allows for establishment of one or more sub-committees by the relevant Committee.</p>																		
3.6	<p>Standing Orders (SO 27.8) provides for appointing sub-committees for specific purposes with established administrative practice indicating that;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sub-committees meet as often as necessary for the transaction of the assigned business																		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub-committee minutes are submitted with the parent committee before being brought before Council • Membership of sub-committees is appointed by the parent committee • The size, term of office and its area of authority to progress is a matter for the committee • Sub-committees may include non-voting persons <p>Appendix B details the working groups convened by committees and council during the 2015-2019 term.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: not applicable
	Human: not applicable
	Risk Management: not applicable
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: not applicable
	Rural Needs Implications: not applicable
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	That the committee notes and considers the Council and Committee governance arrangements for 2019-2023
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	<p>Appendix A: Terms of Reference and Delegation to Committees</p> <p>Appendix B: Mid Ulster District Council Working Groups</p>