



Democratic Renewal Working Party 2 May 2013

Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee: Approval of the Council's Annual Accounts

1. Summary and reasons for recommendations

- 1.1 A recent review of the framework for reporting performance and financial information to Members has considered the role of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee (PASC) and its powers concerning the Council's Statement of Accounts. PASC currently considers the Council's Statement of Accounts and makes recommendation to Council.
- 1.2 The Council can delegate specific powers to PASC to approve the Statement of Accounts. This is recommended, thus streamlining the decision making process by removing the necessity for that decision to be ratified by Council.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee be given delegated powers to approve the Council's Statement of Accounts; and
- 2.2 That Head of Legal and Democratic Services be given delegated authority to make the necessary changes to the Council's constitution.

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3. Corporate priorities

3.1 The recommendations meet the following, as contained within the Corporate Plan:

- Working Together for an efficient Council

The proposals will help streamline the framework and flow of information to a decision making Committee by removing an element of duplication and increasing the efficiency of reporting.

4. Key issues

4.1 A recent review of the framework for reporting performance and financial information to Members has considered the role of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee (PASC) and its powers concerning the Council's Statement of Accounts. Currently the Statement of Accounts is considered by PASC before it is presented for approval by full Council

4.2 Legal and Democratic Services have confirmed that PASC may both receive and have the authority for approving the Council's Annual Statement of Accounts, thus removing the necessity for that decision to be ratified by full Council. The Committee may wish to report its decision to Council for noting.

4.3 This would require a suitable change to be made to PASC's delegated powers in the Council's constitution. A similar change is being made to the powers of Forest Heath District Council's Performance and Audit Committee.

4.4 Approval for a recommendation to make a specific change to the powers of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee, as described above, is therefore sought.

5. Other options considered

5.1 The alternative would be to leave the powers of PASC unchanged, thus not taking the opportunity to improve the efficiency of decision making.

6. Community impact

6.1 **Crime and disorder impact** *(including Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998)*

6.1.1 Not applicable.

6.2 **Diversity and equality impact** *(including the findings of the Equality Impact Assessment)*

6.2.1 Not applicable.

6.3 **Sustainability impact** *(including completing a Sustainability Impact Assessment)*

6.3.1 Not applicable.

6.4 **Other impact** *(any other impacts affecting this report)*

6.4.1 Not applicable.

7. Consultation *(what consultation has been undertaken, and what were the outcomes?)*

7.1 The opinion of Legal and Democratic services to the proposal has been sought and the Council's power to make to such a change has been confirmed.

8. Financial and resource implications *(including asset management implications)*

8.1 None.

9. Risk/opportunity assessment *(potential hazards or opportunities affecting corporate, service or project objectives)*

Risk area	Inherent level of risk (before controls)	Controls	Residual risk (after controls)
None identified			

10. Legal and policy implications

10.1 See above for Legal and Democratic Services' opinion concerning the power of the Council to make a change.

11. Ward(s) affected

11.1 All.

12. Background papers

12.1 None.

13. Documents attached

13.1 Not applicable.

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