

Report for: Standards Committee – 2 March 2021

Title: Establishment of a separate Strategic Planning Committee with a Planning Sub Committee and separate Licensing Committee with a Licensing Sub Committee and decommissioning the Regulatory Committee for the Municipal year 2021/22.

Report authorised by: Interim Monitoring Officer – John Jones

Lead Officer: Ayshe Simsek - Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager

Ward(s) affected: N/A

**Report for Key/
Non-Key Decision:** Non Key Decision

1. Describe the issue under Consideration.

- 1.1 This report provides the feedback from the Regulatory Committee which has been consulted on the proposed changes to the Committee structure which is for the Regulatory Committee to be formally reconstituted as two separate Committees – a Strategic Planning Committee and a Licensing Committee. The Regulatory Committee considered the attached report at Appendix 1, and appendices 2 to 4 on 25 February 2021, and also considered Appendix 5, at an earlier working group meeting on 11 February 2021.
- 1.2 The Regulatory Committee formally endorsed Option 3 - which is the establishment of a separate main Planning Committee called a Strategic Planning Committee with a Planning Sub Committee and the establishment of a separate main Licensing Committee with a Licensing Sub Committee. They were in agreement to this change in Committee Structure and considered consequent changes to the Council's Constitution, in particular Section B – Full Council and Non-Executive Functions. They commented on the need for explicit reference, in the Strategic Planning Committee's Terms of Reference, to Building Control functions and it is proposed to make this change further to consultation with Legal services. There was a comment on changing the name of the main Licensing Committee to Strategic Licensing Committee. Although, the proposed name of this Committee is similar to other borough's Licensing Committee names and reflects the term used in legislation. It was also agreed to reference the potential consequent changes to the Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) descriptions, according to their banding e.g., Chair of Strategic Planning, will be Band 2B and Chair of Licensing Band 1B. This would be taken forward in the report to Full Council from the Standards Committee, if the Committee is minded to agree the recommendations.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

Not applicable.

3. Recommendations

The Standards Committee is asked:

- 3.1 To note the endorsement of Regulatory Committee to Option 3, set out at Appendix 1, which is the deletion of the Regulatory Committee for the 2021/22 Municipal Year and establishment of a separate main Planning Committee called the Strategic Planning Committee with a Planning Sub Committee and the establishment of a separate main Licensing Committee with a Licensing Sub Committee.
- 3.2 To recommend to full Council, the implementation of these changes to the Committee structure, set out at 3.1 above, to take effect from the 2021/22 Municipal year as set out at Appendix 1, section 6.6.
- 3.3 To recommend resultant changes and additions to the Constitution, Part 3 Section B, Full Council and Non-Executive Functions and protocols, which are attached at appendices 2 to 4, to full Council for approval on 18 March 2021 and to take effect from the start of the new Municipal Year, May 2021/22.
- 3.4 To delegate any further required minor amendments to appendices 2 to 4 and other resultant changes to the Constitution, that may be necessary before submission of the Standards Report to Full Council on 10 March 2021, to the Monitoring Officer after consultation with the Chair.

4. Reasons for decision

- 4.1 In the Review of Members' Allowances for the Municipal year 2020/21, the independent person, conducting this review, outlined in his report, to the Standards meeting on 2 March 2020, that there seemed to be consensus around the proposition that the Regulatory Committee should be formally reconstituted as two separate Committees – a Planning Committee and a Licensing Committee. The Standards recommended consultation with the Regulatory committee on options for taking forward this change to the Committee structure.
- 4.2 Regulatory Committee considered 4 options for how this change could be taken forward on 14 January 2021 and a further 2 options were considered by the working group of Regulatory Committee on 11 February 2021. The Regulatory Committee formally endorsed Option 3 at their meeting on 25 February 2021 with comments as set out at section 1.2.
- 4.3 The Constitution at section 14.03 sets out that Changes to the Constitution, including the Scheme of Members' Allowances, will only be approved by the full Council after recommendation of the proposal by the Standards

Committee and following advice from the Monitoring Officer save that authority is delegated to the Monitoring Officer to make any changes required as a result of legislative change. This report takes forward this action and changes to the Constitution will be put forward to Full Council on 18 March 2021 meeting for approval and to take effect for the Municipal Year 2021/22.

5. Alternative options considered.

- 5.1 To make no changes to the Committee Structure or Constitution and maintain the Regulatory Committee. This would be contrary to Member's wishes and the findings of the review of Member Allowances Review in 2019/20.
- 5.2 To reconsider and recommend Options 1, 2 or 4 as set out at 1.2, 1.3 and 1.5 in the attached report at Appendix 1.

6. Background

- 6.1 As set out in Appendix 1 and Appendix 5.

7. Contribution to strategic outcomes

The Council's constitution supports the governance of the Council and its decision making thereby assisting the Council to meet its strategic outcomes.

8. Statutory Officers comments (Chief Finance Officer (including procurement), Assistant Director of Corporate Governance, Equalities)

Finance comments

- 8.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report. There are no consequent changes to the SRA's and no significant resource implications for supporting the proposed changes to the Committee structure.

Legal comments

- 8.2 These are set out within the report.

Equality

- 8.3 There are no equality matters in this report.

9. Use of Appendices

Appendix 1: Report to Regulatory Committee – 25 February 2021.

Appendix 2a: Option 3 Terms of Reference for changing the current Regulatory Committee terms to proposed main Licensing Committee [shown with track changes].

Appendix 2b: Licensing Sub Committee Terms of Reference with track changes.

Appendix 2c: Proposed terms of reference for Strategic Planning Committee – New.

Appendix 3.1: Current Regulatory Committee Protocol amended to cover the new Main Licensing Committee and created new Strategic Planning Committee Protocol at 2.2 [with track changes].

Appendix 4: Clean terms of references for Licensing Committee, Licensing Sub Committee, Strategic Planning Committee, Protocol for Licensing Committee and Strategic Planning Committee.

Appendix 5: Regulatory Committee – Briefing paper.

10. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

The Council Constitution can be found at: <http://www.haringey.gov.uk/local-democracy/about-Council/Council-constitution>.