Governance options for Council decision making to deal with staffing and social distancing implications of Covid-19 restrictions.

All meetings to be held remotely through VC

Option	Pros	Cons
1. Continue with the Emergency Cabinet	- Simple and flexible - Frequency and responsiveness during crisis situation - Substitution allows for wider political involvement - Group coming to a position can save meeting time.	As more non critical services come on stream the meeting could become overloaded Less inclusive for all councillors although substitute members can attend.
2. Expand numbers on the cabinet	- More inclusive politically - Retains flexibility and responsiveness during crisis situation.	Still excludes a body of councillors
3. Reinstate all statutory committees on a normal cycle (Planning, LRB, Licensing Board, Appeals)	- Allows business to recover, complies with statutory requirements. - Indication from officers that they can be supported - Democratically inclusive.	Some processes like hearings could be cumbersome.
4. Full Council to consider everything other than statutory committees	- Simple - Chairs could substitute in and out	- Cumbersome to have large numbers considering all items - Participation on VC could be challenging - Number of officers required - Substitution could be tricky
5. Go back to a "normal" committee cycle	- Structure we are familiar with - Democratically inclusive. - No review of committee calendar needed– we have the dates already earmarked. - chairs can continue their portfolio role	Concern whether there will be enough business to merit the number of meetings. Meetings likely to be cancelled.

	• ability to cancel meeting if insufficient material • dovetails with external bodies calendar	• May be pressure to revert to normal reporting/priorities which will not be possible alongside covid response and renewal. Business will not have reverted to "normal" • Staff unable to produce material to feed committees • VC is more challenging to arrange officer input at short notice so may need full set of advisers for all committees.
6. Keep the normal number of committees but reduced frequency – say 2 cycles before Xmas rather than 3 (10 week cycles rather than 8)	• Structure we are familiar with. • Chairs can continue their portfolio role • Reduced resource demand as less frequent	• Items likely to arise which can't wait, although Full Council could be staggered to fall between cycles. • Concerns as above
7. Reduce committee structure - tailor to business likely to arise	• Allows officers to continue the focus on Covid-19 response/recognises reduced capacity to produce reports. • Balances previous bullet point with involvement of a wider number of councillors in decision making. • Could be used as a pilot for going forward with a wholesale review of committee structure, this way members are not being seen to being pushed to decide at short notice if this is the way they wish to go forward.	• red tape in creating a temporary structure • Need to consider how to give Committee Chairs their role.