ITEM 7

Policy, Audit and Consultation Committee

The Policy, Audit and Consultation Committee will be a sub-committee of the Full Council. The reason for this committee is to increase the effectiveness of the council: reviewing policy, reviewing audits and enable us to robustly research items before making informed decisions. It should make the debate shorter at Council meetings. The Committee has no delegated powers to act and will make recommendations to either Full Council or Standing Committee.

Function of the Committee:

1. Policy and Strategy
    a. To make recommendations to Full Council or Standing Committees on adoption and amendment of the Council's Policies, Strategies, Procedures, Standing Orders and Financial Procedure Rules. These reviews will be undertaken yearly and reported back to Council.
    b. To make observations to Full Council or Standing Committees on policy or strategy documents received by any public body at local, national, or regional level (planning related policies being the exception).
2. Audit
    a. To receive, monitor and action interim audit report yearly with the Clerk.
    b. To advise Council on matters of Data Protection, Access to Information, Freedom of Information and Human Rights.
    c. Asset Management including maintenance of Asset Register.
    d. Provision and management of office accommodation and other relevant fixtures and fittings relating to audit.
3. Consultations
    a. To receive items from Full Council or Standing Committees to research and report findings in order to make more informed decisions. Each member of the Full Council/Standing Committee is encouraged to give their opinions on the subject being referred so that the Committee can address any concerns.
    b. To receive outside body consultations, research and report findings to Full Council or Standing Committees on how to respond.

Membership

1. Minimum of five members, maximum of seven.
2. The committee should aim to be politically, and ward balanced where possible.
3. Members should have a genuine interest in research and gathering information; in order for the Committee to produce objective reports for Full Council/Standing Committee.
4. No members should have any personal or prejudicial interest in any matter referred to the committee.