

**Guildhall Gainsborough
Lincolnshire DN21 2NA
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SUPPLEMENT AGENDA

This meeting will be webcast live and the video archive published on our website

**Governance and Audit Committee
Tuesday, 24th March, 2026 at 4.30 pm
Council Chamber - The Guildhall, Marshall's Yard, Gainsborough, DN21 2NA**

Members:

- Councillor Stephen Bunney (Chairman)
- Councillor Mrs Angela Lawrence (Vice-Chairman)
- Councillor John Barrett
- Councillor Eve Bennett
- Councillor Trevor Bridgwood
- Councillor Christopher Darcel
- Councillor David Dobbie
- Councillor Paul Swift

Alison Adams
Alexio Chandiwana
Andrew Morriss

i) Committee Structure (PAGES 2 - 6)

Paul Burkinshaw
Head of Paid Service
The Guildhall
Gainsborough

Monday, 23 March 2026

Agenda Item 4a



**Governance and Audit
Committee**

24th March 2026

Subject: Committee Structure Proposal

Report by:

Assistant Director People and Democratic
Services
Monitoring Officer

Contact Officer:

Lisa Langdon

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Purpose / Summary:

To consider proposals for a new Committee structure which would see the Council operate with 3 policy Committees instead of 2. As this proposal involves a change to the organisation's constitution, the Committee are asked to consider the proposals and make any comments or recommendations prior to this matter being considered at the full Council meeting.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

1. To consider and comment on the proposals outlined in the Report prior to consideration of this issue by Full Council.

IMPLICATIONS

Legal:

There are no direct implications arising from this report.

Changing the Committee Policy model is a change to the Council's Constitution and therefore this proposal should be considered by the Governance and Audit Committee prior to it being presented at the full Council meeting.

Financial: FIN/176/26/GA/SL

This proposal would see an additional Committee chair and vice chair, with allowance payable at a cost of £4,900 pa from 2026/2027.

This cost would be met from the Salary Contingency Budget during 2026/2027 and reflected in the ongoing base budgets from 2027/2028.

Staffing: None directly arising from this report

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights:

None directly arising from this report

Data Protection Implications:

None directly arising from this report

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities:

None from this report

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations:

None directly arising from this report

Health Implications:

None from this report

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

[Agenda for Council on Monday, 2nd March, 2026, 7.00 pm | West Lindsey District Council](#)

[Agenda for Governance and Audit Committee on Tuesday, 25th November, 2025, 2.00 pm | West Lindsey District Council](#)

Risk Assessment:

NA

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

Yes

No

Key Decision:

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

Yes

No

1. Background

1.1 The Council currently operates with two Policy Committees which are the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee, and the Prosperous Committee. There are 11 Councillors on each Committee. The Committees are politically balanced in accordance with the statutory requirements. The purpose of this report is to outline a committee structure would see the two existing Committees removed, and three new Committees brought into existence, the three new Committees being called -

- Thriving Council Committee
- Thriving People Committee
- Thriving Places Committee

1.2 The terms of reference of the policy committees would be on the basis of the existing role of the 2 policy committees, however the remits would be aligned to the 3 corresponding themes of the new Corporate Plan and set out the committees responsibility for ensuring delivery of the Thematic Plan and incorporate responsibility for matters within the relevant service areas which will be set out in the Constitution.

1.3 The Thriving Council Committee would retain responsibility for specific budget and financial matters which are currently the responsibility of the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee.

1.4 The proposed detailed terms of reference of each policy committee will be set out in the report to Full Council.

2. Rationale

- 2.1 The Council has recently refreshed its Corporate Plan and three clear themes are detailed within this, those being Council, People and Place. Each theme is accompanied by a Thematic Business Plan which details the key deliverables, measure of performance and risks associated with delivery of the respective Corporate Plan theme. This follows a recommendation made by the Local Government Association Peer Challenge team, which was that the Council refresh its business planning process. As part of this the Chief Executive was keen to ensure stronger alignment and clarity of activity against the Corporate Plan. This refreshed plan was approved by Full Council on 2nd March 2026 [Agenda for Council on Monday, 2nd March, 2026, 7.00 pm | West Lindsey District Council](#).
- 2.2 The Peer Challenge team also recommended the Council review its internal governance arrangements to ensure that internal governance supports focused, effective and accountable delivery. This has resulted in Strategic Delivery Panels being created for each of the three themes. These are internal panels which officers will attend to update on workstreams and projects. Each Strategic Delivery Panel will be led by one of the Council's three Directors. Officers attended the Governance and Audit Committee on 25th November 2025 to update on the arrangements regarding internal governance. [Agenda for Governance and Audit Committee on Tuesday, 25th November, 2025, 2.00 pm | West Lindsey District Council](#)
- 2.3 Taking the above into consideration, it is considered that a three Policy Committee model as outlined in this report will better suit the needs of organisation, as three Policy Committees will align with the three themes thereby providing clear responsibility of the relevant committee in leading delivery of the commitments in the Corporate Plan, the three Strategic Delivery Panels, and the refreshed senior management structure. This will allow for greater ownership by officers and elected members and provide increased accountability as performance will be reported to the corresponding Policy Committee in accordance with the three themes.

3. Elected Member involvement

- 3.1 A three Policy Committee model will require three Chairs and three Vice Chairs. The Council's Committees are appointed to at the Annual General Meeting in May and this will still be done in the usual way in accordance with the political balance rules.
- 3.2 It is intended that the Chair and Vice Chair of each of the three Policy Committees will be invited onto the corresponding internal Strategic Delivery Panel. This will support the Chair and Vice Chair in their awareness of the workstreams flowing through the internal Strategic Delivery Panels and into the respective Policy Committee. Decisions will still be made at Committee Page 5 usual way (internal Strategic

Delivery Panels will not replace constitutional committee decision making), however a strength of the three Committee Policy model is that the Chair and Vice Chair will have a greater knowledge and understanding of delivery as they will have attended the internal Strategic Delivery Panel, thus creating a stronger sense of political ownership within the organisation. In addition, it is intended that the Leader or Deputy Leader of the Council will also be invited to attend the Strategic Delivery Panels.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 To consider and comment on the proposals outlined in the Report prior to consideration of this issue by Full Council