

COUNCIL CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Council Constitution Committee held on Tuesday, 14th September, 2010 at 5.55 p.m. in the Civic Offices, Telford, Shropshire

PRESENT: Councillors S.M. Kelly (Chairman), R.K. Austin, E.J. Carter, A.J. Eade, G.M. Green, J.M. Seymour, C.F. Smith and V. Tonks

CCC-12 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Council Constitution Committee held on the 8th June, 2010 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

CCC-13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

CCC-14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

CCC-15 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN HEALTH ACT 2007 – EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS

The report of the Head of Governance requested Members to recommend to Council a preferred option for the Executive Arrangements following the recent consultation process. Following a further consultation period the Council would then be required to adopt either the Mayor & Cabinet model or the Leader & Cabinet model. Attached as Appendix 2 of the report was information on the differences between the two models.

On the 29th April 2010 full Council had approved a proposed timetable for ensuring that, as required, it could consider the final proposals before the end of this calendar year. Attached as Appendix 1 to the report was a proposed amended timetable that would enable final proposals to be considered by the Council meeting scheduled for 7th October, 2010 rather than there having to be an additional Council meeting in December.

Members, during the debate at both the Council Constitution Committee of the 25th May, 2010 and full Council in April had given a very clear steer to officers that, whilst they accepted that this was a legal requirement and consultation was a crucial element of the process, the nature and level of consultation needed to be planned to be proportionate to the issue to ensure that resources diverted from delivery of Council priorities was kept as low as reasonably possible.

Full Council in April had also delegated to the Committee the power to review and approve the final consultation documents and approved an overview of those to be consulted. There had been very few responses to the consultation so far, with those received showing a majority in favour of the Leader & Cabinet model. At least two

Parish Council's had indicated that they would be submitting responses in early September 2010.

Following the initial consultation, the Council was required to draw up formal proposals which would be the subject of a Notice in a local newspaper and on the Council's Website describing the proposals and where information about them was available. In drawing up the proposals, the Council had to consider the extent to which, if implemented, the proposals were likely to assist in securing continuous improvements in the way in which its functions were exercised and having regard to the economy, efficiency and effectiveness of the same. A Resolution of the Council would be required by the end of December 2010 to implement the change to the Council's Governance arrangements following which a further Notice must be placed in a local newspaper with the relevant details.

Once the preferred solution had been identified and agreed by Council on 7th October, 2010 the same consultees would be notified during the period 11th October to 19th November, 2010. Those who had specifically made representations would be contacted separately. The existing form of Leader and Cabinet model of governance would continue in force until after Borough elections in May 2011.

RESOLVED – that Council be RECOMMENDED to:

- (a) that the Leader & Cabinet model be the preferred option for Executive Arrangements;**
- (b) that further consultation, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, take place on the preferred option.**

The meeting ended at 5.59 p.m.

Chairman:

Date: