

## **AGENDA ITEM NO. 13**

### **MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR GAVIN BOOTH REGARDING GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS**

**COUNCIL- 21 May 2015**

#### **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 committees are the most democratic form of decision making and enable all councillors to be involved;
- 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.

This Council believes that:

- due to the leader/cabinet system too many elected members have been insufficiently involved in the decision making process and denied the right to a public vote on many important decisions;
- Preparatory work needs to begin now to enable a smooth transition to a committee system in 2016 should members so choose.

I therefore move that the Council investigates the change back to a committee system with effect from the AGM on 5 May 2016 and requests the Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer to submit a report to a cross-party membership working group of 7 members (to be appointed at today's meeting) explaining, in detail, how the committee system could be re-introduced at Fenland District Council. Recommendations to be presented to Full Council as soon as practicable, but not later than Full Council on 17 September 2015, in order to allow sufficient lead in time should Council decide to adopt the committee system.

**SIGNED Cllr Gavin Booth**

**DATE 13.5.15**