

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5

TYNEDALE COUNCIL

CORPORATE POLICY AND MANAGEMENT BOARD
THURSDAY 16TH AUGUST 2007

5.1 ITEM FOR DECISION
AMENDMENT TO GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS
Reporting Member: Councillor Michael Walton, Leader of Council

Purpose of Report

To agree the consultation process necessary to introduce a cabinet system of executive decision making.

Implications

Policy: Any changes to the system of decision making will require amendments to the constitution.

Financial & other Resources: There will be a small cost involved in the consultation process.

Crime & Disorder: None.

Human Rights: None.

Race Equality: None.

Local Agenda 21: None.

Overview & Scrutiny Committee: Resources.

Report

1. The Local Government Act 2000 required all councils to consider new ways of decision making based on three executive models, (the Leader and cabinet, elected Mayor and cabinet or elected Mayor and council manager) or alternative arrangements (a streamlined committee system or the so called 'fourth option'). Tynedale Council decided to implement a streamlined committee system, based on one policy committee, the Corporate Policy and Management Board, this has been in operation since 2002.
2. The governance arrangements establishing the streamlined committee system were heavily influenced by the fact that at the time such decisions were taken the Council was in no overall control. The Council has now been politically controlled since 2003 and it is now necessary to consider revising the current arrangements. It is therefore felt that the Council would benefit from a change to an executive form of decision making based on the Leader and Cabinet model (a model of decision making adopted by the majority of councils in the Country). In particular it is believed that this will enable the Council to focus its efforts more effectively on the issues facing it leading up to the establishment of a unitary

council for Northumberland in 2009.

3. It is a requirement of regulations made under the Local Government Act 2000 and directions made by the Secretary of State that councils considering changing from alternative arrangements to executive arrangements must undertake a consultation process before drawing up its proposals. Under the consultation process it will be a requirement to:
 - a. Describe the different forms of executive and alternative arrangements in a fair and balanced way, and
 - b. Ensure that local electors and other interested parties have an opportunity to respond to the consultation and express any preferences they may have.

It is therefore proposed to undertake an appropriate consultation exercise by placing information on the Council website, placing press advertisements and circulating information to every household as part of the annual canvas of electors, which is due to commence at the end of August.

The consultation period will last until the middle of September and it is then intended to bring a report back to the Corporate Policy and Management Board outlining firm proposals including the required constitutional amendments which will then go to Full Council for approval.

Recommendation

It is **RECOMMENDED** that a consultation process be undertaken to enable the Council to consider changing its decision making arrangements from alternative arrangements to executive arrangements.

Appendices
None

Background Papers
None

5.2 ITEM FOR DECISION
NORTHUMBERLAND HOUSING STRATEGY
Reporting Officer: Chris Brinton, Head of Housing

Purpose of Report

To endorse the Northumberland Housing Strategy and the mechanisms for carrying it forward.

Implications

Policy: This will provide the housing policy framework for the Tynedale Housing Strategy, the Tynedale Private Sector Renewal Policy, the Tynedale Homelessness Strategy and the Local Development Framework