

# **Report to Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

**Date of meeting: 17 April 2018**



**Subject: Overview & Scrutiny Framework - Review**

**Officer contact for further information:** S. Tautz (01992) 564180

**Democratic Services Officer:** A. Hendry (01992) 564246

---

## **Recommendations/Decisions Required**

**That Committee consider the possible combination of the Governance and Resources Select Committees, with effect from the commencement of the 2018/19 municipal year.**

### **Introduction**

1. (Director of Governance) The current overview and scrutiny framework of four select committees was established with effect from the commencement of the 2015/16 municipal year, following a review undertaken by a Task and Finish Panel.
2. At that time, the establishment of the select committees broadly reflected the management structure of the Council, save for the creation of a standalone 'Housing Select Committee' and the incorporation of the Community Services and Safety responsibilities of the Communities Directorate within the 'Neighbourhoods and Community Services Select Committee'.
3. However, during 2016/17 these arrangements were reviewed further, resulting in the adoption of the current select committee framework that is fully aligned to the current management structure of the Council.
4. At the joint meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Chairmen held on 6 March 2018, members requested that a review be undertaken of the possible combination of the Governance and Resources Select Committees with effect from the 2018/19 municipal year, primarily as a result of a reduction in work programme activity for both select committees over the course of the last year. This approach was supported at the meeting by the current Chairman of the Governance Select Committee.
5. In considering this matter, the Committee should have regard to the current ongoing review of the Council's senior management structure, the ultimate hierarchy of which may have a bearing on the structure of the Cabinet going forward and might also necessitate a re-alignment of the Overview and Scrutiny Framework over the coming year. The Committee might therefore consider that it would be prudent to defer any decision about the possible merging of the select committees until a later date.
6. The views of members with regard to the combination of the Governance and Resources Select Committees were sought through the Council Bulletin on 7 March 2018. No feedback has been received from members of the select committees with regard to this matter.