

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING

4 MAY 2021

GOVERNANCE REVIEW – PROPOSALS FOR CHANGE

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To consider proposals and options for taking forward new governance arrangements for the Council following the conclusion of the governance review.

2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 At its meeting on 25 February 2021, after considering an update report on progress of the Governance Review, the Councillors' Commission requested the Chief Executive to prepare a report to the next meeting of the Commission, with conclusions, options and recommendations for the Council's governance arrangements, having regard to all of the work undertaken as part of the review - including the LGA Peer Challenge reports from 2016 and 2019, learning from the virtual visits made to other comparable local authorities, and feedback received from the Members' workshops held in February.
- 2.2 A report setting out the case for change, the options and proposals to move to a Leader and Cabinet system of governance is due to be considered by the Councillors' Commission at its meeting on 28 April. A copy of the report submitted to the Commission is appended to this report and marked **Appendix 1**. Details of the conclusions and recommendations from the Commission from its meeting on 28 April will be reported verbally to full Council.

3.0 Proposals

- 3.1 It is proposed that the Council move to a Leader and Cabinet system of governance, properly shaped and designed to meet the Council's needs and reflective of our local circumstances. It is suggested that a small working party of members be appointed to formulate the details of the new governance model for consideration and approval by full Council at its meeting in December with the new system of working to be implemented with effect from May 2022.

4.0 Equalities Implications

- 4.1 There are no adverse equalities implications arising from this report.

5.0 Financial Implications

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS that:

- (a) **the Council resolve to adopt a Leader and Cabinet style of governance, with implementation to take effect from May 2022; and**
- (b) **the Council appoint a small working group of Members, tasked with formulating the detail of how the new governance arrangements should operate, with the aim of**

reporting back to Full Council on 14 December 2021, for its consideration and approval.

Background Papers

Nil.

For further information please contact John Robinson on Ext 5200.

John Robinson
Chief Executive