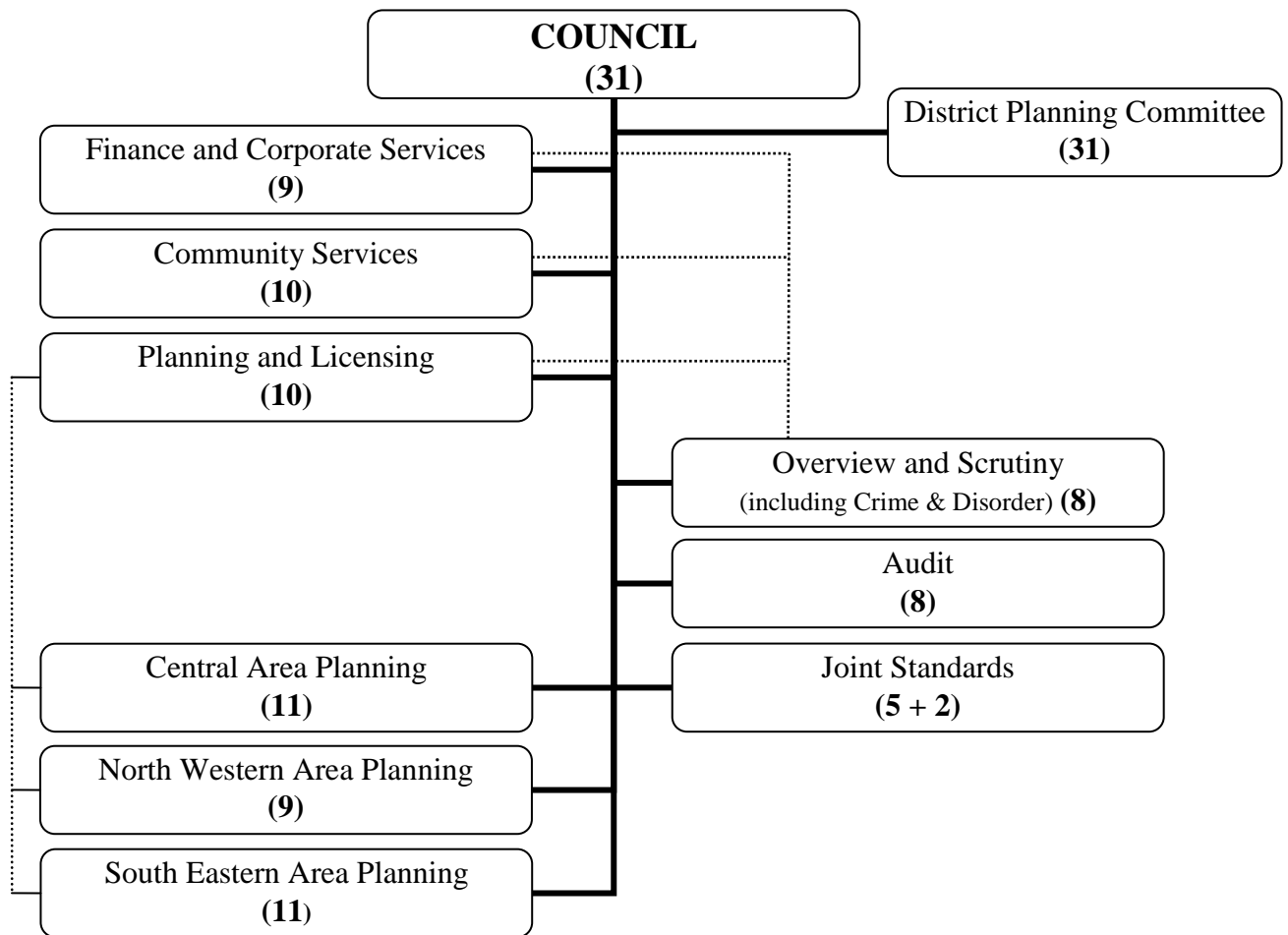




GOVERNANCE OF THE MALDON DISTRICT COUNCIL

In accordance with the alternative arrangements under the Local Government Act 2000, Maldon District Council has decided on a system of a single Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Audit Committee, a Standards Committee, three service committees, three Area Planning Committees and a District Planning Committee. The diagram below shows the way the structure links together.



..... Indicates reporting links.

The role of the Council (31 Members)

The Council comprises all the elected Members of the District. The Council will adopt, and also agree in partnership with others, a number of statutory documents in particular:

- The Maldon District Corporate Plan
- The Maldon District Local Development Plan
- The Maldon Community Safety Strategy

In addition, the Council will be responsible for setting the budget and Council Tax, appointing the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council; the Membership of the Council's Committees; adoption of a detailed Constitution; Delegation Arrangements, Council & Committee Procedure Rules and Financial Regulations to comply with the Local Government Act 2000, and the appointment of Representatives to Outside Bodies.

Arrangements for Overview and Scrutiny

The Council has decided to have one Overview and Scrutiny Committee with a Membership of eight. The principal responsibilities of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be:

- Examining the decisions and performance of other Committees and also Council Officers, with particular reference to service plans and targets;
- Ensuring the effective management of risk by the Council;
- Assisting the monitoring of the achievement of Value for Money;
- Making recommendations arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process;
- Acting as the Council's Crime and Disorder Committee.

and at its discretion may-

- Assist in the development of the Council's budget and policy framework;
- Consider and propose mechanisms to encourage and enhance community participation, and to assist in enhancing the interests of local people by collaborative working with external organisations;
- Review and scrutinise the performance of other public bodies in the Maldon District.

Committees

As can be seen from the diagram on page 1, Maldon District Council has a Joint Standards Committee, a Finance and Corporate Services Committee, a Community Services Committee, a Planning and Licensing Committee, an Audit Committee, three Area Planning Committees and District Planning Committee. An outline of the functions and responsibilities assigned to those Committees is as follows:

Joint Standards Committee (5 Members + 2 Parish / Town Council representatives)

- Member standards
- Member Training
- Code of Conduct
- Parish / Town Council Standards

Committees

Finance and Corporate Services Committee (9 Members)

- Recommendations to Council on the District Council's Budget and Council Tax;
- Financial Management, Capital and Investment strategies;
- Overview of the Council Tax and Benefits functions;
- Human resources;
- Value for money
- Information technology strategy
- Facilities and Asset Management
- Corporate communications and Customer Service

Community Services Committee (10 Members)

- Community Development and Services
- Recreation and Leisure Services
- Environmental Health and Housing Services
- Health Promotion
- Community Safety
- Waste Management
- Cultural Strategy
- Housing Investment Programme

Planning and Licensing Committee (10 Members)

- Town and Country Planning including development control
- Forward Planning and Planning Policy development
- Natural and Built Environment
- Economic Development
- River Policy and Management
- Highways and Transportation Liaison
- Tourism
- Licensing
- Building Control

Audit Committee (8 Members)

- Internal audit arrangements and the Internal Audit Plan
- Risk Management and Value for Money
- High level summaries of system reviews
- Relationship with External Auditors and to consider their reports
- Contract Monitoring/monitoring activity
- Annual Governance Statement
- Reports on delivery of key priorities and assurance

Area Planning Committees (Constituted on basis of geographical representation – not subject to political balance arrangements)

- Development Control – determination of planning and other applications relevant to the area and not otherwise delegated to Officers or to be considered by the District Planning Committee
- Enforcement of Planning Control
- Public Rights of Way Orders
- Tree Preservation Orders
- Input into Planning and Licensing Committee from the area perspective on other matters

District Planning Committee (31 Members)

- Strategic planning applications.
- Applications beyond the remit of the Area Planning Committees.