

DESCRIPTION OF OPTION

This Option proposes a review and restructure of committee/civic/electoral/member services (which form part of legal & member services) in order to ensure an efficient, effective service providing high quality services and value for money and reducing the cost of democracy.

RATIONALE FOR SAVINGS

By introducing resilience, economies of scale and cross fertilisation of knowledge and experience, the proposed review and restructure will add significantly more value, and help restore confidence, in the corporate governance agenda.

The Council currently operates a model of governance known as Strong Leader, which involves a Cabinet and five Overview and Scrutiny Committees and Scrutiny Programme Board, together with a number of other committees.

IMPACT

The review of the Constitution and number of Committees will promote confidence and transparent decision making; improve democratic arrangements, whilst reducing the costs of democracy; and ensure greater accountability and efficiencies.

Undertaking a review and restructure of the Services in question will involve the rationalisation/review of posts. This could realise savings of £100,000.

The review of the Constitution and the number of Committee Meetings will enable greater efficiencies to be achieved through improved working practices/arrangements and rationalisation/review of posts. This would lead to a further saving of £75,000.

MITIGATION

Consultation will therefore be required with all relevant staff and members.