

Appendix 2 – Review of other Council Governance Arrangements

Name of Council	System/Structure of Governance	Political Makeup	Reasons for change	Population size	Demographics	Sparse Member?
Plymouth City Council (Unitary)	No Change – operate Executive arrangements. Have cabinet of 10, 4 Scrutiny Committees and other Committees, Boards and Panels	57 Councillors – 30 Labour, 17 Conservative & 10 Independent	Didn't change. Review design principles were open and transparent, accountable, responsive, inclusive, clear, flexible and best for Plymouth. Decided that Strong Leader Model was the most efficient for decision making. Decided to develop the Executive model instead of changing arrangements.	262,100	Urban Unitary Council Area of 30.82 sq miles (79.83 sq km)	No
Lancashire County Council	No Change – operate Executive arrangements. Have a Cabinet of 8, 4 Scrutiny Committees and other Committees. Have Cabinet Committees and Working Groups, 5 x Champions (Older People, Young People, Parishes, Disabled People and Armed Forces and Veterans) and 5 x Lead Members (Young People, Health & Adult Services, Highways and Transport, Cultural Services and HR & Property)	84 Councillors – 44 Conservatives, 30 Labour, 5 Independents and 4 Liberal Democrats. Currently have 1 vacancy	Didn't change. A Working Group gathered evidence and presented three options to the Council in December 2014 – these were Cabinet Model, Hybrid Model and Committee Model. The presented the advantages and disadvantages of each model. The Working Group felt there was a significant issues in relation to the Committee system of balancing the need to keep decision making efficient and streamlined, and yet to ensure there were sufficient meetings in the calendar. A motion was put to the Council by the Leader to retain the Cabinet system. However the Working Group was retained and a report went to AGM in May 2015 to consider changes to the governance arrangements.	1,219,799	Area of 1,187 sq miles (3,075 sq km). Covers Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool and Lancashire	Yes
Derby Council (Unitary)	No Change – operate Executive arrangements. Have a cabinet of 8, Scrutiny Boards and Scrutiny Review Boards and other Committees. Also have Neighbourhood Boards, Neighbourhood Forums and Ward Committees	51 Councillors – 19 Conservatives, 4 Independent, 2 Labour & Co-operative, 13 Labour, 8 Liberal Democrat and 5 Reform Derby	Didn't change. Local news reported a heated debate on the subject at the Council meeting in January 2020. Administration pushed through decision to remain with Executive arrangements as the Working Group couldn't reach a decision after two years work on alternative arrangements.	257,302	Urban Unitary Council Area of 30.13 sq miles (78.03 sq km)	Yes
Isle of Wight (Unitary)	No Change – operate Executive arrangements. Have a Cabinet of 10, 4 Policy and Scrutiny Committees and other regulatory Committees and Boards	40 Councillors – 24 Conservatives, 8 The Island Independents Group, 2 Liberal Democrats, 2 Independent Members Group, 2 Island Independent Network and 2 Independent	Didn't change. The motion for reviewing the governance arrangements was tabled by a Councillor in the run up to an election (March 2017) so the Council decided not to consider it. Felt it was more appropriate for the matter to be considered after the election – doesn't appear to have been re-tabled yet. The issue appears to have been the Executive model not being designed for a 'no overall control' Council	141,771	Unitary Council Area of 146.80 sq miles (380.20 sq km)	Yes
North Somerset (unitary)	No Change – operate Executive arrangements. Have a Cabinet of 10, 6 Policy and Scrutiny Panels and Regulatory Committees	50 Councillors – 16 Independent, 13 Conservative, 11 Liberal Democrat, 6 Labour and 3 Green. Currently have 1 vacancy	Didn't change. In 2012 a Councillor laid a motion for a change from Cabinet to Committee system but it was defeated.	215,052	Unitary Council – mostly rural in nature Area of 144.30 sq miles (373.80 sq km)	Yes

