

NEW POLITICAL MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES

**** Note:**

This document is not, and must not be read as, the official position of any of the Council's political groups. It represents only the views expressed by representatives at the Democratic Structures Working Group Meeting on 20 October 1999. It was reported at that meeting that the Labour Group had considered structure suggestions, while the Liberal Democrat Group had concentrated on principles. The Conservative Group had not considered the matter and, where views are recorded, they are the personal views of Councillor Ellis.

Issue	Labour	Liberal Democrat	Conservative
Model	Leader with Cabinet	Leader with Cabinet	Leader with Cabinet
Mayor	Ceremonial	(No position yet)	Ceremonial
Council	Meets infrequently Business: statutory minimum Chair: Ceremonial Mayor	Has maximum power possible Needs to ensure that Executive is accountable Frequent meetings	
Election of Leader	By Council	By Council	
Election of Cabinet	(No position yet)	By Council	
Cabinet	7-10 Members (based on 65 Councillors by 2006) Leads policy and budget development and implements operational matters Meets weekly Single party if there is a majority group (No position on public access yet) Need position for Executive in 'hung' Council	Has minimum power possible Single party if there is a majority group Meets in public Papers available to public in advance Public has access (questions, deputations, etc) Need position for Executive in 'hung' Council	Public Information should follow the meetings Need position for Executive in 'hung' Council

Issue	Labour	Liberal Democrat	Conservative
Business Management	Business Management Group to manage the allocation of business, including appointments and constitutional matters Meets probably weekly Politically balanced Chaired by Assembly Chair Membership includes Whips, Chairs of Scrutiny Panels and Leader or representative		
Deputies	Mix of functional and cross-cutting portfolios		
Assembly (or Committee of the Council or Council in Committee)	Main debating chamber Assembly Chair will not be an Executive Member Responsible for all strategic decisions, including budget Receives reports from Leader and Executive Members		
Scrutiny	Range of Panels, both standing and ad hoc Monitors all services Chairs proportional to Council membership 7 Members per panel Oversee scrutiny role of Best Value, but leadership is with Executive Also Standing Select Committees reviewing cross-cutting policy areas (eg Treasury) reporting to Executive or Assembly	Needs real 'teeth'	Strong counter-balance to Executive

Issue	Labour	Liberal Democrat	Conservative
Scrutiny (cont.)	Chairs proportional to Council membership 7 Members per Committee No whipping Pre-and post-scrutiny Complaints and casework contributes to scrutiny Service user involvement Power to call-in any decision (except Urgent) Urgent decisions cannot be called in	No whipping Pre-and post-scrutiny Service user involvement Power to call-in any decision Urgent decisions can be scrutinised after the event	
Quasi-judicial role	Standing committees - Development Control - Licensing - Standards - Appeals Programme of meetings Chaired by minority group (except Standards which is independently chaired)		
Partnerships	To continue, eg - Lifelong Learning - Community Safety - Economic - Health Forum Led by Executive Member Programme of meetings		

Issue	Labour	Liberal Democrat	Conservative
Officers		Clear separation of Executive and Scrutiny support	
Policy Formulation		Comes from Cabinet, Scrutiny, 'Think Tanks' etc	
Localities	Lib Dem proposal attractive	Joint meetings of Ward Councillors and representatives of individual Parishes, with devolved budgets etc, to decide upon local priorities - 1 group per parish to avoid artificial groupings	Parishes have different capabilities and interest to take on additional responsibilities
Non-executive Members	Expertise gained through Committee system needs to be retained	Not just glorified 'caseworkers' Relationship of majority group Members with the Executive needs addressing Should have access to the Executive meetings for questions, etc	
Groups	No whipping or scrutiny bodies Majority Group needs to accept collective responsibility with Executive	No whipping Need to address role	
Public	Needs a mechanism Services users' input to Scrutiny Must do better than now (No position on access to Executive)	Services users' input to Scrutiny Access to Executive	