

**Blaby District Council
Council**

Date of Meeting 18 April 2023

Title of Report **Amendments to the Constitution – Membership of
Planning Committee and Scrutiny Commission**

This is not a Key Decision and is not on the Forward Plan

Report Author **Monitoring Officer**

Corporate Priority All Priorities: A Place to Live; A Place to Work; A Place to Visit; People Strategy; Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)

1. What is this report about?

- 1.1 To amend the Constitution to amend the numbers of seats on Planning Committee and Scrutiny Commission and reduce the number of Scrutiny Commissioners to be effective from the Annual Council Meeting 23rd May 2023.

2. Recommendation(s) to Council

- 2.1 That the number of seats on the Planning Committee be reduced to 9 effective from the Annual Council Meeting 23rd May 2023.
- 2.2 That the number of seats on the Scrutiny Commission be reduced to 11 effective from the Annual Council Meeting 23rd May 2023.
- 2.3 That the number of Scrutiny Commissioners be reduced to 2 whereby a Chair of Scrutiny Commission and a Vice Chair of Scrutiny Commission will be appointed by the Council from the Scrutiny Commission membership effective from the Annual Council Meeting 23rd May 2023.
- 2.4 That the Constitution be updated to reflect the changes in recommendations 2.1 to 2.3

3. Reason for Decisions Recommended

- 3.1 These changes are considered prudent following the reduction in the number of Councillors appointed to Blaby District Council following the Boundary Review and the requirement that those appointed to the Audit & Corporate Governance Committee do not also sit on the Scrutiny Commission.

4. Matters to consider

- 4.1 This report is required in order to ensure that the Constitution accurately reflects the way the Council operates.

The changes to the number of Councillors appointed to Blaby District Council means that there is a reduced number of Councillors to be appointed to Committees. The total number of Councillors is 36.

The current number of Scrutiny Commission Members is 18 inclusive of 3 Commissioners. Members of the Commission must be non-Executive Members.

The current number of Cabinet (Executive) Members is 6 and the current members of Planning Committee is 11. The current number of Audit & Corporate Governance Committee Members is 7.

Members of the Audit & Corporate Governance Committee must also be non-Executive Members and recent guidance requires the Audit & Corporate Governance Committee membership to be independent of the Scrutiny Commission membership.

There are therefore a maximum of 23 members who could be appointed to the Scrutiny Commission, it is felt that a reduction in the number of seats is therefore prudent to ensure the effective running of the three Committees and ensure that responsibilities can be effectively split between our 36 Elected Members. It is important to note that any non-executive member will be able to sit on any Working Groups or Task and Finish Groups which are established by the Scrutiny Commission.

The reduction in the number of Commissioners is to reflect the reduction in the Committee. The Council will appoint the 2 Commissioners (a Chair and Vice Chair of Scrutiny Commission) from the nominated members of Scrutiny Commission as well as appointing to the revised membership of all Committees at the Annual Council meeting, where these changes will take effect.

4.2 Proposal(s)

That the proposed changes to the Planning Committee and Scrutiny Commission membership be approved and that the Constitution is amended accordingly.

4.3 Relevant Consultations

Democratic Services, Senior Leadership Team, Leader of the Council.

5. What will it cost and are there opportunities for savings?

- 5.1 There are no cost implications as a result of this report, there is likely to be a modest saving in reducing the number of Scrutiny Commissioners and the Meeting Attendance Allowances paid to members of the Planning Committee.

6. What are the risks and how can they be reduced?

- 6.1 No risks have been identified.

7. Other options considered

- 7.1 Retaining the current membership will not have the advantages described in the report.

8. Environmental impact

- 8.1 There are no environmental concerns.

9. Other significant issues

- 9.1 In preparing this report, the author has considered issues related to Human Rights, Legal Matters, Human Resources, Equalities, Public Health Inequalities, and Climate Local and there are no areas of concern.

10. Appendix

- 10.1 None.

11. Background paper(s)

- 11.1 Not applicable.

12. Report author's contact details

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