

VIRTUAL EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL – 19 MAY 2020 - LATE MATERIAL

For Item 5: Decision-Making Arrangements During the Covid-19 Pandemic (Appendix A)

- The proportionality calculations in Annex 3 to Appendix A refer to 1 'Independent' Member of the Council. This should read 'Green' (rather than 'Independent').
- The following amendment has been received from the Conservative Group on the Council:

Proposed by Cllr Kevin Davis
Seconded by Cllr Rowena Bass

Reasons for tabling the amendment:

The Coronavirus crisis is a fast changing period in our history. Because of this, the proposer and seconder of this motion believe council business set out in this agenda are already out of date as we start to lift the restrictions created by Covid19. Many other councils, including that of our near neighbours, are holding Annual Councils and conducting "business as usual" as much as possible. The council governance needs to be agile during this period and not making changes that are appropriate to what is already past, but what we are doing today and will need tomorrow. This amendment seeks not to criticise the administration but to accept that we are in a different time and any changes we make should acknowledge this.

The decision making processes set out on the agenda should not be desirable to any democracy and we should not therefore be embedding them into the functioning of this Council for a period of 5 months. These arrangements should instead be reviewed for their continuance at every future Full Council meeting until the crisis passes and only be extended from Council meeting to Council meeting.

The Response and Recovery Committee is a decision making committee to make all the decisions of the Council - much like a cross-party Cabinet model. However, Cabinet model decisions should not be taken without effective scrutiny and an examination of the metrics around the COVID-19 crisis and the Council's performance. There are two main issues facing the Council during this crisis; the health of the community as we unlock and the finances of the council in the recovery period. It is therefore imperative that these two areas continue to be properly scrutinised by Councillors and for this reason we believe it appropriate for the Finance and Partnerships Committee, the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Health Overview Panel to continue to meet - although it is also our belief that in the case of health this might be best addressed by the chairs of both HWB and HOP convening a joint meeting or seminar should a joint committee "meeting" not be permissible in law.

The amendment:

To delete the recommendations set out on the agenda and replace with:

"To **RESOLVE** that:

1. a Response & Recovery Committee consisting of 11 Members be established to exercise all functions currently delegated to Strategic Committees (with the exception of the delegation to the Finance and Partnerships Committee) and to receive briefings and updates on the Council's Covid-19 response for the period until the next meeting of Council on 7 July 2020 at which point the Council can decide to rescind or continue these arrangements;
2. the Finance and Partnerships Committee, the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Health Overview Panel meet in the period to the next meeting of Full Council;
3. the revised calendar of meetings for the period to 12 October 2020 attached at Annex 1 be adopted until the Full Council meeting of the 7 July 2020, with the addition of dates (the selection of which is delegated to the Monitoring Officer) for those committees set out at paragraph 2 not already timetabled and the expectation of a further revision to the timetable at the meeting of Full Council on 7 July 2020;
4. the guidance for Members participating in virtual Committee and Council meetings set out at Annex 2 be noted. "