

Overview Committee

Scope of work :

<p>Broad topic area:</p>	<p>Improving working with town and parish councils</p>
<p>Specific areas to explore within topic area:</p>	<p>Current working practices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicating key messages • Communicating policy developments and changes • Town and parish councils content on EDDC website <p>Identifying shared priorities and concerns</p> <p>Opportunities for partnership working to address priorities and common areas of concern <u>which can be influenced</u></p> <p>Partnerships around dialogue and involvement in decision making rather than delivery (this topic to link with the goals of the Governance Review Working Party; improved public involvement to aid decision making, openness on interactions with partners and increased availability of information)</p> <p>Ward member engagement and relationships with town and parish councils</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback from ward members on their experiences post-election • Feedback from ward members who are also town and parish councillors (29 members from 10 town and parish councils) • Identifying support for ward members eg. training, awareness of EDDC activities • Following up by ward members of issues raised by town and parish councils <p>Identifying improvements in working which would benefit both town and parish councils and EDDC</p>
<p>Areas NOT covered by the review:</p>	<p>Standards Planning Devolution of assets and / or services Public consultations Complaints <i>(Although the above would not be covered by this review, improved working with town and parish councils could have a beneficial impact on these areas of EDDC's work)</i></p>

<p>Desired outcomes of the review:</p>	<p>To clearly understand current working practices with town and parish councils</p> <p>To evaluate the effectiveness of EDDC's working and communication with town and parish councils</p> <p>To identify and recommend improvements which would benefit both EDDC and town and parish councils</p>
<p>Who should be consulted to obtain evidence (e.g. Ward Member, officers, stakeholders)</p>	<p>Ward members</p> <p>Town and parish councillors – <i>define consultation method</i></p> <p>Town and parish clerks – <i>define consultation method</i></p> <p>Engagement and Funding Officer (See Peer Review action points – Cabinet 27.11.19)</p> <p>Communications Officers</p> <p>Community Development Workers</p>
<p>What evidence already exists (consultation, good practice examples)</p>	<p>Council Plan 2020-24 (strong partnerships with town and parish councils)</p> <p>Community engagement strategy</p> <p>Any previous consultations / feedback from town and parish councillors?</p> <p>Working Together for the Future of East Devon annual events</p>
<p>What experts are needed to help with the review:</p>	<p>Devon Association of Local Councils –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • advice / examples of working practices across the county • improved communication regarding appointment and support for new / non-experienced parish clerks

<p>What other resources are needed:</p>	<p>LGA: A councillor's workbook on working with town and parish councils LGA: One Community: A guide to effective partnership working between principal and local authorities LGA: A councillor's workbook on neighbourhood and community engagement</p>
<p>Undertaken by the Committee or is a TAFF required:</p>	<p>Committee with Officer support</p>
<p>Timescale including start date:</p>	<p>Start: March Overview Committee</p> <p>2 months to allow sufficient time for responses from town and parish councils (smaller councils may not meet monthly)</p> <p>1 month for collation of responses and report</p> <p>3 months in total</p> <p>Report to July Overview Committee</p>
<p>Who are the recommendations being reported to:</p>	<p>Cabinet</p>