

Possible sub-committee models

(all sub-committees with 7 members)

The Local Government & Housing Act 1989 requires all committees of the council (except cabinet) to be proportional to council. With the current number of seats each political group has on the council as a whole the following seat allocation would be proportional (4 Labour, 3 Liberal Democrats, 0 Conservatives.).

The proportionality on sub-committees is calculated based on the proportion of seats held by political groups on the council and must ensure a majority on each committee for the majority group on the council. Committees of 7 are suggested as they are more manageable than larger committees, smaller committees lend themselves to a more efficient decision making process.

Model 1 – a strategic planning committee and 1 sub-committee (minor applications) fixed membership

- All committees would be proportional
- Members may wish to consider the SRA paid to community council chairs in the context of the wider review of community councils and the SRA paid to the chair of the sub-committee
- The subcommittee would consider some of the applications considered by community councils which are referred by members
- Meeting frequency 12 monthly meetings of the strategic planning committee
11 monthly sub-committee meetings.

Model 2 – 1 strategic planning committee with a fixed chair, 2 planning subcommittees with a fixed membership (including 2 fixed chairs) meeting on a rotational basis

- It is suggested that the strategic planning committee has a distinct membership.
- All committees would be proportional
- Members may wish to consider the SRA paid to community council chairs in the context of the wider review of community councils
- Members would also need to decide the level of SRA paid to the chairs of planning sub-committees.
- Membership of the sub-committees could be area based e.g. east and west sub-committees
- Meeting frequency 12 monthly meetings of the strategic planning committee
24 subcommittee meetings (12 per subcommittee)

Model 3 - 1 strategic planning committee with a fixed chair, 2 planning sub-committees with a pooled membership (1 chair and 1 vice chair) meeting on a rotational basis

- The chair or vice chair could chair individual meetings depending on availability
- more difficult to organise meetings with pooled membership
- additional administrative costs of organising meetings with a pooled membership
- reduces risk of meetings being inquorate or meetings not going ahead because of prejudicial interests or pre-determination (this currently impacts on community council meetings)

- ensuring each sub-committee meetings is proportional and quorate would be difficult and resource intensive. Council could vote for an arrangement whereby the pool was proportionate but the individual membership of each sub-committee was not but this would require a constitutional amendment with no members voting against it. Meeting membership would be based on member availability on a rota basis.
- This model would possibly require two SRAs to the chairs; members may wish to consider reducing the SRA paid to community council chairs if they no longer consider planning applications.
- Members may wish to consider if it would be appropriate to paying an attendance allowance in a similar way to Licensing subcommittees
- Meeting frequency 12 monthly meetings of the strategic planning committee
24 subcommittee meetings (12 per subcommittee)