

## Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING:	Council	
MEETING DATE:	16 <sup>th</sup> November 2010	
TITLE:	FUTURE EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP MODEL OF THE COUNCIL	
WARD:	ALL	
<b>AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM</b>		
<b>List of attachments to this report:</b>  Appendix 1 – Consultation document  Appendix 2 – Summary of responses made (A full set of responses is available for inspection in Members' Group rooms.)		

### 1 THE ISSUE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Members of the outcome of the consultation in relation to the Executive arrangements of the Council and to adopt any necessary changes, in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

### 2 RECOMMENDATION

Council is asked to:

2.1 Determine which option of executive arrangement it wishes to pursue.

### **3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 If the Council retains the Leader and Cabinet model, there will be no additional financial implications. Should the option of choosing a directly elected Mayor be selected, there would be the cost of running an election.

### **4 CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

The political management structure by its nature has a direct bearing on all of the Council's corporate priorities.

- *Building communities where people feel safe and secure*
- *Promoting the independence of older people*
- *Improving life chances of disadvantaged teenagers and young people*
- *Improving school buildings*
- *Sustainable growth*
- *Improving the availability of Affordable Housing*
- *Addressing the causes and effects of Climate Change*
- *Improving transport and the public realm*

### **5 THE REPORT**

5.1 The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act (LGPIH) 2007 requires every authority which operates a Leader and Cabinet model of executive arrangements to review their executive arrangements, and bring in any changes decided upon, from May 2011. The term 'executive arrangements' refers to the political management structure under which the Council is run by its elected councillors.

5.2 The Council in May 2010 indicated its preferred option was the indirectly elected Leader and Cabinet model as it is closest to its current structure and would better suit the needs of the community by providing stability and continuity in the current challenging circumstances. However, they authorised the Monitoring Officer to undertake consultation and report back to this meeting.

5.3 A letter has recently been distributed to all local authorities by the Department for Communities and Local Government which indicates that the new Government intends to repeal the LGPIH Act 2007 and provide for new governance options via its Localism Bill, expected later this year. The letter further advises Councils that in the light of the expected changes, and severe economic pressures on Councils, any consultation arising from the LGPIH Act 2007 should be pursued at minimal cost.

5.4 Under the provisions of the Act, the Council could adopt one of the following two models. The Leader and Cabinet option would not involve any amendment to the current style of operation.

#### Option 1 – Directly elected Mayor and Cabinet

5.5 Under this option, a directly elected Mayor is elected by the voters in a district-wide election, every four years. The Mayor would appoint a Cabinet made up of Councillors who would have individual areas of responsibility allocated to them by the Mayor. The Mayor could be from a political party, or from the wider community.

## Option 2 – Indirectly elected Leader and Cabinet

5.6 This model reflects the Council's current arrangements.

5.7 The Council is obliged to have regard to any comments received and take them into account. There were 48 responses received. Of those, there is a preference for the Mayor and Cabinet model as follows;

Mayor & Cabinet (Option 1)	=	43 responses in favour
Leader & Cabinet (Option 2)	=	2 stated as 'against option 1'
Unclear/no option selected	=	3

5.8 The Council has a specific duty to consider the extent to which the proposals, if implemented, would be likely to assist in securing continuous improvement in the way in which the Council's functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

5.9 It is anticipated that the Localism Bill will become law in the Autumn of 2011. In such a case, any changes from the existing model would need to be reviewed shortly after they came into effect.

5.10 A decision now needs to be taken as to which executive model is to be adopted as the Council's preferred executive arrangements.

5.11 The Act requires local Authorities, once the consultation has ended, to set out their agreed course of action, to be published in one or more local newspapers and made available at Council offices.

## **6 RISK MANAGEMENT**

6.1 Should the Council fail to make a decision by 31 December 2010, the Act provides that the Leader and Cabinet model be adopted.

## **7 EQUALITIES**

7.1 An equalities impact assessment has not been carried out on the options as there are no specific equality or diversity implications.

## **8 CONSULTATION**

8.1 Section 151 Finance Officer; Chief Executive; Monitoring Officer

8.2 A consultation exercise was conducted via the Council's online Consultation system.

## **9 ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN REACHING THE DECISION**

9.1 Social Inclusion; Customer Focus; Corporate

## **10 ADVICE SOUGHT**

10.1 The Council's Monitoring Officer (Council Solicitor) and Section 151 Officer (Divisional Director - Finance) have had the opportunity to input to this report and have cleared it for publication.

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<b>Background papers</b>	<i>A full copy of the responses is available for inspection in Members' group.</i>
<b>Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format</b>	