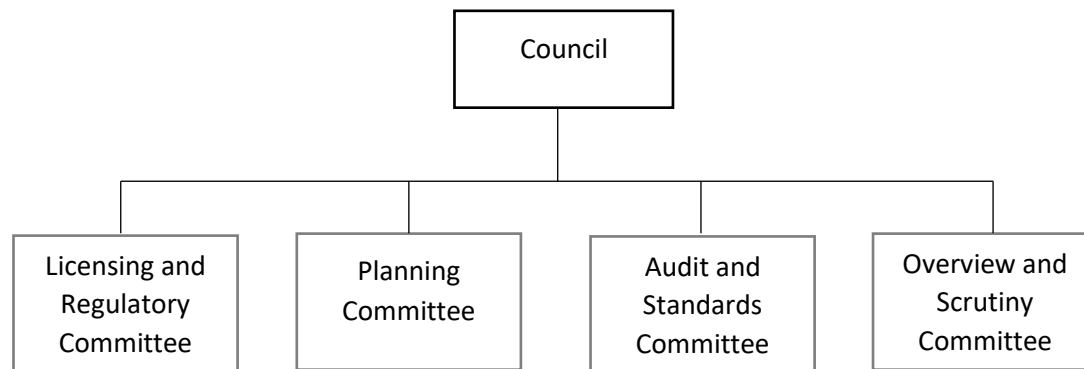


Possible Committee Structures in a Committee System model of Governance

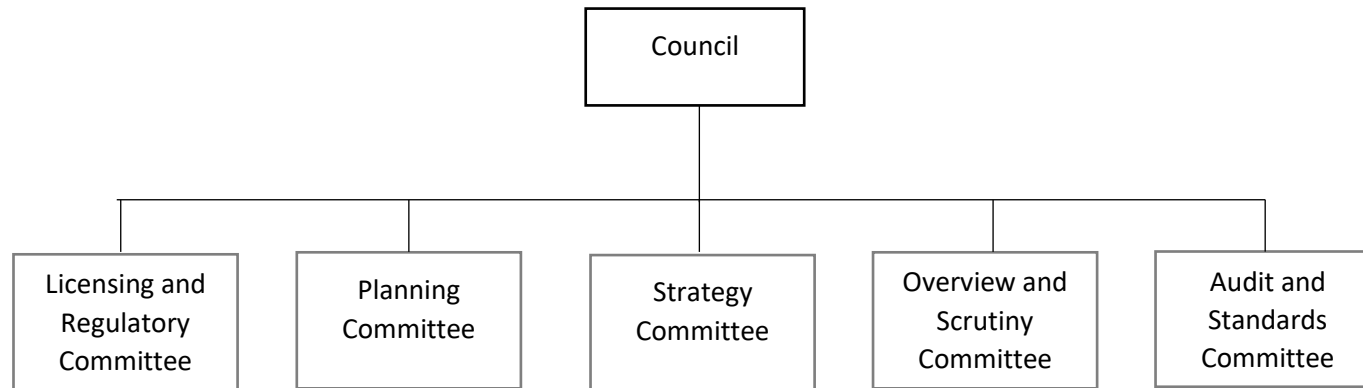
Requirements

- The Full Council must agree the appointment of committees, their terms of reference, membership and chairmanship.
- The Council is required to have the following committees by law:
 - Licensing / Regulatory (s.6 Licensing Act 2003)
 - Standards (s.53 Local Government Act 2000)
- Although it is not a legal requirement to appoint an audit committee, the Council is required “to ensure that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control which facilitates the effective exercise of its functions”. Part of these internal control arrangements are to appoint an audit committee.
- It is strongly recommended that the Council appoints and delegates authority to determine planning applications to a Planning Committee.
- It is strongly recommended that the Council appoints at least one scrutiny committee.
- There are certain functions that the Full Council cannot delegate to a committee (Local Authorities (Committee System) Regulations 2012).
- All committees are required to be politically balanced in line with the proportionality rules.
- In all of the example structures below the following joint committees would continue to operate: Shared Revenues Partnership Committee (with MSDC and IBC), Joint Standards Committee (with MSDC and SCC) and Joint Appointments Committee (with MSDC).

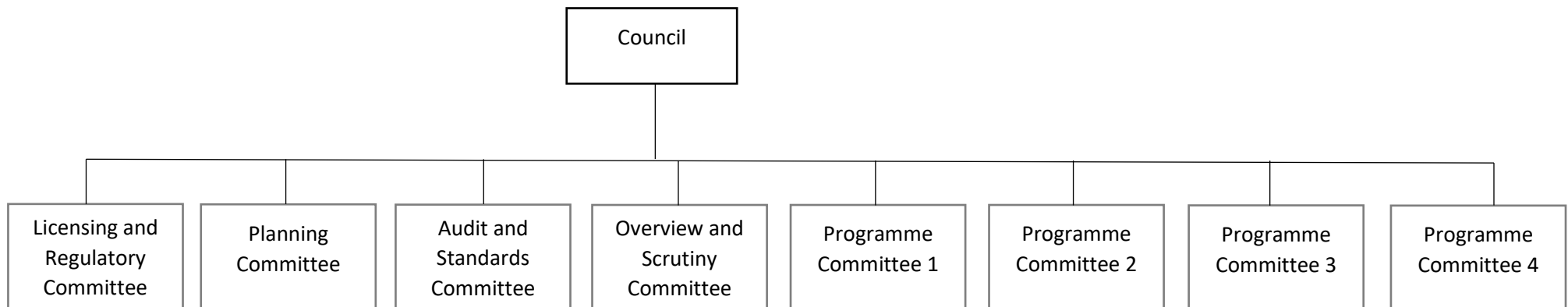
Example 1 – Council as the main decision-maker



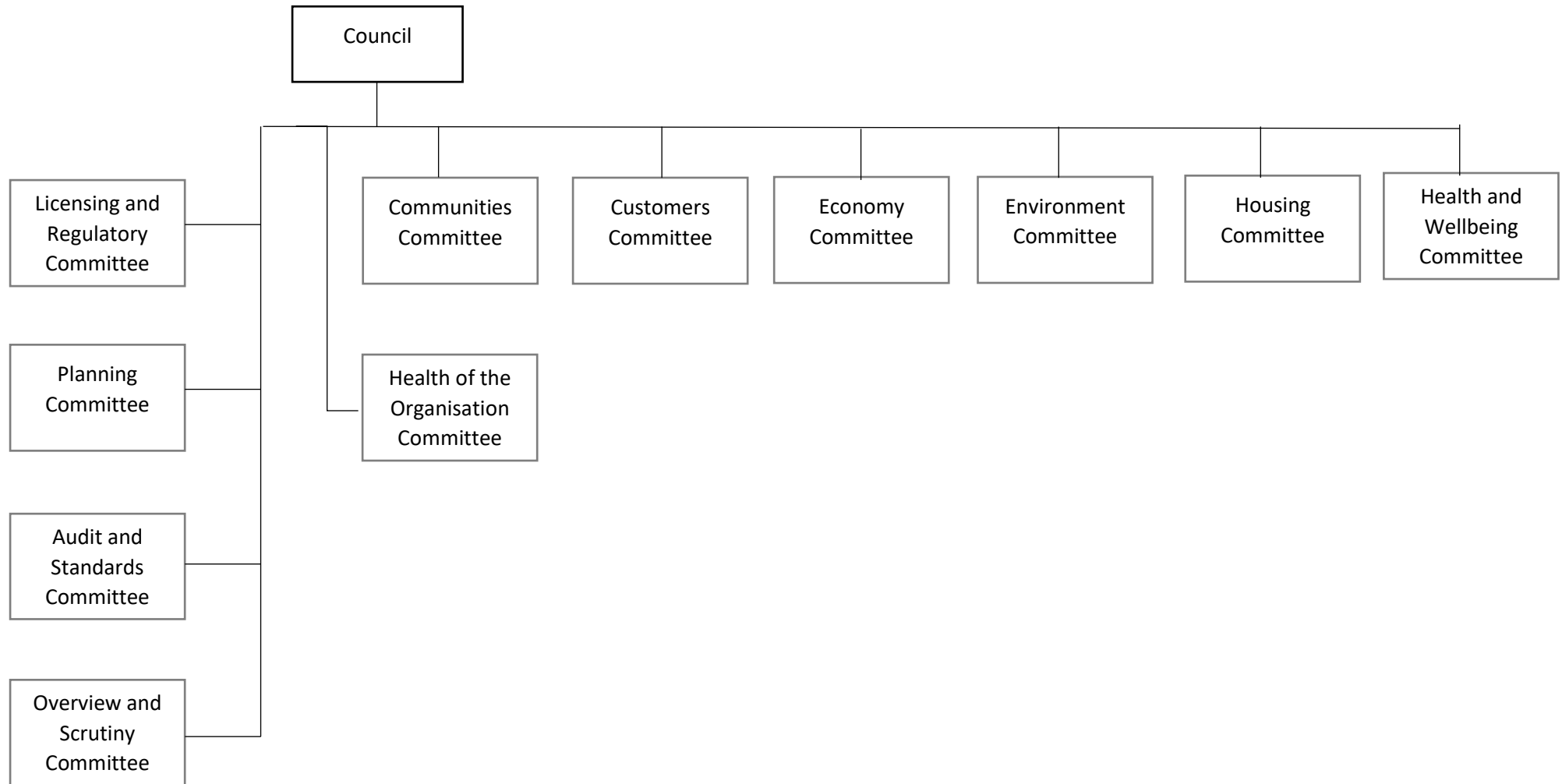
Example 2 – Return to pre-2017 structure



Example 3 – Programme-based committee structure



Example 4 – Outcome-based committee structure



Resource Implications

It is not possible to quantify the exact implications of each of the example structures as the level of officer resource and councillor time needed to support each structure is dependent on a number of variables which are yet to be quantified including:

- Frequency of committee meetings
- Size of the committees – each committee would need to have a minimum 5 members in order to be able to operate effectively (a minimum of 10 is required for Licensing Committee)
- Level of delegated decision-making authority given by the Full Council

However, some basic assumptions can be made:

- For each 2 additional committees added to the existing arrangements an additional committee officer would be required
- In example 1 more frequent or longer council meetings would be required, therefore every councillor's workload would increase
- In example 2, effectively replacing the Cabinet with a Strategy Committee, there would be little impact on councillor workload, however additional officer time would be needed to support the difference in governance models between Babergh and Mid Suffolk