

Key Decision Required:	No	In the Forward Plan:	No
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CABINET

11 DECEMBER 2015

REFERENCE FROM COUNCIL

A.1 PROPOSED CHANGE TO THE COUNCIL'S GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS
(Report prepared by Ian Ford)

PART 1 – KEY INFORMATION

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To report to Cabinet a motion submitted at the meeting of the Council held on 24 November 2015.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report sets out a motion submitted by Councillor Newton to the meeting of the Council held on 24 November 2015 relating to the Council's governance arrangements and which was referred to the Cabinet by the Chairman of the Council for consideration and report, in accordance with the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 11.4.

RECOMMENDATION

That, following the explanation of the motion by Councillor Newton, the Cabinet decides whether to recommend, or not, that the Council supports the motion.

PART 2 – SUPPORTING INFORMATION

BACKGROUND

At a meeting of the Council held on 24 November 2015, the following motion was moved by Councillor Newton and seconded by Councillor Broderick and, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.4, stood referred to the Cabinet for consideration and report:

“Following the 7th May elections and the change of proportionality of the absolute majority of one party to one of no overall control in its own right, this Council recognises:

- (1) that the Cabinet system of governance creates a democratic deficit in Local Government with key decisions being made by very few elected Members; and*
- (2) that a Committee system operated successfully at Tendring District Council prior to the 2001 introduction of the Leader/Cabinet arrangement;*
- (3) that other Councils have reverted to a Committee system which has ensured both democracy and accountability for all Councillors and therefore all electors.*

Therefore, this Council resolves to investigate changing this Council's form of governance to a Committee system as provided in Section 9B(1)(b) and in accordance with Sections 9K and 9KC of the Local Government Act 2000 as implemented by the Localism Act 2011. This Council requests Officers to bring a report back to a future meeting of Council to enable Council to make an informed decision and with a view to enabling new governance arrangements to be introduced from the 2017 Annual Council if agreed."

CURRENT POSITION

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.5 Councillor Newton has been invited to attend the meeting and explain the motion.

BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR THE DECISION

None.

APPENDICES

None.