

PLANNING OPTIONS AND POTENTIAL SAVINGS

Model	Description	Saving	Notes
A	Retain planning at community councils	0	
B	Delete planning from community councils	186,435	The maximum saving would require the majority of decisions currently taken by community councils to be delegated to officers. The savings are based on the percentage reductions from 70 community council meetings to the suggested sub-committee cycles.
C	Sub-committee model 1 (1 sub-committee, minor applications)	120,815	1 strategic planning committee (existing) and 1 sub-committee (minor applications). All committees would be proportional. The sub-committee 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.
D	Sub-committee model 2 (2 sub-committees)	92,238	2 alternatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 strategic planning committee (existing) and 2 sub-committees with a fixed membership. It is suggested that the strategic planning committee has a distinct membership. All committees would be proportional. 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 sub-committee meetings (12 per subcommittee). - 1 strategic planning committee (existing) and 2 sub-committees with a pooled membership. The chair or vice chair could chair individual meetings depending on availability. Disadvantages: 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 sub-committees. Meeting frequency 12 monthly meetings of the strategic planning committee 24 sub-committee meetings (12 per sub-committee).

Note: The table does not factor the level of Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA) to be paid to sub-committee chairs. This could significantly reduce the savings proposed from the sub-committee models depending on the level of SRA paid.

Detailed breakdown of the estimated savings

Savings Models A to D will deliver savings of varying degrees; some will deliver no savings at all. A more detailed breakdown of the estimated savings is set out in the table below:

Potential savings	Model A - Retain planning at community councils	Model B - Delete planning from community councils	Model C - Sub-committee model 1 (11 meetings)	Model D - Sub committee models 2 or 3 (24 meetings)
Security Services (Van hire etc)	£16,610	✓	✓	✓
Hire of rooms/halls	£5,885	✗	✓	✓
Legal Services for planning	£30,200	✗	Partially £25,670	Partially £19,932
Printing and postage	£14,740	✗	Partially £12,300	Partially £9,951
Staffing costs	£48,000	✗	✓	✗
Departmental support costs - planning	£71,000	✗	✓	Partially £46,860
Total	£0	£186,435	£120,815	£99,238

Notes:

- 1) The maximum saving would require the majority of decisions currently taken by community councils to be delegated to officers. The savings are based on the percentage reductions from 70 community council meetings to the suggested sub-committee cycles.
- 2) Model 1 – 1 strategic planning committee and 1 subcommittee (minor applications
Model 2 - 1 strategic planning committee and 2 subcommittees with a fixed membership
Model 3 - 1 strategic planning committee and 2 subcommittees with a pooled membership