



Members' Steering Group

SUMMARY

- 1.1 Members' Services Working Party was established many years ago as a means to enable councillors to raise practical issues to assist them in carrying out their duties. It was redefined as Members' Steering Group in 2010 to enable it to be used as a consultative tool with councillors as the council commenced the One Derby One Council transformation programme.
- 1.2 More recently, the committee has been a forum for members to raise concerns or issues on matters relating to the services enabling them to undertake their duties. Given the large number of attendees at the meeting, this can sometimes result in a disproportionate amount of time being spent on individual issues which would be better resolved one-to-one, affording less time for the broader, more representative issues to be discussed.
- 1.4 This report proposes a new approach to address these issues.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To recommend that Members' Steering Group be remodelled as detailed in this report.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To enable Members' Steering Group to be more effective and more time efficient.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Current model

- 4.1 Members' Steering Group comprised nine members in 2015/6 with Widdicombe Rules being applied to the allocation of places (5 Lab, 2 Con, 1 Lib Dem, 1 UKIP).
- 4.2 Meetings took place bi-monthly. A small number of update reports were provided by officers. The majority of agenda items were formed by any of the nine members giving notification of an item they wish to raise.

- 4.3 Regular officer attendees include two or more officers from within Democratic Services, the Director of Governance, the Director of Digital Services, the Director of Strategic Services and Organisational Development and the Head of Customer Management.

Proposed model

- 4.4 It is proposed that the new group will comprise one representative of each political group on the council, with the appointment for each group being determined by the Group Leader.
- 4.5 Meeting would still take place bi-monthly but given the smaller number of attendees could take place on a more ad-hoc basis at times which are suitable for the appointed members. Agenda items would be submitted in the same way, but no additional officers would normally attend.
- 4.6 The meeting would be attended by one or two officers from within Democratic Services, who would then lead on ensuring the actions raised would be passed on to the appropriate senior officer.

Proposed improvements

- 4.7 It is suggested that by having one nominee from each group, ideally a member who is already in a representative position within that group, the items would be less likely to become subject to individual concerns and more likely to cover more representative, wider issues.
- 4.8 Limiting the number of officers attending is more time-efficient and will also place the onus on those in attendance to pursue actions on issues which are raised. This may address the issue of the same items being repeatedly raised.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 Retain the status quo. This is not recommended as it is not considered to be as effective or efficient as it could be.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Service Directors	Janie Berry – Director of Governance Nick O'Reilly – Director of Digital Services Gordon Stirling – Director of Strategic Services and Organisational Change
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IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 No direct financial implications, though value for money improvements would result from more efficient arrangements.

Legal

- 2.1 None.

Personnel

- 3.1 None.

IT

- 4.1 None.

Equalities Impact

- 5.1 None.

Health and Safety

- 6.1 None.

Environmental Sustainability

- 7.1 None.

Property and Asset Management

- 8.1 None.

Risk Management

- 9.1 None.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 10.1 Achieving more efficient practices and procedures is consistent with council priorities.