

## **Agenda item 9H – GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

**RESOLVED: (5:0) (Three abstentions)**

**Having considered:**

- (a) the materials presented to the Governance Review Working Group; and**
- (b) the discussions held at the Working Group's meetings and subsequent Member sessions.**

**This Committee is of the view that Wirral's residents will now be better served by the introduction of a more accountable and transparent way of conducting the Council's business, policy formulation and decision-making.**

**It is the opinion of this Committee that the Council should now move to a Committee based structure to be designed, finalised and in place for the next Municipal Year.**

**The Committee notes that a range of costs have been put forward that apply to the revised arrangements. It is recognised however, that revisions to the existing Constitution have been under discussion for some time and that costs would have been incurred in that process.**

**The Committee considers that the operational costs of the new system of governance should be the subject of regular reports and that in practice these costs should be minimised.**

**The Committee:**

- (1) recommends to the Council: That**
  - (a) there be a move from Leader and Cabinet Executive arrangements to a Committee System form of governance arrangements to take effect from the Annual Council Meeting in 2020; and**
  - (b) the Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee accordingly prepare a draft revised Constitution to propose to the Council meeting of 16 March 2020.**
- (2) the Governance Review Working Group be tasked with:**
  - (a) considering possible structures for a Committee System of governance system of governance;**
  - (b) undertaking due consultation but giving preference to a streamlined style of arrangements; and**
  - (c) overseeing the drafting of revised standing orders, delegations and procedures by the Director of Governance and Assurance, with a view to producing an operational Constitution for the 2020/21 Municipal Year in draft form for consideration in February 2020.**

## Agenda item 9H – Labour group amendment

**Proposed by** Councillor Pat Hackett

**Seconded by** Councillor Anita Leech

Council supports the recommendations from standards committee subject to:

After paragraph 5, insert:

‘Rushing through a new governance structure is not in the best interests of Wirral residents, members of staff or democratic accountability. Council wishes to get this right for Wirral and we move that the proposed governance system be implemented in 2021.’

In recommendation 1 (a) deleting ‘2020’ and inserting ‘2021, as based on legal advice and the advice of the LGA, a Council should take 12-18 months to implement the proposed changes in governance.’

In recommendation 1 (b) deleting text after ‘propose to’ and replacing with ‘a Council meeting in early 2021.’

In recommendation 2(c) deleting 2020/2021 and replacing with ‘2021/2022’ and deleting ‘February 2020’ and replacing with ‘early 2021’.

## Agenda item 9H – substantive motion incorporating Labour group amendment

**RESOLVED: (5:0) (Three abstentions)**

Having considered:

- (a) the materials presented to the Governance Review Working Group; and
- (b) the discussions held at the Working Group's meetings and subsequent Member sessions.

This Committee is of the view that Wirral's residents will now be better served by the introduction of a more accountable and transparent way of conducting the Council's business, policy formulation and decision-making.

It is the opinion of this Committee that the Council should now move to a Committee based structure to be designed, finalised and in place for the next Municipal Year.

The Committee notes that a range of costs have been put forward that apply to the revised arrangements. It is recognised however, that revisions to the existing Constitution have been under discussion for some time and that costs would have been incurred in that process.

The Committee considers that the operational costs of the new system of governance should be the subject of regular reports and that in practice these costs should be minimised.

**Rushing through a new governance structure is not in the best interests of Wirral residents, members of staff or democratic accountability. Council wishes to get this right for Wirral and we move that the proposed governance system be implemented in 2021.**

The Committee:

- (1) recommends to the Council: That
  - (a) there be a move from Leader and Cabinet Executive arrangements to a Committee System form of governance arrangements to take effect from the Annual Council Meeting in 2021, as based on legal advice and the advice of the LGA, a Council should take 12-18 months to implement the proposed changes in governance; and
  - (b) the Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee accordingly prepare a draft revised Constitution to propose to a Council meeting in early 2021.
- (2) the Governance Review Working Group be tasked with:
  - (a) considering possible structures for a Committee System of governance system of governance;

- (b) undertaking due consultation but giving preference to a streamlined style of arrangements; and**
- (c) overseeing the drafting of revised standing orders, delegations and procedures by the Director of Governance and Assurance, with a view to producing an operational Constitution for the 2021/22 Municipal Year in draft form for consideration in February 2021.**