

Recommendation to Full Council

From Audit & Governance Committee – 11 April 2022

Meeting Arrangements and the Health and Wellbeing Board

For Recommendation to Council

Portfolio Holder: Cllr S Flower, Leader of the Council

Local Councillor(s): All Councillors

Executive Director: Jonathan Mair, Corporate Director, Legal & Democratic

Report Status: Public

Recommendation:

1. That the Health and Wellbeing Board should meet informally online as its usual way of doing business.
2. That as a matter of course and for the duration of their appointment the co-opted members of the Health and Wellbeing Board should be given a dispensation from attending meetings in person.
3. That delegated authority be given to the Director of Public Health, after consultation with the Health and Wellbeing Board at informal online meetings, to make all decisions within the terms of reference of the Board.
4. That the Chief Executive be given delegated authority:
 - (a) In exceptional circumstances and after consultation with the relevant chair, to convene informal online meetings of the Full Council, the Cabinet or any committee or sub-committee.
 - (b) After consulting members at informal online meetings to make any decision (save those that cannot by law be exercised by an officer) taking into account the views expressed by Members about the decision that they would have been minded to make had it been possible to hold a formal decision making meeting in person.
5. That the above be subject to a review after 1 year.

Reason for Recommendation:

The Health and Wellbeing Board is formally a committee of the Council but is different from ordinary committees in that its membership includes officers and representatives of partner bodies as well as councillors. The Board benefited from online working during the Covid-19 pandemic resulting from the convenience of remote attendance. The Chair believes that the Board would

work more efficiently and effectively if it was to continue to meet online. Recommendations 1, 2 and 3 provide for this.

The Chief Executive has wide ranging authority to act in an emergency. This power was exercised to enable councillors to continue to meet (informally) online after the lapse of the Coronavirus flexibility regulations. The proposed delegations in recommendation 4 would make explicit in the scheme of delegation the ability of the Chief Executive, in exceptional circumstances, to convene informal online meetings and for the Chief Executive to make decisions taking account of views expressed at those online meetings.

Appendices

Report to Audit & Governance Committee on 11 April 2022 – Meeting Arrangements and the Health and Wellbeing Board

Background Papers

None.