

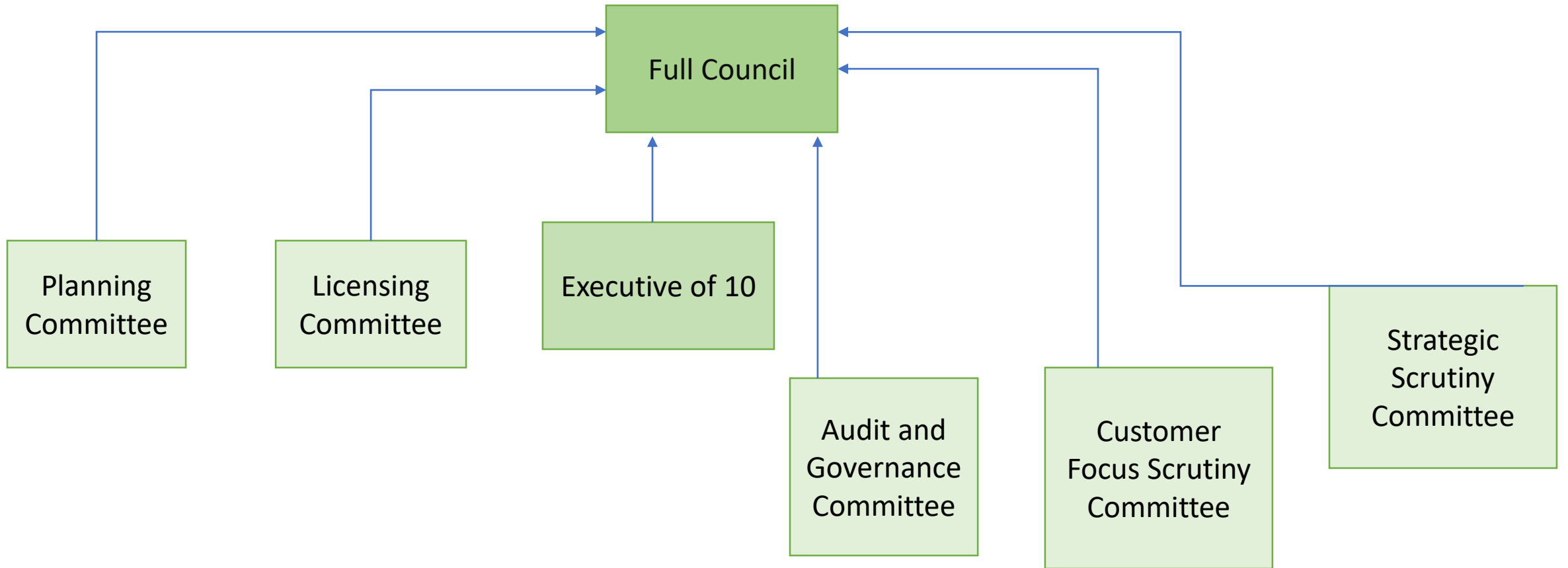
# Governance Arrangements

Options for Consideration

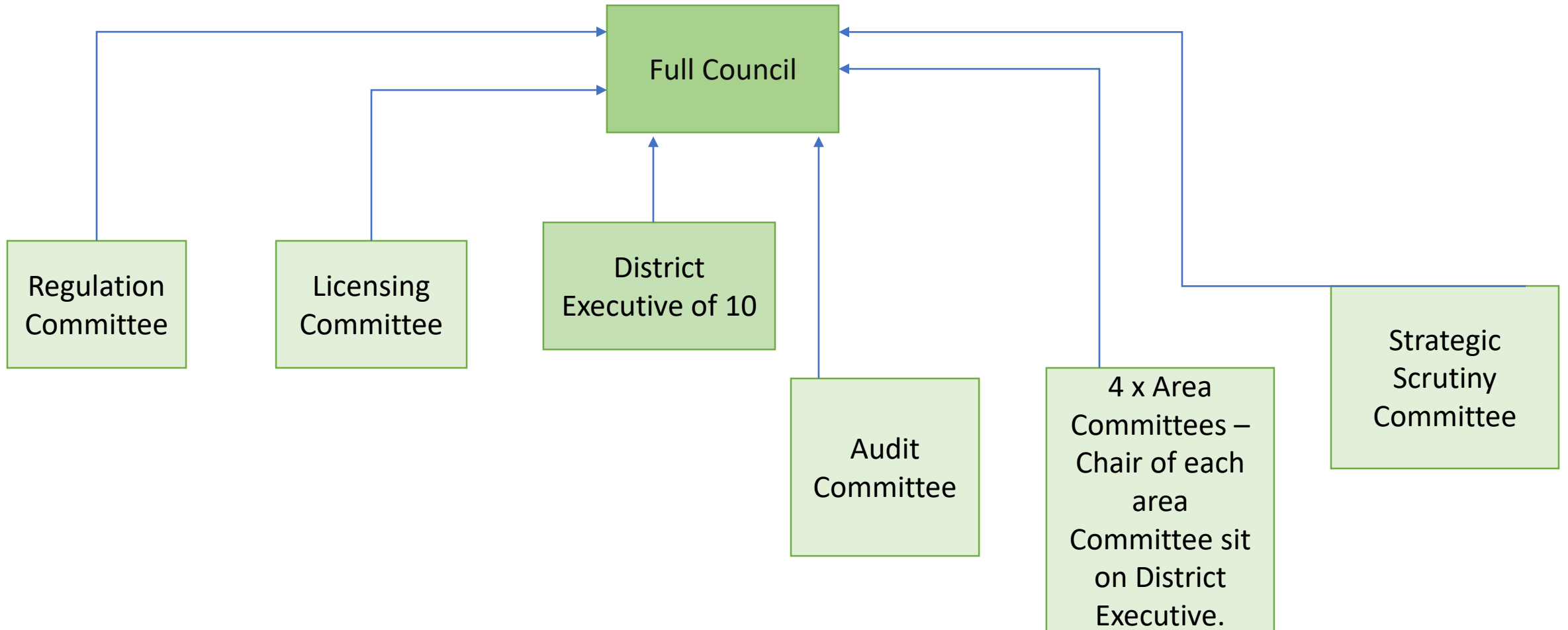
# Leader and Cabinet Arrangements

- Strong Leader model – Leader ordinarily elected by Council for a four year term and confirmed each year thereafter.
- Leader selects Cabinet of between two and nine Members
- Political Balance rules disapplied, can be a single party Cabinet
- Individual decision making powers for Cabinet Members
- Weakness – non Cabinet Members can feel disenfranchised
- Strength – transparent, accountable and efficient decision making

