

Executive Style Governance – Outcome of Consultation

1. PURPOSE AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Purpose of Report:	Members are requested to note the responses received to the consultation exercise on changing to Executive style of governance and to support that change for implementation from May 2015
Recommendations:	It is RECOMMENDED that: (1) Members formally resolve to move to Executive style of governance , being a Leader and Cabinet model , from May 2015; (2) Constitutional changes be prepared by officers for approval by Council to give effect to the change to Executive style of governance; (3) Within the Constitutional changes , Members agree that the Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee will be chaired by a Member of the Opposition; (4) A schedule of meetings for post May 2015 be submitted to the next meeting of Council based upon the change to Executive style of governance;
Lead Member:	Councillor I Monks – Leader of the Council
Wards:	None
Contact Officer:	Keith Mallett – Solicitor to the Council

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. Members will be aware that at the last Council meeting it was decided that a consultation exercise be undertaken with stakeholders regarding the proposal to move the governance of the Council from a Committee system to an Executive / Cabinet system.
- 2.2. Appended to today's report are the representations received from the consultation exercise. Both Ferndown Town Council and Wimborne Minster Town Council intend to consider what representations they wish to make on the proposal at their meetings in the week commencing 8th December and those representations will be reported verbally to the Council meeting .As part of the consultation exercise a press release has been issued and a website page on Dorsetforyou has been published to encourage any other representations on the governance proposal. No responses have been received from the public. The result of the consultation responses received show a mixed response to the proposal – some Councils in favour , some against and some offering mixed views / comments. The content of the responses often pick up some of the concerns regarding a move to Executive style of governance which Members themselves have previously raised and debated in meetings and seminars / workshops.

- 2.3. In addition to this report Members will be aware that a special meeting of the Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee has been scheduled to take place on the 10th December 2014 and the comments of Members from that meeting will be before Council for consideration.
- 2.4. During the consultation period , Members requested and have been provided with a further workshop on the issue of Executive style of governance vis a vis the existing Committee system. That workshop took place on the 26th November 2014 and the presentation material used for the workshop is appended to today's report as background papers , together with the outcome of questions debated by Members at the workshop. Your officers have also produced a further briefing paper on this matter , the details of which are appended to today's report.

3. IMPLICATIONS

Corporate Plan & Council Objectives

- 3.1. The Council aims to operate an efficient and effective governance style to meet future challenges where Members engage in decision making and policy development .

Legal

- 3.2. The Council currently operates under a Committee style of governance as provided for in the Local Government Act 1972. Movement to Executive arrangements will need to comply with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000 , the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and the Localism Act 2011.

Environmental

- 3.3. There are no environmental implications associated with this report.

Financial and Risk

- 3.4. There are no financial implications associated with consideration of the outcome of the consultation exercise.

Equalities

- 3.5. There are currently no equalities implications associated with this report.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1. The consultation exercise has demonstrated a range of responses to the proposal to change the style of governance , some in favour , some against and some non-committal. It is recommended that Members support the formal proposal to move to a Leader and Cabinet style of Executive governance from May 2015

Background Papers:

Appendix 1 – Appended to today's report are copies of the representations received from stakeholders together with material produced for and arising from the Member's workshop held on the 26 November 2014.