Working Assumptions

1.   No Shared Administration

It is assumed that there will be no formal or informal coalition or shared administration. There are therefore no suggested processes to reflect such arrangements.

2. Leader and Deputy Leaders

Council will have a Leader appointed by full Council. Failing such appointment, the Leader of the Political Group with the largest number of seats will be the Leader of the Council. The Council may appoint up to two Deputy Leaders.

3. Full Council

In addition to matters that are reserved to full Council by law, all matters reserved to full Council under existing arrangements will continue to be so reserved.

Except in exceptional circumstances defined by the constitution, full Council will not normally reverse decisions taken by a Committee under delegated powers

4. Policy & Resources Committee

In addition to matters specifically delegated to it, P&R will have the following functions:

- To act as a general purposes committee
- To deal with all matters which, in the opinion of the [Chief Executive/Monitoring Officer/Director of Finance] have corporate policy or corporate budgetary implications. Such power shall operate concurrently with, and not to the exclusion of, the committee which has delegated powers in relation to the function.
- To act as the personnel committee for policy purposes

5. Public Health

It is proposed that public health issues are dealt with by the Health and Wellbeing Board, the Adult Social Care and Health and the Children and Young People Committees as appropriate. Until the legal transfer of the public health function to the Council on 1st April 2013, the public health role will be focussed on preparation and making transitional arrangements.

6. JCB and CYPTB

It is proposed to review the need for these subject to ensuring that any matters requiring decision under the section 75 arrangements can be dealt with and there is support from health partners.

7. Governance Functions

It is proposed to abolish the Governance Committee and transfer its functions to the Policy & Resources Committee. It serves a useful purpose in a Cabinet System to deal with any non-executive functions outside planning and licensing, especially in a Council with no overall control. This becomes unnecessary in a non-executive system as there will be a cross party P&R Committee which can undertake these functions.

8. Environment and Economic Development

It is proposed to retain the current functional areas, one concentrating on transport and public space and another on Environment and sustainability. The functions currently comprised in the Cabinet Member for PEER regarding Economic Regeneration, major projects etc will form part of the new Economic Development and Culture Committee.

9. Audit and Standards

Given the workload of the existing two committees, it is proposed to merge them into one committee, but keep a Standards hearing panel with sub-committee status to hear complaints against Members. The Hearing Panel would be chaired by an Independent Member.

10. Overview & Scrutiny

It is proposed to keep two Overview & Scrutiny Committees, which will commission scrutiny by setting up task and finish policy or scrutiny panels or undertake scrutiny work themselves. The overview and Scrutiny Committee will be the statutory Crime & Disorder Committee, Flood Risk as well as HO&SC. Call-in will be retained with a requirement to have the support of at least 5 members from at least two political groups.

The proposals do not affect the establishment of a tenant Scrutiny panel which would not operate as a formal committee of the Council.

11. Neighbourhood Councils

It is assumed that, as and when established, these will be overseen by P&R with decisions being taken using officer delegated powers.

12. Procedures and processes

The presumption is that contract and financial standing orders, rules of procedure and other technical rules will be retained by making them fit for a committee system without changing any of the substantive powers or thresholds or affecting the need to seek member level approval.