

# North Somerset Council

## Report to the Council

**Date of Meeting: 19 September 2023**

**Subject of Report: Proposed change to quorum for Policy & Scrutiny Panels**

**Town or Parish: None**

**Officer/Member Presenting: Assistant Director, Legal and Governance and Monitoring Officer**

**Key Decision: N/A**

**Reason:**

Not an Executive Decision.

**Recommendation**

(1) that the quorum of Policy and Scrutiny Panels be amended to one quarter and the Constitution be amended accordingly.

**1. Summary of Report**

The report recommends a change in the quorum for Policy and Scrutiny Panels from one third to one quarter.

**2. Policy**

None

**3. Details**

3.1 The quorum for Policy and Scrutiny Panels is currently set at one third, whilst for Council and committees it is one quarter unless a specific number is set such as for Audit Committee.

3.2 Legislation provides for the quorum for Council to be set at one quarter, but councils are able to determine the quorum for Policy and Scrutiny Panels and practice varies between councils. To align with Council and committees it is recommended that the Policy and Scrutiny Panels quorum requirement is amended to one quarter.

**4. Consultation**

Group Leaders and Audit Committee members have been advised of the recommendation in this report and the responses received have been supportive.

**5. Financial Implications**

None

## **6. Legal Powers and Implications**

Local Government Act 1972 sets the quorum for Council. Councils are able to determine quorum requirements for Policy and Scrutiny Panels.

## **7. Climate Change and Environmental Implications**

None.

## **8. Risk Management**

None.

## **9. Equality Implications**

Have you undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment? No

## **10. Corporate Implications**

Amending the quorum for Policy and Scrutiny Panels will align the requirement across Council, committees and panels.

## **11. Options Considered**

No change has been considered but the recommendation is to make the amendment.

### **Author:**

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### **Appendices:**

None

### **Background Papers:**

Council Constitution