

By: Joel Cook – Democratic Services Manager

To: County Council – 18 December 2025

Subject: Committees Review – Covering Report

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary

This covering report sets out the approach being undertaken to present proposed changes to the Committee arrangements, subject to any recommendations from the Selection and Member Services Committee.

The detailed final proposals for decision by Council (if any) will be published following Selection and Member Services Committee on 16 December 2025.

Introduction

1. Proposals for moving various Committee functions to deliver a more efficient approach to formal meetings have been developed and are currently published for consideration by the Selection and Member Services (SMS) Committee on 16 December. The published report is appended to this paper for information at this stage.
2. As set out in the Selection and Member Services Committee report, the proposals involve the ‘merging’ of some of the Ordinary Committees of the Council and the disbanding a sub-committee. This would, if approved by Council, be achieved by one committee in each merger absorbing the functions of the other and continuing with a broader remit. This would not require the formal establishment of entirely new committees and instead involve amendments to the relevant terms of reference and the disbanding of those committees no longer required following the transfer of functions.
3. The proposals which will be for decision by County Council, pending formal recommendations, are summarised below:
 - Planning Applications Committee to absorb and take on all functions from the Regulation Committee, including the transfer of sub-committees and Panels.
 - Selection and Member Services Committee to absorb and take on all functions from the Electoral and Boundary Review Committee.
 - Deletion of the Member Development Sub-Committee
4. Other proposals for changes to Cabinet Committees referenced in the Selection and Member Services Committee are for decision by the Leader and not County Council. The proposed change is:

- Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee to absorb and take on all functions from the Growth, Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committee.
 - 5. Council is advised that any decisions regarding the changing of the number of Ordinary Committees has a direct impact on the Proportionality calculations. Consequently, the outcome of Selection and Member Services consideration on 16 December is also material to that item and it is therefore not possible to provide definitive recommendations on the Committees Review or Proportionality items until after that meeting.
 - 6. No recommendation is included in this covering report. Further papers for the Committees Review and Proportionality arrangements, including the detailed recommendations for decision, will be published after Selection and Member Services Committee has met.
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Appendices:

Appendix 1 – [Report to Selection and Member Services Committee 16 December \(provided for information\)](#)

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