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Thanet District Council	No Change – operate Executive arrangements. Cabinet of 5, 1 Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Regulatory Committees and a number of Advisory Groups and Working Groups	56 Councillors – 25 Conservative, 18 Labour, 7 Thanet Independents, 3 Green and 2 Independents. Currently have 1 vacancy	Didn't change. A motion was put to Full Council on 10 July 2014 but the Council voted not to debate it.	141,922	Area of 39.90 sq miles (103.30 sq km)	No
Chelmsford City Council	No Change – operate Executive arrangements. Cabinet of 5 plus 5 Cabinet Deputies (support Cabinet Members with specific areas of responsibility. Have 10 members of a Shadow Cabinet (from two opposition groups) Have 1 Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Regulatory Committees	57 Councillors – 30 Liberal Democrats, 21 Conservatives, 5 Chelmsford Independents Group Currently have 1 vacancy	Didn't change. A motion went to Council on 16 th July 2019 requesting that the Council went back to a Committee system. The reasons argued were that it widened decision making and was a constructive and transparent way to get things done. Other speakers suggested that the Cabinet system could take several different forms and be just as inclusive as a Committee system. An amendment was put and the resolution made was 'This Council will have a more open governance system where all councillors will input into formulating both key decisions and strategic policies of the City Council, and the Officers of the Council will take most of the day to day decisions about the running of the Council and provision of service. Any other proposals for amending the governance system will be brought to the Governance Committee.' No discussions appear to have taken place at the Governance Committee since this meeting	178,388	Area of 130.80 sq miles (338.80 sq km)	No
Cambridge City Council	No Change – operate Executive arrangements. Executive of 8, 4 Scrutiny Committees and Regulatory Committees. They also have 4 Area Committees which are made up of the relevant Ward Councillors and they make decisions about local issues	42 Councillors – 25 Labour, 12 Liberal Democrats, 1 Independent Currently have 4 vacancies	Didn't change. Considered a report and resolved to take no action	124,798	Area of 15.71 sq miles (40.70 sq km)	No
West Sussex County Council	No Change – operate Executive arrangements. Executive of 9, 5 Scrutiny Committees and a number of Regulatory Committees. Also have 11 County Local Committees covering Ward patches – aim of involving the public in decision making	70 Councillors – 51 Conservatives, 8 Liberal Democrats, 4 Labour, 4 Independents and 2 Independent Conservatives Currently have 1 vacancy	Didn't change. A motion was put before Council but was defeated	863,980	Area of 769.00 sq miles (1,991.00 sq km)	Yes

