

<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>To Consider Returning to the Committee System</b>
<b>Report to be considered by:</b>	Governance and Audit Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	9 July 2012
<b>Forward Plan Ref:</b>	N/a

**Purpose of Report:** To request the Committee to carry out a review in relation to returning to a Committee System of Governance.

**Recommended Action:** To support a review of the benefits of returning to a Committee System of Governance.

**Reason for decision to be taken:** An extant decision of the committee has not been actioned.

**Other options considered:** None

**Key background documentation:** None

The proposals will also help achieve the following Council Strategy principle:

**CSP7 - Empowering people and communities**

The proposals contained in this report will help to achieve the above Council Strategy principle by:  
making the Council's decision making process more democratic, accountable, efficient and effective.

<b>Member Details</b>	
<b>Name &amp; Telephone No.:</b>	Councillor Tony Vickers
<b>E-mail Address:</b>	tvickers@westberks.gov.uk

<b>Contact Officer Details</b>	
<b>Name:</b>	Gillian Durrant
<b>Job Title:</b>	Group Executive Lib Dems
<b>Tel. No.:</b>	01635 519097
<b>E-mail Address:</b>	gdurrant@westberks.gov.uk

### **Implications**

**Policy:** None

**Financial:** None

**Personnel:** None

**Legal/Procurement:** None  
**Property:** None  
**Risk Management:** None  
**Equalities Impact Assessment:** See Appendix A

Is this item subject to call-in?	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If not subject to call-in please put a cross in the appropriate box:		
The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council		<input type="checkbox"/>
Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position		<input type="checkbox"/>
Considered or reviewed by Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission or associated Task Groups within preceding six months		<input type="checkbox"/>
Item is Urgent Key Decision		<input type="checkbox"/>
Report is to note only		<input type="checkbox"/>

# Executive Report

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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The G&A Committee resolved the following at its meeting on 15.11.10. The Localism Act 2011 enables all Councils to change their decision making process at any Annual Council Meeting. It is suggested that the Task Group should therefore progress without further delay.
- (1) “To undertake a review of the current Executive and Scrutiny arrangements which should include the cost of the current arrangements together with how effective, efficient and inclusive the current system is perceived to be.
  - (2) To consider alternative governance options including a committee based decision making structure to ensure that any new system is democratic, accountable, efficient and effective.
  - (3) To examine the resources that will be required to effectively run any revised or current system.
- 1.2 Andy Day reported that despite the Minister’s pledge the Council was not in a position at the current time to introduce any new governance arrangements until the existing legislation (Local Government Act 2000) had been amended or repealed. The Committee agreed that rather than wait for the appropriate legislation to be amended or repealed that work could commence on (1) above. It was agreed that a questionnaire seeking views on the current governance arrangements should be designed and circulated to all Members to complete. This would help to inform the Group’s work moving forward.

### RESOLVED:

- (i) That the terms of reference for the Working Group, as set out above, be approved.
- (ii) That arrangements be made for a questionnaire to be circulated to all members seeking their views on the current governance arrangements.
- (iii) That each Group Leader be requested to nominate the appropriate number of Members for the Working Group.”

## 2. Proposals

- 2.1 Given the Localism Act 2011, the committee is requested to consider undertaking a review in relation to returning to a committee system of Governance as set out above

## 3. Equalities Impact Assessment Outcomes

- 3.1 There is no decision to be made and therefore no Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken.

#### **4. Conclusion**

- 4.1 The Task Group should now meet as soon as possible to progress the review of the Council's decision making process.

#### **Appendices**

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Appendix A – Equality Impact Assessment – Stage 1

#### **Consultees**

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**Local Stakeholders:** n/a

**Officers Consulted:** Andy Day

**Trade Union:** n/a

# APPENDIX A

## Equality Impact Assessment – Stage One

<b>Name of item being assessed:</b>	To Consider returning to the Committee System
<b>Version and release date of item (if applicable):</b>	
<b>Owner of item being assessed:</b>	Gillian Durrant
<b>Name of assessor:</b>	Gillian Durrant
<b>Date of assessment:</b>	29 June 2011

<b>1. What are the main aims of the item?</b>
To ask that a Task Group considers the possibility of returning to a Committee System of Governance

<b>2. Note which groups may be affected by the item, consider how they may be affected and what sources of information have been used to determine this.</b> (Please demonstrate consideration of all strands – age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation)
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Group Affected	What might be the effect?	Information to support this.

<b>Further comments relating to the item:</b>
This has a very minimal impact on any of the groups mentioned above.

<b>3. Result</b> (please tick by clicking on relevant box)
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>High Relevance</b> - This needs to undergo a Stage 2 Equality Impact Assessment
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Medium Relevance</b> - This needs to undergo a Stage 2 Equality Impact Assessment
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Low Relevance</b> - This needs to undergo a Stage 2 Equality Impact Assessment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>No Relevance</b> - This <b>does not</b> need to undergo a Stage 2 Equality Impact Assessment

For items requiring a Stage 2 equality impact assessment, begin the planning of this now, referring to the equality impact assessment guidance and Stage 2 template.

<b>4. Identify next steps as appropriate:</b>	
Stage Two required	
Owner of Stage Two assessment:	
Timescale for Stage Two assessment:	
Stage Two not required:	

**Name:**

**Date:**