

Standards Committee



04 October 2023

Title	Re-establishment of the Committee System Working Group
Purpose of the report	To make a decision
Report Author	Farida Hussain
Ward(s) Affected	All Wards
Exempt	No
Exemption Reason	Not applicable
Corporate Priority	This item is not in the current list of Corporate Priorities but still requires a Committee decision.
Recommendations	Committee is asked to: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Agree to re-establish the Committee System Working Group2. To amend the membership of the Committee System Working Group
Reason for Recommendation	The Committee System Working Group needs to be re-established to consider proposals to amend the number of Committees. The membership of the committee also needs to be considered and agreed.

1. Summary of the report

- 1.1 This report seeks approval of the re-establishment of the Committee System Working Group to consider proposed changes to the number of committees. How the membership of the Committee System Working Group is made up needs to be agreed.

2. Key issues

- 2.1 The Committee System Working Group was first established in November 2020 to develop the structure of the new Committee System.
- 2.2 At an Extraordinary Standards Committee held on 29 September 2021. The Working Group was re-established under the Committee System with terms of reference to enable it to review the operation of the Committee System and recommend any amendments. The Standards Committee also agreed the membership of the Working Group as follows:

“Group Leaders, the Independent Green Councillor and one additional named Conservative member”.

This agreed membership was intended to ensure that all group leaders and independent members would be part of the working group. The additional seat given to a Conservative member was intended to reflect the number of Conservative councillors within the Council.

3. Options analysis and proposal

Re-establishment of the Committee System Working Group

- 3.1 **Recommended** - It is proposed that the Committee System Working Group be re-established for 2023-24 to allow it to meet to consider the proposals to revise the number of committees and to agree revised Terms of References for any new committees.
- 3.2 Do not re-establish the Committee System Working Group. This would leave no mechanism for members to recommend any changes to the Committee System.

The membership structure

- 3.3 **Recommended** – The membership be made up of one member from each political group and any independent members to ensure that all members are equally represented.
- 3.4 Retain the current membership structure as agreed at the Extraordinary Standards Committee September 2021 as per 2.2 in the report.

4. Financial implications

- 4.1 There are none arising from this report.

5. Other considerations

- 5.1 No other considerations have been identified.

6. Equality and Diversity

The recommended proposal will allow all councillors to provide feedback on the new arrangements.

7. Contact

- 7.1 Farida Hussain, Group Head Governance & Monitoring -
f.hussain@spelthorne.gov.uk