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Fenland District Council	No Change – operate Executive arrangements. Cabinet of 10, 1 Scrutiny Committee and a number of Regulatory Committees	39 Councillors – 25 Conservatives, 10 Independent, 2 Liberal Democrats and 1 Green Currently have 1 vacancy	Didn't change. Motion put forward by one Councillor and it was heavily defeated due to the Council having more important priorities to address	101,850	Area of 211.00 sq miles (546.50 sq km)	No
Cornwall County Council	No Change – operate Executive arrangements. Cabinet of 10, 6 Overview and Scrutiny Committees, a number of Regulatory Committees and a number of Scrutiny Inquiries and Task and Finish Groups	123 Councillors – 43 Conservatives, 34 Liberal Democrats, 32 Independent, 4 Labour, 4 Mebyon Kernow, 3 Independent Alliance and 2 Non aligned Currently have 1 vacancy	Didn't change. Governance arrangements were considered when Cornwall became a Unitary Council. Established an independent governance commission which looked at the proposals in more detail. This has resulted in adopting an informal approach which looks more like a hybrid system – Cabinet plus.	569,578	Area of 1,369 sq miles (3,546 sq km)	Yes
Bristol City Council (Unitary)	No Change – operate directly elected Mayor plus Executive arrangements. Cabinet of 10, a number of Scrutiny Commissions, Committees and Boards. Have a number of Regulatory Committees. Also have 6 Area Committees and a Member Forum Committee.	Mayor plus 70 Councillors – 36 Labour, 14 Conservatives, 11 Green and 9 Liberal Democrats. Currently have 1 vacancy	A referendum for a directly elected Mayor was held. Some Councillors were hopeful of a 'no' vote enabling a move back to a Committee system. However the result of the referendum was 'yes'.	463,377	Area of 42.40 sq miles (109.70 sq km)	No
London Borough of Sutton	Committee System – 5 Committees plus two Boards, 1 Scrutiny Committee, number of Regulatory Committees and 6 Local Committees	54 Councillors – 33 Liberal Democrats, 18 Conservatives and 3 Sutton Independent Residents	To enable a consensual approach to policymaking with a greater number of Councillors to be involved with policy formulation and assessment over a wider range of responsibilities than under the Executive system.	206,349	Area of 16.93 sq miles (43.85 sq km)	No
Nottinghamshire County Council	Committee System – 6 Committees, 1 Scrutiny Committee and a number of Regulatory Committees	66 Councillors – 32 Conservatives, 22 Labour, 6 Ashfield Independents, 4 Mansfield Independents, 1 Liberal Democrat and 1 Independent The Council is currently governed by a coalition of the Conservative Party and Mansfield Independents	Moving to the Committee system was a manifesto commitment of the Conservative party	332,900	Area of 28.81 sq miles (74.61 sq km)	Yes
Brighton and Hove City Council (Unitary)	Mayor plus Committee System – 5 Policy Committees, 1 Overview and Scrutiny Committee for Health, several Regulatory Committees.	54 Councillors – 19 Green, 18 Labour, 13 Conservative and 4 Independents	Had problems with an Executive system due to no overall control and the largest minority party making most of the key decisions. Moved back to Committee system in 2012 as felt to be the most open, democratic and accountable system for the political makeup – despite the	290,885	Area of 31.97 sq miles (82.79 sq km)	No

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			decision making process being too slow and sometimes agreements being hard to reach. Currently considering reviewing it again as there is a view that the Council's committee system is not fit for purpose and doesn't allow for timely decision making.			
London Borough of Barnet	Mayor plus Committee System – 8 Committees, 3 Area Committees, 1 Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and a number of Regulatory Committees	63 Councillors – 38 Conservatives, 24 Labour and 1 Independent.	To enable Members to shape Council policy and to be more inclusive	395,869	Area of 33.49 sq miles (86.75 sq km)	No
Hartlepool Borough Council (Unitary)	Committee System – 5 Policy Committees, 2 Neighbourhood Forums and a number of Regulatory Committees. From May 2013 has operated as a Committee system with a Leader and Ceremonial Mayor	33 Councillors – 6 Hartlepool Independent Union, 6 Independents, 6 Labour, 4 Conservatives, 4 Socialist Labour Party, 2 Putting Seaton First, 1 For Britain Movement and 1 Veterans and People's Party Currently has 3 vacancies	A petition was submitted requesting a referendum to remove the executive Mayoral role – local people approved a move to a Committee System	93,663	Area of 36.12 sq miles (93.56 sq km)	No
Reading Borough Council (Unitary)	Committee System – 4 Committees and 2 Sub-Committees and a number of Regulatory Committees	46 Councillors – 26 Labour, 10 Conservatives, 4 Green, 4 Labour and Co-operative and 2 Liberal Democrats	Concerns with how the Scrutiny of the Council was working therefore wanted to reinstate a form of Committee system. Requirements were that it didn't cost any more than the Executive system, must be more transparent and allow the public to better engage with the Council. They did not wish to reintroduce the old style of Committee system but a committee structure that was fit for purpose	161,780	Area of 15.60 sq miles (40.40 sq km)	No
London Borough of Kingston upon Thames	Committee System – 6 Strategic Committees, 4 Neighbourhood Committees and 3 Neighbourhood Sub-Committees, 1 Scrutiny Panel and 1 Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel and a number of Regulatory Committees. Whilst they have Committees they still have a Leader and 8 Portfolio Holders	48 Councillors – 37 Liberal Democrats, 9 Conservatives and 1 Green Currently have 1 vacancy	Introduced Committee system in 2012. Felt that some aspects of the old Committee system had worked relatively well in the past so wanted to move to Committee arrangements. The Council had called for a more democratic style of decision making which would increase the involvement of Councillors.	177,507	Area of 14.39 sq miles (37.26 sq km)	No
Cambridgeshire County Council	Committee System – 8 Policy and Service Committees, Health Scrutiny Committee and a number of Regulatory Committees	61 Councillors – 35 Conservatives, 16 Liberal Democrats, 6 Labour, 2 Independent and 2 St Neots Independent Group	Wished to change to encourage more open democracy and to allow more Councillors to participate in the debate. The effectiveness of the new arrangements were reviewed in 2014 and the feedback was that it had transformed decision making, enabling the diverse viewpoints and needs of their communities to	653,537	Area of 1,310.00 sq miles (3,390.00 sq km)	No

