

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet

Date of Meeting:	2 nd September 2014
Report of:	Head of Governance and Democratic Services
Subject:	Notice of Motion- Review of Cabinet System
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor J P Findlow-Governance Portfolio

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 On 17th July 2014 Council resolved to refer a Notice of Motion, relating to “Review of Cabinet System” to Cabinet for decision. This report provides details of the Motion and makes recommendations upon how Cabinet should respond.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet give consideration to the Notice of Motion and decide how it wishes to respond.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 In order for a properly considered decision to be made.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 All wards would be affected by any change to the Cabinet system.

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 The subject matter of the Notice of Motion could potentially affect all local Ward Members.

6.0 Policy Implications

- 6.1 Any change to the Cabinet system would need to be approved by Council following a recommendation of the Constitution Committee.

7.0 Implications for Rural Communities

- 7.1 The matters referred to in this report could have implications for the Council’s rural communities.

8.0 Financial Implications

8.1 None directly applicable.

9.0 Legal Implications

9.1 Until such time as the details which underpin the Motion are clarified, it is not possible to identify the legal implications.

10.0 Risk Management

10.1 It is not possible to make a judgement as to the risks associated with the issues raised by the Notice of Motion unless and until more information is presented about its intentions.

11.0 Background and Options

11.1 On 17th July 2014, Council resolved to refer a Notice of Motion to Cabinet for determination.

11.2 The wording of the Motion, proposed by Councillor Murphy, and seconded by Councillor Brickhill, was as follows:

“That the Cabinet system be reviewed so that the next administration will have the option of a more democratic and inclusive alternative.”

11.3 From the text of the Motion it is not possible to understand what, in constitutional or governance terms, is being proposed. It will therefore be necessary for Cabinet to rely upon explanation from the proposer and/or seconder of the Motion, at the Cabinet meeting.

11.4 However a little more can be gleaned from comments made at Council by the proposer which, whilst very much summarised, centred around perceived imperfections in the Cabinet system, the emergence of ASDVs, and the perceived relationship between backbench Members and decision-making being “remote”.

12.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

Name: Brian Reed

Designation: Head of Governance and Democratic Services

Tel No: 01270 686670

Email: brian.reed@cheshireeast.gov.uk