

Cornwall Council's decision making

a bite size guide



What is governance?

In the context of democratic decision making, governance is how the Council operates and makes decisions. It makes sure that decisions take public opinion into account, reflect and respond to the needs of local people, are evidence-based and are transparent and accountable.

What is the decision making structure?

Full Council - All 123 councillors meet as full Council approximately every six weeks. Full Council sets the budget for the year as well as the business plan, which sets out the policies and plans the Council wants to achieve.

Cabinet - This Council has a cabinet system. The Council elects a Leader who is re-elected annually. The Leader chooses up to nine Councillors to form a Cabinet. The Cabinet's responsibilities are divided up into portfolios and each cabinet member is responsible for a portfolio of work. The Leader and Cabinet take decisions to deliver the business plan and these must usually be within the budget and policy framework set by full Council.

For each Portfolio area, there is a Portfolio advisory committee (PAC). They provide support and challenge to the portfolio

Governance Model



Role of the Scrutiny Management Committee

- Statutory Functions in risk and crime and dis
- Call In
- Respond to Councilor and call for action
- Spotlight Reviews
- Single Work Plan



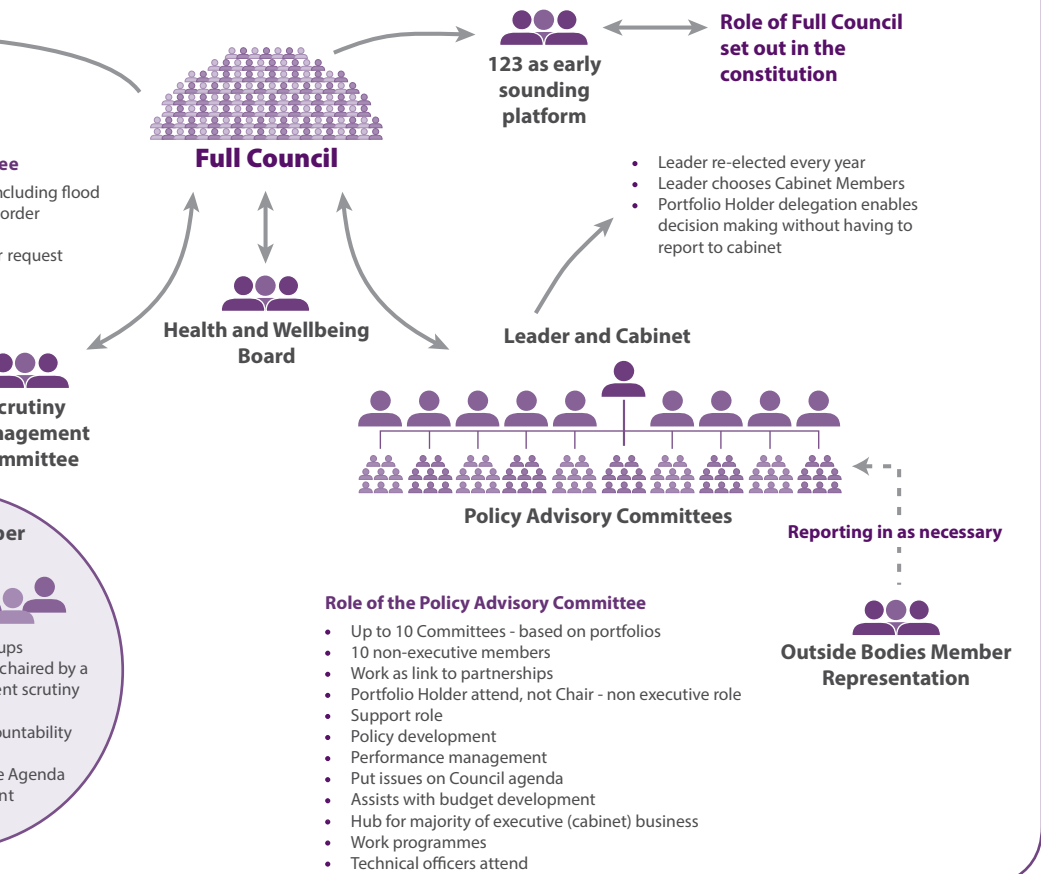
Scrutiny Member Pool

- Task and Finish Group
- Select Committee - member of the parent committee
- Challenge and Account
- Co-option
- Communities Shape
- Budget Development

holders and enable Councillors to be involved in detailed policy development work. Members of the PAC can ask questions of the Cabinet Member who has responsibility for that Portfolio, as can members of the public.

Scrutiny committees

The scrutiny function is required by law to act as 'critical friend' to Cabinet and the wider



Council. It comprises a Scrutiny Management Committee and a Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee. The Management Committee looks at the wider scrutiny and statutory responsibilities, with detailed work carried out by Parliamentary style select committees. The Health and Social Care Scrutiny may also set up select committees to do detailed challenge work within its specific remit. Scrutiny can call

witnesses, ask detailed questions and issue reports to the relevant decision maker where necessary. Scrutiny can challenge decisions of Cabinet and individual Cabinet Members by a process called 'call in'.

Other committees

There are also other committees which deal with planning, licensing and other statutory responsibilities.

How can I get involved?

Anybody can ask questions at the Council's public meetings. All public meetings are publicised on the Council's website and you need to send in your question in advance. You can also watch some of the Council's meetings on the internet. You can speak with your local Councillor if you wish to raise concerns or issues on items for consideration at meetings.

Where can I find out more?

Go to **www.cornwall.gov.uk/governance** or type 'governance' into the search tool on the Council's website homepage. Alternatively email: **asearby@cornwall.gov.uk** or call **01872 322140**

If you would like this information in another format or language please contact:

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