

Meeting	Audit & Governance Committee
Date	23 September 2015
Present	Councillors N Barnes (Chair), Dew (Vice-Chair), Fenton, Gunnell, Kramm, Lisle, and Cuthbertson (Substitute for Councillor Cullwick) and Mr Bateman and Mr Mendus
Apologies	Councillor Cullwick

Part B - Matters Referred to Council

33. Deputy Leader's Report to Council

Members considered a report which asked the committee to give further consideration to the introduction of a Deputy Leader's report to Council. At the previous meeting, Members had considered the principle of introducing such a report and Members were now asked to consider a specific proposal for consideration.

Differing views were put forward as to whether a Deputy Leader's report should be presented to Council. Whilst some Members commented that such an arrangement would not improve governance and may reduce the opportunity to hold the Leader to account, the majority of Members stated that they were reassured that the proposed new arrangement addressed the issues that had previously been raised regarding the time pressures at Council meetings. The proposal also recognised the way in which power was shared within the Executive and would improve transparency.

It was noted that the proposal to include a Deputy Leader's report had arisen because of the joint administration arrangement that was now in place, but the implementation of such a report would need to be reviewed in future if there were changes to governance arrangements.

Recommend: (a) That Council consider a proposal that:

- (i) The Council procedure rules include provision for a report from the Deputy Leader.
- (ii) The existing rules for Cabinet Members' reports be applied to the report of the Deputy Leader.
- (iii) The Deputy Leader's right to respond to the Leader's report be removed from the Constitution.
- (iv) The time for questions on the Leader's report be reduced from fifteen to ten minutes.

(b) That Council note the comments of the committee on the proposals.

- Reasons:
- (i) To allow Full Council to consider the introduction of a Deputy Leader's report.
 - (ii) To enable Council to have the benefit of the Committee's advice when debating the proposal.

Councillor N Barnes, Chair

[The meeting started at 5.30 pm and finished at 7.50 pm].