

Motion prepared by Councillor G. Butland, seconded by Councillor N. Harley and supported by Councillors M. Lager, W. Schmitt, T. Wilkinson and W. Scattergood.

That:

1. Planning Committee

With immediate effect the District Development Committee is renamed the Planning Committee consisting of 21 Members. With effect from 6th June 2007 the Planning Committee shall have delegated authority to act on behalf of the Council on:

- (a) The Council's town and country planning and development control functions as detailed in Part A of Schedule 1 of the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 (as amended);
- (b) determination of all applications for planning permission, listed building consent and associated matters;
- (c) authorisation of all enforcement actions under town and country planning and allied legislation;
- (d) the making of orders for the creation, diversion and extinguishment of public rights of way, authority to confirm unopposed orders for the same and authority to decide not to confirm an order, authorisation of enforcement and other actions in relation to the protection of public rights, presentation of obstructions or damage to the highway and any other matters as may from time to time require determination by the Committee;
- (e) all other matters currently delegated to the District Development Committee where not covered by or inconsistent with (a) to (d) above.

2. Local Committee

- (a) That with effect from 6th June the Area Committees be called Local Committees.
- (b) With effect from 6th June 2007, the terms of reference of the Area Committees be amended to exclude any of the matters covered by 1(a) to (d) above.
- (c) The cycle of Local Committee meetings be changed so that, in future, each meets once every eight weeks.

Note: The effect of the above, means that the first meeting of the Planning Committee (previously the District Development Committee) and Area Committees will take place under the current terms of reference of the

District Development Committee and Area Committees, respectively. With effect from 6th June, the new Planning Committee and Local Committees will come into being under the revised terms of reference.

3. Changes to the Constitution

Authority be granted to the Head of Law and Governance to make the changes to the Constitution that are necessary or consequent upon adoption of this motion.

4. Cabinet

The current designation of Lead Member be changed to Cabinet Deputy.

5. Member Champions

That the Council appoints Member Champions from Councillors who are not Members of the Cabinet or deputies (see Appendix A attached).

6. Timetable

That the timetable of meetings be reviewed on the following basis and amendments made where practical:

Council every eight weeks, plus AGM

Cabinet every eight weeks

Planning Committee every two weeks

Local Committee every eight weeks

Timings for all other committee meetings remain unchanged

Note: The current timetable of meetings will be amended to accommodate the cycles proposed above as far as possible.

7. Special Responsibility Allowance

That a report on any amendment to the current scheme of special responsibility allowance be considered by a future Council meeting.

8. Overall Decision-Making Structure

The overall decision-making structure is set out in Appendix B for Member information.

Appointment of Champions

At its discretion, the Council may, from time to time, designate Champions from amongst Councillors who are not Members of the Cabinet.

Term of Office

Councillors who are designated as Champions shall hold office until:

- (a) they resign from office;
- (b) they are suspended from being Councillors under Part III of the Local Government Act 2000 (although they may resume office at the end of the period of suspension);
- (c) they are no longer Councillors; or
- (d) until the commencement of the next Annual Meeting of the Council, except that the Council may remove from office at its discretion.

Role and Functions

To act as a positive focus for the local community at elected member level in respect of the relevant section of the community or range of activities designated by the Council so as to ensure that full consideration is given to the impact of Council activities and decisions upon the section of the community or range of activities.

Key Tasks

- (a) To make contact with local organisations concerned with the designated section of the community or range of activities and to establish effective and regular consultation arrangements with those organisations.
- (b) To represent the views of such organisations to officers, the Council, the Cabinet, Overview and Scrutiny and other Committees, on all relevant aspects of the Council's activities.
- (c) To act as an advocate on behalf of the relevant section of the community or range of activities within the Council as an organisation and to the wider community.
- (d) To become familiar with the needs and priorities of the relevant section of the community, or range of activities concerned, and to weigh up interests expressed in order to provide sound advice on the implications of alternative courses of action.
- (e) To feedback decisions of the Council and to explain the Council's position on specific issues of concern to relevant organisations and to individuals involved.
- (f) To publish an annual report on work undertaken over each year for consideration by the Council.

