

## 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 **Therefore, at a special meeting held on 3rd November 2010, the Council approved a change in its governance arrangements to an executive leader and cabinet executive in compliance with Section 33E of the Local Government Act 2000.**

1.3 Prior to drawing up proposals for change, the Council took 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;
- 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; -

a decision was made, at a meeting of the Council held on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2010, to approve proposals for a change in the Council's governance arrangements to an executive leader and cabinet executive. Public notice has been given of that decision and a copy of the proposals made available for inspection at the Council's offices at Pathfinder House, Huntingdon and on the Council's website.

1.5 In so doing, the Council 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.

1.6 The effect of the decision to change governance arrangements to an executive leader and cabinet executive will be to –

- enable 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.

1.7 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 proposals for change was undertaken from mid May to 31<sup>st</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> September 2010.

2.3 Following approval of the proposals, public notice was given in a local newspaper circulating in the District and copies of the proposals made available at the Council's offices and on the Council's website.

2.4 At a meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2010, the Council formally approved the proposals and the consequential changes to the Council's constitution.

2.5 Public notice of the decision was given in a local newspaper circulating in the District and the implications made available for public inspection at the Council's offices and on the Council's website.

2.6 The decision will come into effect from 8<sup>th</sup> May 2011, i.e. three days after the election of councillors held on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2011.

## **3. Further Information**

3.1 Any further enquiries with regard to the proposals should be addressed to Roy Reeves, Head of Democratic and Central Services, Pathfinder House, Huntingdon (telephone 01480 388003 or [roy.reeves@huntsdc.gov.uk](mailto:roy.reeves@huntsdc.gov.uk) ).