

REPORT TO CABINET

Open		Would any decisions proposed :			
Any especially affected Wards	Discretionary /	Be entirely within Cabinet's powers to decide		NO	
		Need to be recommendations to Council		YES	
	Operational	Is it a Key Decision		NO	
Lead Member: Cllr S Dark E-mail: cllr.stuart.dark@west-norfolk.gov.uk			Other Cabinet Members consulted:		
			Other Members consulted:		
Lead Officer: S Winter E-mail: sam.winter:west-norfolk.gov.uk			Other Officers consulted: Chief Executive, Monitoring Officer		
Financial Implications YES	Policy/ Personnel Implications NO	Statutory Implications NO	Equal Impact Assessment NO	Risk Management Implications YES	Environmental Considerations NO

Date of meeting: 7 March 2023

GOVERNANCE TASK GROUP

Summary

The above proportional Task Group was set up in September 2019, to consider the councils governance delivery options and arrangements and make any recommendations to Cabinet and Council on any suggested changes.

The Task Group had commenced its considerations but with the onset of the pandemic had suspended its work in line with all other non essential matters the Council was dealing with. This work has not re-commenced.

Recommendation

That the work of the Governance Task Group be paused until after the Borough Council elections.

Reason for Decision

To ensure that the new Council is able to take a view on its Governance structure going forward.

1 Background

The Governance Review Task Group was set up by Council with the following terms of reference:

- Review & assess the Councils current governance model.
- Identify & consider the drivers for change
- Consider design principles for any revised model
- Identify & review options & alternative models of governance

- Relative costings of running the current or alternative governance models.
- Identify & agree upon a preferred model
- Publish a final report & recommendations for Cabinet & Council.

The Task Group had looked at the options available when the pandemic struck and the council took the decision to suspend work on all non essential matters. Since the re commencement of ordinary work post pandemic, elements which were suspended are now being reviewed.

In looking at the timeframes of Borough Council's forthcoming elections in May 2023 and the Peer Review which was agreed at the December 2022 Council meeting, it is suggested that it is not appropriate for the outgoing council to carry out the work and potentially commit a new Council to its decisions.

Therefore, it is suggested that following the elections and Peer Review consideration be taken on the governance review by the new Council. If it is agreed to resurrect the review to carry out the work pending the outcome of the Peer review, a report on which is also on the agenda.

2 Options Considered

- The work can re-commence post-election linking with the peer review
- The work on the review can commence prior to the election.
- Council could decide not to resurrect the task group.

3 Policy Implications

None at this stage.

4 Financial Implications

The costs of an EELGA advisor - figures to be confirmed.

5 Personnel Implications

As the previous work of the Task Group assistance would be required from the EELGA.

6 Environmental Considerations

None

7 Statutory Considerations

Not at this stage, but any change in the Council's overall governance model would require a referendum.

8 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

(Pre screening report template attached)

9 Risk Management Implications

The risk of continuing the work pre election includes potentially carrying out abortive work, or tying the new Council to the views of the current council.

10 Declarations of Interest / Dispensations Granted

None

11 Background Papers

Governance Task Group mins

Pre-Screening Equality Impact Assessment

Borough Council of
King's Lynn & West Norfolk



Name of policy/service/function					
Is this a new or existing policy/service/function?	New / Existing (delete as appropriate)				
<p>Brief summary/description of the main aims of the policy/service/function being screened.</p> <p>Please state if this policy/service is rigidly constrained by statutory obligations</p>					
Question	Answer				
<p>1. Is there any reason to believe that the policy/service/function could have a specific impact on people from one or more of the following groups according to their different protected characteristic, for example, because they have particular needs, experiences, issues or priorities or in terms of ability to access the service?</p> <p>Please tick the relevant box for each group.</p> <p>NB. Equality neutral means no negative impact on any group.</p>		Positive	Negative	Neutral	Unsure
	Age				
	Disability				
	Gender				
	Gender Re-assignment				
	Marriage/civil partnership				
	Pregnancy & maternity				
	Race				
	Religion or belief				
	Sexual orientation				
Other (eg low income)					

Question	Answer	Comments
2. Is the proposed policy/service likely to affect relations between certain equality communities or to damage relations between the equality communities and the Council, for example because it is seen as favouring a particular community or denying opportunities to another?	Yes / No	
3. Could this policy/service be perceived as impacting on communities differently?	Yes / No	
4. Is the policy/service specifically designed to tackle evidence of disadvantage or potential discrimination?	Yes / No	
5. Are any impacts identified above minor and if so, can these be eliminated or reduced by minor actions? If yes, please agree actions with a member of the Corporate Equalities Working Group and list agreed actions in the comments section	Yes / No	Actions:
		Actions agreed by EWG member:
If 'yes' to questions 2 - 4 a full impact assessment will be required unless comments are provided to explain why this is not felt necessary: Decision agreed by EWG member:		
Assessment completed by:		
Name		
Job title		
Date		

