

**115. MATTERS REFERRED TO THE CABINET BY THE COUNCIL – REFERENCE FROM COUNCIL – PROPOSED CHANGE TO THE COUNCIL’S GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS (Report A.1)**

The Cabinet recalled that, at the meeting of the Council held on 24 November 2015, the following motion had been moved by Councillor Newton and seconded by Councillor Broderick and, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.4, had stood referred to the Cabinet for consideration and report:

*“Following the 7<sup>th</sup> 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.”*

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.5, Councillor Newton attended the meeting and explained the motion.

The Leader of the Council informed Cabinet that the Council had been included within the Local Government Boundary Commission for England’s work programme for an electoral review for a decision on the number of Councillors required to run the Council and the ward boundaries. In essence, the review would look at what would constitute an efficient and effective local government for Tendring.

Having debated and discussed the motion at length, it was moved by Councillor Stock, seconded by Councillor Honeywood and:

**RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL** that Councillor Newton’s motion be amended to read as follows:

*“This Council resolves that the terms of reference of the Electoral Review Portfolio Holder Working Party, which will consider what would constitute an efficient and effective Local Government structure for Tendring, are extended to include consideration of all of the governance structures available when considering the reduction in Councillor numbers and reports back to Council upon conclusion of the review.”*