

AGENDA ITEM NO. 19

COUNCIL

Date 24 July 2014

Title **CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT – REMOVAL OF THE POST OF DEPUTY LEADER FROM THE COUNCIL CONSTITUTION**

1. PURPOSE/SUMMARY

This report provides for amendments to the Councils Constitution further to the Leader’s statement at the previous Council Meeting on Thursday 8 May 2014.

2. KEY ISSUES

- At the May Council meeting the Leader made a commitment as follows:

“At a time when the Council is facing unprecedented financial challenges, I am committed to making appropriate savings wherever I can. I am therefore proposing to delete the official role of Deputy Leader, and therefore saving the £6343 allowance that comes with this position.”

- This report therefore presents the required constitutional changes to give effect to the Leader’s proposal above.

3. RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. That the Council approves the amendment to the constitution.
2. That the Council authorises the Monitoring Officer to make such typographical amendments as are necessary to produce revised clean text copies of the Constitution.

Wards Affected	All
Forward Plan Reference No. (if applicable)	NA
Portfolio Holder(s)	Councillor Clark, Leader of the Council
Report Originator	Tom Lewis, Senior Solicitor and Deputy Monitoring Officer Tel: 01354 622469; e-mail tomlewis@fenland.gov.uk
Contact Officer(s)	Alan Pain, Corporate Director and Monitoring Officer Tom Lewis, Senior Solicitor and Deputy Monitoring Officer Tel: 01354 622469; e-mail: tomlewis@fenland.gov.uk
Background Paper(s)	Constitution

1. BACKGROUND/INTRODUCTION

The Leader in his statement to May's Council Meeting recognised that :

“At a time when the Council is facing unprecedented financial challenges, I am committed to making appropriate savings wherever I can. I am therefore proposing to delete the official role of Deputy Leader, and therefore saving the £6343 allowance that comes with this position.”

2. CONSIDERATIONS

The post of Deputy Leader is currently vacant and therefore the amendments as required will be made as soon as is practicable after July's Council Meeting and to accord with this the Council's Constitution will be amended accordingly as set out under Appendix 1.

3. EFFECT ON CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

Whilst not directly impacting on the corporate objectives, the amendments will enable the council to continue to operate in a compliant and effective way.

4. COMMUNITY IMPACT

There is little community impact as a result of these amendments save that they provide a saving and send out the message that the Council is committed to making all possible savings in line with its statutory obligations .

5. CONCLUSIONS

The amendments contained in this report reflect the deletion of the post of Deputy Leader.

APPENDIX 1:

The Constitution will be amended to instead read (deleted text shown in red):

At Part 2 Article 7

4. ~~DEPUTY LEADER AND OTHER~~ CABINET MEMBERS

~~4.3—The Leader will nominate one member of the Cabinet as his/her deputy to assume the full powers of the Leader in any circumstances in which the Leader is unable to act. The Deputy Leader will also act as Leader if the post of Leader is vacant.~~

~~4.5—The Deputy Leader will hold office until the end of the Leader's term of office, unless removed by the Leader or any of the reasons set out in 4.1 (a) or (b) above apply.~~

At Part 4, 1.1 (i)(b)

1.1 Timing and Business

(b) Be notified by the Leader of the Council of their Cabinet, to include the names, and portfolios ~~and who has been appointed the Deputy Leader.~~

At Part 6 **Member Allowance Scheme**

1.2 In this Scheme

~~(c)—"Deputy Leader of the Council" means the councillor appointed by the Leader to fill that office.~~

At Part 6 Schedule of Allowances

1. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

(ii) ~~Deputy Leader of the Council~~ ~~£6343 p.a~~
Cabinet Member with more Portfolio responsibilities (total of 5) including the Leader ~~and Deputy Leader.~~