

Committee structure options – considerations

Option	Customer impact	Costs	Member workload and input required	Officer workload	Level of consultation and engagement	Best practice and other issues?
1 One countywide single planning committee	Access issues - as all will need to come to one central committee	Low costs with just one committee to service	Very high workload for one committee. It would need frequent meetings	Very high – officer attendance at meetings and constant agenda preparation	Poor for democracy with no decisions taken locally	No other comparable sized unitary council.
2.1 Local area planning committees based on 20 standard community areas	Possible confusion for applicants and community	High costs would be associated with servicing this number of meetings	Need to involve many Members for this to work.	Complexity and workload likely to be high	Good for local democracy	There may be a consistency issue in decision making
2.2 Local area planning committees based on 4 district hubs	Minimal - operate as now	Average	Manageable	Manageable	Good for local democracy	Operating as now may lead to a lack of unitary cohesion – will have the least impact of the move to unitary status.
2.3 Local area planning committees based on 6 population areas	Possible boundary confusion	Above average costs for servicing meetings.	Manageable	Manageable	Good for local democracy	Is a base needed for each of the 6 areas? Possible accommodation issues