

NOTICE OF MOTION UNDER PART 4 RULE 1 PARAGRAPH 10

This Council notes:

- that Section 21 of and Schedule 2 to the Localism Act 2011 permits councils to cease to operate its existing form of governance (Leader and Cabinet form of executive arrangements) and to start to operate a committee system form of governance (i.e. a non-cabinet committee system), from their Annual General Meeting (AGM);
- that the resolution to start to operate a different form of governance must be made at a meeting in advance of Council AGM in order to be implemented from that AGM;
- that a committee system operated very successfully at Fenland District Council for many years prior to the introduction of the leader/cabinet arrangements legislated for by Tony Blair's Labour government;
- that committees are the most democratic form of decision making and enable all councillors to be involved and gain experience in many areas;
- that under the committee system, rules apply that require committees to reflect the proportionality of the Council thus ensuring representative decision making; and
- that other councils have reverted to a committee system which has ensured both democracy and accountability for all councillors and therefore all electors and have contained all costs within their existing budgets.

This Council believes that:

- due to the leader/cabinet system too many elected members of all parties have been insufficiently involved in the decision making process;
- due to the current Cabinet system ordinary councillors of all parties have been denied the right to a public vote on many important decision making processes, and that this is fundamentally undemocratic; and
- preparatory work needs to begin now to enable a smooth transition to a committee system in 2015 should members so choose.

This Council therefore urges the Council to change back to a committee system with effect from the date of the Annual Council Meeting in May 2015 and requests the Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer to submit a report to a cross-party membership working group of seven members (to be appointed at today's meeting) explaining, in detail, how the committee system could be re-introduced at Fenland District Council and that recommendations by the working group be made to Full Council on 6 November 2014.



5 July
2014