# Exeter City Council



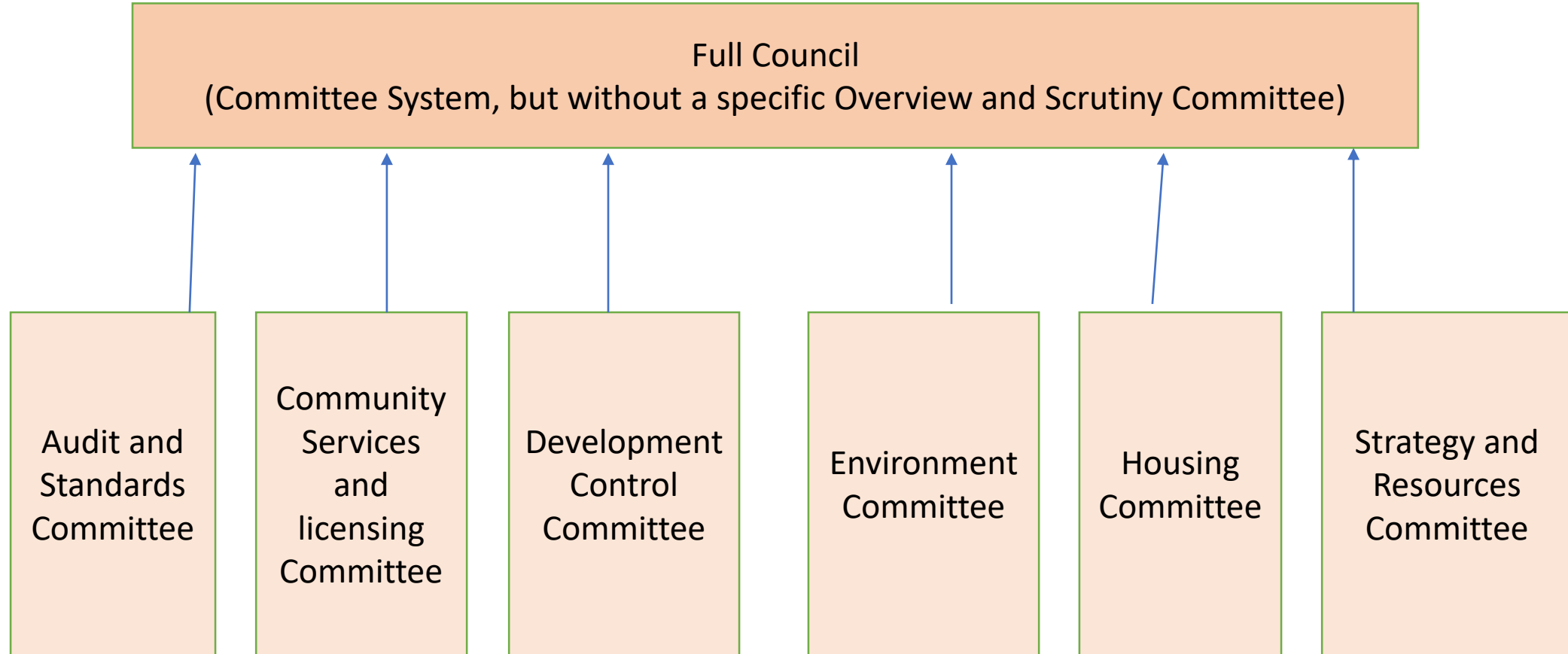
# South Somerset District Council



# South Somerset District Council

- Cabinet (known as District Executive) has 10 members – 6 of whom are taken from the Administration.
- 4 Area Committees – have delegated executive functions and deal with the majority of planning matters in their geographical areas.
- Area Committees appoint their own Chair – the Chair has an automatic seat on the District Executive – regardless of political group.
- Scrutiny is the main forum for policy development – uses Task and Finish Groups.
- Scrutiny Chair is from the Opposition Group and there are two Vice Chairs – one each from the Administration and the second largest Opposition group.

