



Glasgow City Council  
City Administration Committee

## Item 6

18th June 2020

Report by Director of Governance and Solicitor to the Council

Contact: Carole Forrest

### GOVERNANCE AND SCRUTINY - MOVING FROM RESPONSE TO RECOVERY

#### Purpose of Report:

To update elected members on the decision-making arrangements being put in place.

#### Recommendations:

Committee is asked to note:-

- the update on committees;
- the update on full Council; and
- that the Director of Governance and Solicitor to the Council will provide fortnightly updates to the Council Business Manager on the progress towards a digital Full Council meeting.

Ward No(s):

Citywide:

Local member(s) advised: Yes  No  consulted: Yes  No

#### PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

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## **1 Background**

- 1.1 The Scottish Government's first report to the Scottish Parliament on the Coronavirus Acts says:

*“The Coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak is a severe and sustained threat to human life in Scotland. The human cost is, sadly, too apparent. The impact of the pandemic on public services, business and private lives in Scotland has been profound. The magnitude of the challenge has required extraordinary measures. The handling of the Covid-19 crisis raises challenges of complexity and uncertainty. All of us have require to make substantial adjustments to cope with these unprecedented times.”*

- 1.2 The Council remains in an emergency situation and continues to respond to the impact of Covid-19 and this is expected to continue over the coming months. There remain significant pressures on essential services and reduced staffing levels.
- 1.3 We are also now preparing for each of the recovery phases as set out in the Scottish Government's route map. This will include considering the impact on our budget, services and strategic priorities, and planning for what business as usual might look like in the new normal. At all times we will be guided by government plans, advice and timelines.
- 1.4 It will also include a judgement on how we move from our temporary decision-making arrangements to a more sustainable model of increased political oversight and scrutiny as part of good governance. We need to do this in a way that:
- Does not put a strain on our resources or operational responses in the city;
  - Recognises we are not moving back to business as usual in the short to medium term; and
  - Considers the purpose of standing up any additional committee functions and their remits while we are in the response and recovery phase.

## **2 Update on Committees**

- 2.1 The following Committees are now able to meet:-

- Licensing Board – 16<sup>th</sup> June 2020
- Planning Applications Committee – 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020
- Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee – 24<sup>th</sup> June 2020
- Operational Performance & Scrutiny Committee – 25<sup>th</sup> June 2020
- Planning Local Review Committee – 26<sup>th</sup> June 2020

### 3 Update on Council meeting

- 3.1 The Project Team working on the digital solution for a full Council meeting has now completed the project planning exercise and has advised that it may be possible to have a meeting in the week beginning 27<sup>th</sup> July 2020. This is dependent on all phases going to plan, including the completion of all necessary training.
- 3.2 It is proposed the Director of Governance and Solicitor to the Council provides fortnightly updates to the Council Business Manager and liaises with the Lord Provost in relation to setting a date for a full Council meeting as soon as there is certainty that the digital solution will be available and that all the necessary training has been or will have been completed

### 4 Policy and Resource Implications

#### Resource Implications:

*Financial:* n/a

*Legal:* n/a

*Personnel:* We are still in the response phase and there are significant pressures on essential services and reduced staffing levels from the impact on Covid19 on our staff. Any changes will need to take this into account.

*Procurement:*

**Council Strategic Plan:** Well Governed City that Listens and Responds: As we move from emergency arrangements to a more sustainable model we may need to adjust the remits and responsibilities of a number of committees as they are stood up and then move into the new normal. It is recommended that officers draft the remit for the emerging arrangements for discussion with members to ensure there is a holistic approach developed and duplication or lack of clarity in remits is avoided.

#### Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

*Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2017-21* Yes it enhances consideration and scrutiny of our equality duties.

*What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?*

Positive.

*Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio economic disadvantage.*

Will help to improve governance and the consideration of the council's policies and service delivery to address socio-economic disadvantage.

**Sustainability Impacts:**

*Environmental:* n/a

*Social, including opportunities under Article 20 of the European Public Procurement Directive:* n/a

*Economic:* n/a

**Privacy and Data Protection impacts:** n/a

**5. Recommendations:**

5.1 Committee is asked to note:-

- the update on committees;
- the update on full Council; and
- that the Director of Governance and Solicitor to the Council will provide fortnightly updates to the Council Business Manager on the progress towards a digital full Council meeting.