

Aims of Group

The Political Structures Working Group is set up to make recommendations to the full Council on any matters which affect the democratic process at West Devon Borough Council.

Membership

The membership will comprise of six Members. In accordance with political balance provisions, the membership will be made up of three Conservative Group Members, two Independent Group Members and one Liberal Democrat Group Member. These appointments will be made by the Group Leaders.

The Chairman of the Group will be appointed at the first Group meeting for the period until the end of the 2013/14 Municipal Year.

When a meeting date is arranged, all Members of Council will be invited to submit potential agenda items. It will be a matter for the Chairman of the Group, in consultation with the Chief Executive, to determine whether a matter should be included on the agenda.

Whilst only Working Group Members will have voting rights at meetings, other interested Members of Council will be able to attend and partake, if they so wish, subject to notifying Member Services in advance.

Quorum

The quorum of the Working Group will be four Members.

Frequency of Meetings

Meetings will be convened on an ad-hoc basis and will be arranged in consultation with the Chairman of the Working Group.

Authority

The Working Group will have no decision-making powers, but will have the ability to make recommendations to meetings of full council.

Duties

The duties of the Working Group will include:-

- To lead upon the work in connection with the Borough Council Boundary Review;
- To review the current two-committee structure pilot; and
- To make recommendations to the Council on any matters which may affect the democratic process.

Review

The Working Group will be established until the Annual Council meeting in May 2014. If the Working Group continues to operate after this date, then the Council will review its merits each year during the appointments process at Annual Council.