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			be more involved in the detail and the way decisions are made. The 2015/16 business plan has been developed with “closer and stronger cross party political engagement”			
Wirral Metropolitan Borough (Unitary)	Committee System – 8 Policy and Services Committees, 1 Health and Wellbeing Board and a number of Regulatory Committees	66 Councillors – 31 Labour, 20 Conservatives, 6 Liberal Democrats, 3 Independents and 2 Green. Currently have 4 vacancies The Council is governed by a minority Labour administration	Members wanted to adopt a “more democratic” model of governance and to weaken the power of the Council’s Leader and Cabinet. Opposition Councillors suggested that bad decisions were being made without proper Scrutiny. The ruling administration did not vote in favour of this change but were outnumbered by the opposition groups. Conservative Group leader felt that the Cabinet arrangements did not endear people to work collaboratively Council faced some negative press coverage over the potential financial cost of between £70,000 and £200,000 of implementing the change of structure	324,011	Area of 60.60 sq miles (157.00 sq km)	No
Basildon District Council	Committee System – 6 service committees, 4 Sub-Committees and 3 Regulatory Committees Moved to Committee System in May 2017	42 Councillors – 20 Conservatives, 15 Labour, 4 Independent Group, 2 Wickford Independents and 1 Non aligned Independent	Wanted most decisions on Council functions to be dealt with by politically balanced committees subject to the general oversight of the Council. No individual Member of the Council has decision making powers – collective decision making.	187,199	Area of 42.50 sq miles (110.00 sq km)	No
Arun District Council	Currently operating as a Cabinet System but resolved to move to a Committee System from May 2021 (15 th January 2020). Latest draft suggests that there will be 6 Service Committees and 4 Regulatory Committees	54 Councillors – 21 Conservatives, 18 Liberal Democrats, 7 Independents, 2 Arun Independent Group, 2 Greens, 2 Independents and 1 Labour Currently 1 vacancy	Changes due to go live in May 2021. Contentious decision where some Councillors felt that it was being rushed and didn’t have enough information or assurance as to how the new system would operate. Wanted to make their decisions better for residents and giving councillors a greater say in those decisions. Strengthen the link between residents and their local Councillors. Feeling that cabinet members had been able to hide at distance from the local community. It was also suggested that the council’s culture was wrong rather than the organisation.	160,758	Area of 85.30 sq miles (220.90 sq km)	No
Worcester District Council	Committee System – 3 Committees and a number of Regulatory Committees	35 Councillors – 16 Conservatives, 15 Labour, 3 Green and 1 Liberal Democrat	A motion was carried in November 2016 to change to the Committee system, citing the Council’s political contestability and suggesting that the Committee system would make it easier to manage a Council over no overall control	101,222	Area of 12.85 sq miles (33.28 sq km)	
Stroud District Council	Committee System – 6 Committees which also incorporate the Regulatory functions	51 Councillors – 20 Conservatives, 15 Labour, 9 Green, 2 Liberal Democrat, 1 Conservative (no Group) and 3 Independents. Currently 1 vacant seat.	The current Leader and Executive model had excessive delegation and decisions were made by only a few Members. He wanted more Members to be engaged in the decision making process and more public involvement	119,964	Area of 177.90 sq miles (460.7 sq km)	Yes

