

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

PROPOSED CHANGES TO BERWICK-UPON-TWEED TOWN COUNCIL COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

In drafting the Financial regulations, it became apparent that there was a very real problem in delegating budgetary responsibility to committees – the practical reporting timetable to service committees and then to the Finance and Resources Committee after the end of a quarter could take over a month. My discussions identified that there is a substantial shuttling of business between committees and some committees comprise the majority of councillors.

I identified a potential route forward of reducing the number of committees radically (probably just to Planning and Staffing) and conducting business through full Council which could be scheduled to meet twice a month (but using the second meeting only when necessary). This would reduce the repetition of business between committees and allow faster decision-making and budget monitoring. I have drafted the financial regulations on this basis but, obviously, if you wished to preserve the committee structure I would redraft on that basis.

Stephen Warren

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