

REVIEW OF NEW GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS – MEMBERS SURVEY

Governance Committee – 29 January 2014

Report of Chief Officer Legal and Governance

Status: For Consideration

Key Decision: No

Executive Summary: The Governance Committee is tasked with reviewing the new governance arrangements which were introduced at Annual Council in May 2013. As part of this review a survey of Members was carried out between 25 October and 15 November and this report provides Members with an update on the results of the survey and sets out a proposal for a follow up survey in the coming months.

Portfolio Holder Cllr. Fleming

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Recommendation to Governance Committee:

Members note the results of the Governance Survey and approve that a further survey on Governance arrangements be carried out in March 2014.

Reason for recommendation: To ensure that the Governance Committee considers the results of the Members survey on the Council's Governance arrangements and that those results inform the review of the new governance arrangements as tasked by Council in May 2013.

Introduction and Background

- 1 The Governance Committee was tasked with reviewing the new governance arrangements which were introduced at Annual Council in May 2013 in addition to looking at options such as the Committee System or a Hybrid Model requiring Secretary of State approval and to report back to Council by April 2014.
- 2 At their meeting of 5 November the Governance Committee approved that a survey of Members would be carried out to help develop "First Impressions of the New Governance Structure". The Committee agreed that the survey be circulated to all Members on or around Friday 25th October 2013 after all Advisory Committees had held their second meetings, with responses to be received by the 15th November 2013.

- 3 The Members Governance Working Group met in December 2013 to consider the Governance Arrangement questionnaire responses and this report details those results and provides a summary of the initial views of the Working Group.

Members Governance Survey

- 4 Provided as Appendix A to this report is a copy of the survey that was sent to Members on Friday 25 October 2013. The survey was open for a period of 3 weeks and received 29 responses, a response rate of 55%.
- 5 A summary of results and a short narrative summarising the findings against each of the 12 questions asked is available as Appendix B to this report.
- 6 The Members Working Group concluded that it may be helpful to run a further, simpler survey, in March this year to follow up and clarify some of the points raised from the survey results presented at Appendix B. It is proposed that this recommendation be discussed at the Governance Committee meeting.

Other Options Considered and/or Rejected

None

Key Implications

Financial

None. There are no financial implications arising from the Members Survey on Governance Arrangements.

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement.

None. There are no legal or risk implications arising from the Members Survey on Governance Arrangements.

Equality Impacts

Consideration of impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty:		
Question	Answer	Explanation / Evidence
a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to disadvantage or discriminate against different groups in the community?	No	The decision as to whether to run an additional Member survey on the Council's Governance arrangements does not raise any equality issues.
b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have the potential to promote equality of opportunity?	No	
c. What steps can be taken to mitigate, reduce, avoid or minimise the impacts identified above?		Not applicable

Conclusions

The survey of Members on the Council's Governance Arrangements has provided a range of information that may be helpful in the Committees task of reviewing the effectiveness of those arrangements. In considering the results from the survey Members are asked to consider running a second survey in March this year in order to follow up and clarify some of the points raised from the initial survey.

Appendices

Appendix A – Members Survey Questionnaire

Appendix B – Members Survey – Summary of Results

Background Papers:

[Review of New Governance Arrangements – Report to the Governance Committee 5 November 2013](#)

Mrs Christine Nuttall
Chief Officer for Legal and Governance