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		Council is led by a cooperative alliance of the Labour, Green and Liberal Democrat parties	eg by watching the webcast, attending meetings or submitting questions.			
Newark and Sherwood District Council	Committee System – 4 Committees and 4 Regulatory Committees	39 Councillors – 27 Conservatives, 7 Labour, 3 Independents and 2 Liberal Democrats	In 2012 the Council was no overall control and this caused problems with decision making hence the decision to move back to a Committee structure.	122,421	Area of 251.50 sq miles (651.30 sq km)	Yes
Great Yarmouth Borough Council	Committee System came into effect from May 2016. 4 Committees and 4 Regulatory Committees	39 Councillors – 20 Conservatives, 15 Labour, 3 Independents and 1 UKIP	There were debates about switching to Committee system and the costs involved so they were keen to fit the system to the budget. Reason for change was two examples of where back bench Members felt that decisions had been made without debate relating to a local ice rink and the sacking of the previous CEO. Non Executive Members felt this would not happen under a Committee system.	99,336	Area of 67.40 sq miles (174.50 sq km)	No
Kent County Council	Hybrid – Have Executive plus model. Executive of 10, 6 Cabinet Committees which shape policy and make recommendations to the Executive, 1 Scrutiny Committee plus 4 health related Overview and Scrutiny Committees and a number of Regulatory Committees. Also have a number of Select Committees that arise from the work of the Scrutiny Committee	81 Councillors – 65 Conservatives, 7 Liberal Democrats, 5 Labour, 1 Independent, 1 Green, 1 Independent Swanscombe and Greenhithe Residents Association and 1 Swale Independents	It was felt that Members skills and knowledge acquired from vocational and life experience was not fully utilised under Executive arrangements. Hybrid arrangements proposed to strengthen policy development, more robust decision making and greater accountability of decision makers. Key outcome to make decision making process more open and transparent. Cabinet Committees will provide an important contribution to policy development. Key objectives were to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Streamline the committee infrastructure • Make the decision making process more robust and accessible • Provide non-executive Members with the opportunity to shape policies and major decisions • Ensure the impact on the Member's Allowances scheme is cost neutral 	1,581,555	Area of 1,443.00 sq miles (3,738.00 sq km)	No
Oxfordshire County Council	Hybrid – Have Cabinet plus model. Cabinet of 10, 2 Scrutiny Committees and a number of Regulatory Committees. Also have 3 Cabinet Advisory Groups which examine topics selected by	Councillors – 29 Conservatives, 13 Liberal Democrats, 11 Labour, 3 Independents (part of Conservative Independent Alliance), 3 Independent non grouped, 3 Labour and Co-operative and 1 Green	A motion was put before the Council by the opposition to bring about greater engagement and savings. More like traditional leader-Cabinet model. Cabinet establishes a range of time limited “advisory groups” to provide advice and guidance on developing policy.	691,667	Area of 1,006.00 sq miles (2,605.00 sq km)	No

