

Electoral Review/Governance Informal Policy Group

Terms of Reference

1. To consider and recommend to Cabinet, The Overview and Scrutiny Committee and/or Council , as appropriate, upon matters concerning the Local Government Electoral Review and related Governance issues including:
 - (a) Whole Council elections or elections by thirds.
 - (b) The first stage submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission on future Council size.
 - (c) The second stage submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission on future Council warding arrangements.
2. To act as a sounding board for the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Organisational Development on other significant aspects of the Governance Review, where early cross-party input would be helpful.

In undertaking its work the Group will take into account the following drivers for change:

3. The need to rebalance resources to recognise the current economic circumstances and reduced funding for local government.
4. The outputs achieved for the local community are what matter.
5. The need to maintain at the right level:
 - a. Member involvement in the democratic process;
 - b. openness and transparency;
 - c. checks and balances;
 - d. risk management
 - e. efficient and easily understood decision-making processes.

The Reviews are not about:

6. Finding roles for Members or Officers.
7. Continuing with the same methods as in the past simply because they worked in the constraints that were previously experienced.
