

REPORT TO COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 8 SEPTEMBER 2022

APPOINTMENT OF RENT STRATEGY WORKING GROUP

1 Executive Summary/Recommendations

1.1.1 This report provides details of the Rent Strategy Member/Officer Working Group and requests that members (1) consider retaining this Working Groups; and (2) consider nominations for representation on this Working Group.

1.1.2 It is proposed to retain the Rent Strategy Member/Officer Working Group, as detailed in Appendix 1. Members are requested to agree this continuation, and determine the membership.

1.2 The Committee is recommended to:

1.2.1 Consider the retainment of the Rent Strategy Member/Officer Working Group as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report;

1.2.2 Provide nominations for membership of the Rent Strategy Member/Officer Working Group as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report; and

1.2.3 Note that the membership of the Sub-Committees and Working Groups are based on the proportionality model approved by Full Council on 19 May 2022, namely that an 8 Member group comprises 5 Administration Members and 3 opposition coalition Members; and a 5 Member groups comprises 3 Administration Members and 2 opposition coalition Members.

2 Decision Making Route

2.1 Working Groups are not subject to the Access to Information Regulations and they are not required to be open to the press or public. The papers circulated are generally considered as not for publication. While this can be considered to be an advantage in some respects, it should be noted that Council's aim of openness can be called into question if too much of the Council's detailed consideration of policies and issues takes place at Working Groups, without full subsequent debate, and documentation, in open Committee.

1.1.3 Both Sub-Committees and Working Groups, when properly established to match the work that requires to be carried out by the Council, have their own merits in contributing to the effective decision-making process.

3 Discussion

3.1 Sub-Committee – A Sub-Committee is a small group made up of Council Members, set up to look in detail at one aspect, or a related group of aspects,

of the Council's, or a Committee's, work. Sub-Committees may have powers delegated by the Council, or parent committee. As formal groups of the Council, they are subject to the provisions of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and other legislation relevant to the conduct of the Council's business. Meetings of Sub-Committees must be conducted in accordance with the Scheme of Governance. Sub-Committees can meet regularly, or on an ad-hoc basis, and are considered to be a good method of allowing detailed discussions on matters which do not have a natural time limit, or where decision-making would require to be continued over a lengthy period. Sub-Committees are also subject to the Access to Information Regulations, requiring that matters are considered in public unless a resolution is made to treat a matter as exempt in terms of an appropriate classification of the legislation.

- 3.2 Working Groups – Working Groups do not have the same formal requirements of Sub-Committees and can consist of Members, Officers, and others, for example, representatives from a relevant industry. They cannot act with powers, as the Council can only delegate its powers to Committees, Sub-Committees, a named officer, or another Council. They are not subject to the Scheme of Governance and their proceedings do not require to be recorded as part of the Council Minutes. They are usually set up to consider a report on one project, policy, or issue, and consequently often have a limited life

4 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

- 4.1 This report helps to deliver the Strategic Priority “Infrastructure” within the Pillar “Our Environment”, having the right people, in the right place, at the right time.
- 4.2 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is (are) agreed.

Subject	Yes	No	N/A
Financial			X
Staffing			X
Equalities and Fairer Duty Scotland			X
Children and Young People's Rights and Wellbeing			X
Climate Change and Sustainability			X
Health and Wellbeing			X
Town Centre First			X

- 4.3 There are no staffing or financial implications arising directly as a result of this report.
- 4.4 The screening section as part of Stage One of the Integrated Impact Assessment process has not identified the requirement for any further detailed assessments to be undertaken because the proposals are procedural matters and do not have a differential impact on any of the protected characteristics.

- 4.5 The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level:

[Aberdeenshire Corporate Risks](#)

ACORP006 – Reputation Management

5 Scheme of Governance

- 5.1 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and their comments are incorporated within the report. They are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.
- 5.2 The Committee is able to consider and take a decision on this item in terms of Section F 3.1 of the [List of Committee Powers in Part 2A](#) of the Scheme of Governance as it relates to the establishment of Sub-Committees and Working Groups.

Ritchie Johnson
Director of Business Services

Report prepared by Niall David, Senior Committee Officer
Date 29 August, 2022

List of Appendices – Appendix 1, Rent Strategy Member/Officer Working Group
Details

APPENDIX 1

Figure in brackets relates to number of recommended Elected Members to the Working Group.

Note – Agreed Proportionality: 8 Member group comprises 5 Administration Members and 3 opposition coalition Members

Rent Strategy Member/Officer Working Group (MOWG)

Membership comprises (8) Elected Members of Aberdeenshire Council.

Remit – to consider proposals for Council House rent levels for the next financial year, taking into account the ongoing business plan and financial commitments. The MOWG will put together proposals for consultation with tenants before being presented to Communities Committee and thereafter the budget meeting of Aberdeenshire Council.

Number of Meetings – as required.