

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

PROPOSALS FOR CHANGE IN GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

1. Governance Arrangements

1.1 The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 requires Huntingdonshire District Council to resolve to adopt a new form of executive arrangements by 31st December 2010 that comprises –

- an elected mayor and two or more councillors appointed to the cabinet executive by the mayor, or
- a councillor who is elected as executive leader by the Council and two or more councillors appointed to the cabinet executive by the executive leader.

1.2 These proposals have been drawn up by the Council in compliance with Section 33E of the Local Government Act 2000 with respect to the change in governance arrangements of the Council.

1.3 Prior to drawing up these proposals, the Council has taken reasonable steps to consult the local government electors of Huntingdonshire and other interested parties on the choices available to it by way of information on its website, an article in its magazine delivered to all households in the District, information presented at the neighbourhood forums in the District and targeted correspondence to local councils and representative groups.

1.4 Having regard to –

- the majority of the consultation responses favouring a leader and cabinet executive form of governance;
- there is a lack of support nationally for the mayor and cabinet executive format;
- previous consultation in Huntingdonshire when the 2000 Act was implemented having favoured the leader and cabinet model;
- consultation undertaken by Cambridgeshire County Council in 2008 having resulted in that authority adopting a leader and cabinet executive;
- the Council's existing leader and cabinet arrangements having been in existence since 2002 with minimal public interest locally in changing those arrangements; -

Huntingdonshire District Council proposes to change its governance arrangements to an executive leader and cabinet executive.

1.5 In so doing, the Council has considered the extent to which the proposals are likely to assist in securing continuous improvement in the way in which the authority's functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness. The effect of the proposals will be to –

- authorise the Council to elect an executive leader from among the councillors that have been elected;
- make the executive leader responsible for the discharge of all the executive functions of the authority which he can discharge himself or arrange to be discharged by the cabinet, another member of the cabinet, a committee of the cabinet or by an officer of the authority;

- enable the executive leader to appoint a deputy executive leader; and
 - enable the executive leader to appoint a cabinet comprising between 2 and 10 councillors, inclusive of himself and the deputy executive leader.
- 1.6 The executive leader will be appointed for a period of four years, unless he ceases to be a councillor before the end of that period, he resigns from office or he is removed from office by the Council. If the Council removes the executive leader from office, it will elect another councillor to that position.

2. Timetable

- 2.1 The consultation exercise undertaken prior to the drawing up of these proposals was undertaken from mid May to 21st July 2010.
- 2.2 A report on the outcome of the consultation exercise and the choices available to the Council was considered at a meeting of the Council held on 29th September 2010. These proposals were attached as an appendix to that report.
- 2.3 Following approval of the proposals, public notice will be given in a local newspaper circulating in the District and on the Council's website.
- 2.4 A special meeting of the Council will be held on 3rd November 2010 to formally approve the proposals. A report iteming the consequential changes to the Council's constitution will be submitted to that meeting and adjourned in accordance with the Council Procedure Rules without discussion until the meeting of the Council to be held on 15th December 2010.
- 2.5 Public notice of the approval of the proposals will be given in a local newspaper circulating in the District and on the Council's website.
- 2.6 Having been adjourned without discussion at the Council meeting on 3rd November 2010, the report iteming the consequential changes to the Council's constitution will be considered in accordance with the Council Procedure Rules at the meeting of the Council to be held on 15th December 2010.
- 2.7 The proposals will be implemented with effect from the annual meeting of the Council to be held on 18th May 2011.