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	the Cabinet which align to the Corporate Priorities	Operate with a Conservative Independent Alliance				
Sevenoaks District Council	Hybrid – Cabinet plus model. Cabinet of 6 plus 6 Advisory Committees as per the Cabinet Portfolios (undertake work on policies and submit recommendations to Cabinet) Also have 1 Scrutiny Committee and a number of Regulatory Committees	54 Councillors - 46 Conservatives, 3 Independents, 3 Liberal Democrats, 1 Labour and 1 Ungrouped	Concerns around the lack of inclusion in policy initiation and development. Opted for this model to improve this	120,750	Area of 142.50 sq miles (369.20 sq km)	Yes
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council	Hybrid – Executive plus model. Executive of 5, 3 Cabinet Advisory Boards, 1 Overview and Scrutiny Committee and a number of Regulatory Committees	48 Councillors - 28 Conservatives, 9 Liberal Democrats, 4 Labour, 4 Tunbridge Wells Alliance and 2 Independent Currently have 1 vacancy	The change was made in April 2012. It stemmed from the Leader of the Council being concerned that the current Cabinet structure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided for a disconnect between Cabinet Members and the wider membership of the Council • Led to a reduction in open discussion of key decisions and reduced transparency • Led to an over emphasis on post decision scrutiny • Increased distrust with the public and the local media • Created a confusing system of member working groups that were not transparent and open <p>What were the aims of the review?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater involvement of non-executive members in the development of Cabinet decisions • Basic principle that all key decisions will be discussed and developed by the relevant Advisory Board prior to a decision by Cabinet • Provide for greater participation and greater ownership of Council decisions • Reduce the number of call-ins 	118,724	Area of 127.90 sq miles (331.30 sq km)	Yes
London Borough of Wandsworth	Hybrid – Executive plus model. Executive of 9, 6 Overview and Scrutiny Committees and a number of Regulatory Committees	60 Councillors – 33 Conservatives, 26 Labour and 1 Independent	To increase Member involvement in shaping policy.	329,677	Area of 13.23 sq miles (34.26 sq km)	No
York City Council (Unitary)	Hybrid – Executive plus model. Executive of 10, 6 Policy and Scrutiny Committees, a number of Scrutiny Review Task	47 Councillors – 21 Liberal Democrats, 17 Labour, 3 Green, 2 Conservative, 2 York Independent Group and 2 Independent	The Council used the change of Legislation in the Localism Act 2011 to consider its arrangements and how decisions are made. Local people need to be confident that such decisions are evidence based and considered openly and accountably.	210,618	Area of 105.00 sq miles (271.90 sq km)	No

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	Groups, and a number of Regulatory Committees. They also have 21 Ward Committees and Executive Member Decision Making Sessions which are public meetings and formally minuted		Wanted Members to more involved in aspects of policy development.			
Guildford District Council	Hybrid – Executive plus model. Executive of 8, 2 Executive Advisory Boards, 1 Overview and Scrutiny and a number of Regulatory Committees	48 Councillors – 17 Guildford Liberal Democrats, 16 Residents for Guildford and Villages, 4 Conservatives, 4 Conservatives Independent Group, 3 Guildford Greenbelt Group, 2 Labour and 1 Independent. Currently have 1 vacancy	The council considered change options by way of a scrutiny review, which also involved an independent person. The review took evidence in public, including from a local campaign group. It recommended the adoption of hybrid arrangements. The review highlighted the value of increased councillor involvement in decisions. The need for increased public awareness of both the Council's governance arrangements and the role of councillors was called for. However the review group was against a formal change from a leader and executive model.	148,998	Area of 104.60 sq miles (270.90 sq km)	No
London Borough of Richmond upon Thames	Hybrid to Committee – 5 Committees, Policy and Performance Review Board and a number of Regulatory Committees	54 Councillors – 39 Liberal Democrats, 11 Conservatives and 4 Green	Felt that Executive arrangements were not involving Members in shaping policy and the decision making process. In May 2018 they adopted a hybrid style pre-decision arrangement where a new set of committees was set up to mirror council directorates and consider decisions before they came to be made by Cabinet. In May 2019 moved to Committee System following a motion.	198,019	Area of 22.17 sq miles (57.41 sq km)	No
Cheshire East (Unitary)	Hybrid to Committee? Currently they have a Cabinet of 10, 4 Overview and Scrutiny Committees and a number of Regulatory Committees	82 Councillors – 32 Conservative, 24 Labour, 17 Independent Group, 4 Liberal Democrats, 2 Real Independents and 2 non grouped	The council resolved to adopt a committee system form of governance in May 2019. The original plan was to adopt the committee system from May 2020, but this was delayed following detailed study of the issues by the Council's constitution committee. Members and officers continue to consider the final design of a new system in detail.	384,152	Area of 450.00 sq miles (1,166.00 sq km)	Yes
South Gloucestershire (Unitary)	Committee then back to Leader-Cabinet. Have an Executive of 8, Health Scrutiny Commission and a number of Regulatory Committees	61 Councillors – 32 Conservatives, 17 Liberal Democrats and 11 Labour. Currently have 1 vacancy	Early adopter of moving to Committee structure in 2012 but moved back to the Executive arrangements after the 5 years had passed in 2017. It was felt that Executive arrangements better reflect the political reality of a majority council.	285,093	Area of 191.90 sq miles (496.90 sq km)	No