# Stroud District Council



# Rainbow Coalition

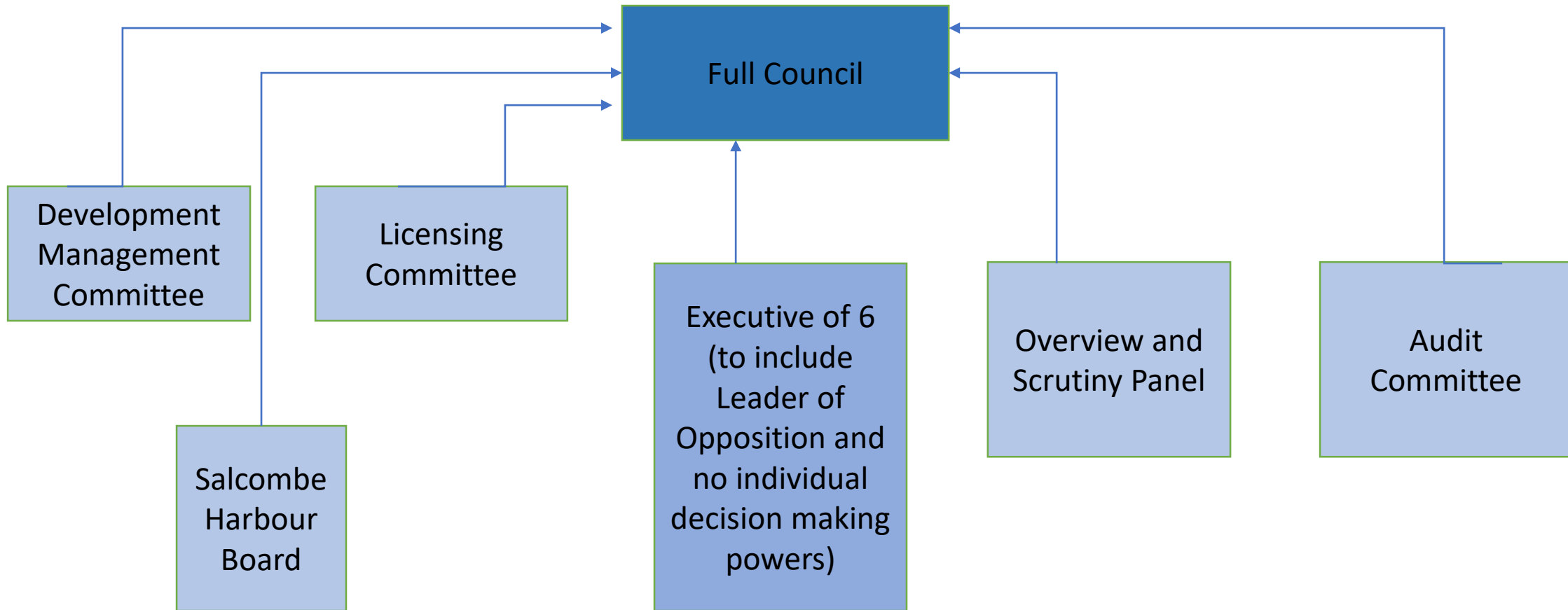
- Examples of Rainbow Coalition operating in both Leader/Cabinet Models ( North Hertfordshire/ Scarborough) and Committee structure ( Stroud)
- Used by Councils with a minority administration or no overall control
- The Cabinet or Strategy Resources Committee is made up of councillors across the political spectrum – Memorandum of Understanding agreed at the beginning of 4 year period - revisited if numbers change – includes allocation of Committee Chairs, Portfolios etc.
- Usually only collective decision making

# Hybrid Arrangements

- Regulations allow for a further style of governance, Prescribed Arrangements (prescribed by the Secretary of State)
- Whilst no Councils currently operate such arrangements, a number have organised their governance to resemble a hybrid system
- Examples include Executive Arrangements that do not include individual decision making powers and/or the inclusion of opposition Members in the Cabinet
- Weakness – not set by regulation so only works as long as the Leader or Members allow it
- Strength – collaborative decision making



# South Hams District Council



# Committee System

- The introduction of the Localism Act 2011 included the Committee System as an option for governance arrangements
- A Council operating a Committee System can decide how functions will be discharged, other than those which are Full Council functions
- There is no limit on the number of committees
- Weakness – decision making takes time as some decisions need approval from more than one committee
- Strength – inclusive decision making

# Overview and Scrutiny

- Executive arrangements require an Overview and Scrutiny function to provide checks and balances and ensure transparency and accountability
- Overview and Scrutiny provides a role for non-executive councillors in holding Cabinet to account and get involved in policy development at an early stage
- Councils operating a committee system **may** decide to appoint one or more Overview and Scrutiny committee.
- Councils can choose how the Overview and Scrutiny function is arranged. An example is a Council with two committees, one Internal (focused on the activities of the Council) and one External (focused on the activities of other public sector organisations) .