

FOR INFORMATION**REPORT TO CABINET**

Open		Would any decisions proposed :		
Any especially affected Wards	Operational	Be entirely within Cabinet's powers to decide	NO	
		Need to be recommendations to Council	YES	
		Is it a Key Decision	YES	
Lead Member: Cllr Long E-mail: clr.brian.long@west-norfolk.gov.uk		Other Cabinet Members consulted:		
		Other Members consulted:		
Lead Officer: Ray Harding E-mail: ray.harding@west-norfolk.gov.uk		Other Officers consulted:		
Financial Implications YES	Policy/Personnel Implications YES	Statutory Implications YES	Equal Impact Assessment NO	Risk Management Implications NO

Date of meeting: 18 June 2019

COUNCIL GOVERNANCE – ALTERNATIVE MODELS**Summary**

This report makes proposals to Council to set up a non proportional task group of six members (2 Con, 2 Ind and 2 Lab) to review and examine alternative governance models to the current Strong Leader and Cabinet model.

Recommendation

Cabinet is invited to recommend to Council that:

- 1) That a non proportional Council Task Group to consider Governance Models, consisting of 6 members (2 Con, 2 Ind, 2 Lab) be established.**
- 2) That a budget of up to £25,000 is established to provide officer support to the task group.**

Reason for Decision

To enable members to examine alternative governance models and assess their suitability for the Borough Council.

1 Background

Members will be aware that whilst the majority of councils utilise the Strong Leader and Cabinet governance model other alternative models are available including:

Directly Elected Mayor
Committee system

Cabinet/Committee hybrids

All have their own advantages and drawbacks in terms of accountability, visibility, speed of decision making, level and breadth of member involvement/engagement in decision making, transparency and scrutiny of decision making.

Interest amongst members in the most appropriate model for the Borough Council has arisen and in order to respond to this it is proposed to establish a member working group to examine the alternatives currently available and their suitability for the Borough Council.

2 Options Considered

3 Policy Implications

Should the Council ask to change its existing governance model this would represent a significant policy change.

4 Financial Implications

This work is likely to require a significant level of research and support as there is no spare capacity within the organisation it will be necessary to commission external support, through the East of England LGA. A budget of £25,000 should be sufficient to cover necessary costs.

5 Statutory Considerations

Emma please can you give some wording for this??

7 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

(Pre screening report template attached)

There are no equality implications arising directly from this report.

8 Risk Management Implications

There are no risk management issues arising from this report.

9 Declarations of Interest / Dispensations Granted

None

10 Background Papers