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			The operation of executive arrangements provides an opportunity for more streamlined and efficient decision making.			
Norfolk	Committee then back to Leader-Cabinet. Cabinet of 10, 1 Scrutiny Committee, and a number of Regulatory Committees. They also have 3 Select Committees	84 Councillors – 54 Conservatives, 16 Labour, 9 Liberal Democrats, 3 Independents and 1 non-aligned Independent. Currently have 1 vacancy	Early adopter of moving to Committee structure in 2012 but moved back to the Executive arrangements after the 5 years had passed in 2019. Looks like the changes were made following a peer review and due to moving from no overall control to a Conservative majority.	907,760	Area of 2,080.00 sq miles (5,380.00 sq km)	Yes
Melton Borough Council	Committee to Executive - Cabinet of 5, Scrutiny Committee and a number of Regulatory Committees	28 Councillors – 20 Conservatives, 6 opposition and 2 Independents	Moved from the old style Committee System to Leader and Cabinet Model to support the Council's ambitions and to become a more agile and commercial council. This is a key component of realising the Council's commercial and wider ambitions to have a quick and efficient decision making process.	51,209	Area of 185.90 sq miles (481.4 sq km)	Yes
Swale District Council	Under consideration Currently operating Executive arrangements. Cabinet of 7, 1 Scrutiny Committee, a number of Regulatory Committees and 4 Area Committees	47 Councillors – 16 Conservatives, 11 Labour, 10 Swale Independent Alliance, 4 Independents, 3 Liberal Democrats, 2 Green and 1 UKIP	The Council has considered a change in governance alongside a wider constitutional review. Changes to area committees were taken forward, but further discussion of future governance models was deferred after having been discussed by councillors in July 2019. Discussing the objectives of a constitutional review, councillors considered that clear lines of demarcation, involving more Members in decision-making; timeliness of decision-making; working more effectively with the public; the additional burden on officer time and the costs of a new system were all of importance. They also considered that maintaining a strong role for scrutiny was important.	150,082	Area of 144.60 sq miles (374.5 sq km)	No
York City Council (Unitary)	Under consideration – see above	See above	Currently operating Hybrid arrangements (see above). In September 2019 the Council's Cabinet decided to undertake a full review of the Council's formal governance arrangements. However, the Coronavirus pandemic has resulted in no further updates being submitted to the Cabinet.	210,618	Area of 105.00 sq miles (271.90 sq km)	No
Uttlesford	Under consideration Currently operating Executive arrangements. Cabinet of 6, 1 Scrutiny Committee and a number of Regulatory Committees. Also have 2 Cabinet	39 Councillors – 22 Residents for Uttlesford, 5 Liberal Democrats, 4 Conservatives, 2 Greens, 2 Independents and 2 Thaxted and Eastons Independent Group.	A report was presented to Council in July 2019 to establish a member working group, to consider options relating to governance change. The Council's leadership considered that it would be possible to make changes to come into force in May 2020.	91,284	Area of 247.60 sq miles (641.20 sq km)	Yes

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	Committees and a number of Cabinet Working Groups	Currently have 2 vacancies	Later in the year, the Working Group resolved that, instead of proposing changes for May 2020, instead a (non-public) “shadow committee” should be established to experiment with cross-party working and decision-making, evaluated through comparison with the authority’s existing governance arrangements.			

Note:

As a point of reference the area of Somerset West and Taunton is 459 sq miles (1,188 sq km)