

NOTICES OF MOTION

Executive Summary

At its meeting on 20 May 2019, the Council referred the following Notice of Motion to the Executive.

Councillor A-M Barker

“Council notes that

The Localism Act 2011 gave local authorities power to choose the committee system over their current system of governance and that the modern committee system may offer advantages over the current Strong Leader and Executive model.

Council supports

The setting up of a task group to consider whether it would be beneficial to the Council to move to a committee system.”

Officer Comment

“Since the Localism Act 2011 was passed, there are three main models of governance that Councils can adopt. These are:-

- Leader and Cabinet (Executive). This system was introduced by the Local Government Act 2000 and is the governance system most Councils operate under (including Woking). Decisions are normally made by the Executive, which is appointed by the Leader.
- Mayoral system. This system operates with a directly elected executive Mayor, with decision-making powers.
- Committee system. Prior to the Localism Act, this system was only available to district councils with populations under 85,000. It is now available to all Councils. Most decisions are made in committees.

The Leader and Cabinet (Executive) system has served the Council well and could continue to do so. However, if Council is minded to support the Notice of Motion, Officers can report to the proposed task group on the respective advantages/disadvantages of the Leader and Cabinet (Executive) and Committee systems of governance.”

Background Papers: None.

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Date Published: 31 May 2019