

## Governance Motion

### Motion submitted by Cllr Moss

This Council resolves to establish an Officers and Members Working Group to review the operational model of the Council. The Working Group shall review the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny's 'Rethinking Council Governance for the 20s' paper and consider how to:

- maximise councillor involvement in decision making
- build upon the experience of the Recovery Groups to promote consensual working
- offer continued financial acumen
- provide a strong role for scrutiny and governance
- ensure speed of decision making
- provide open and accountable democracy
- make the most of opportunities to work effectively with residents and local partners

The Working Group shall make initial recommendations for enhancements to the role of existing Committees and Panels to be introduced at the Council's 2021 Annual Meeting.

Recognising that a change from a 'Leader and Cabinet' model of governance to a formal Committee System may be complex, resource-intensive and undesirable given our circumstances, the Working Group will also make recommendations to consult upon more far-reaching changes that could be introduced to deliver a 'best of both worlds' 'Hybrid' model in the following year(s).

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### Commentary

This motion invites Council to consider the most effective and **inclusive** way for Chichester District Council to operate.

The aim is to develop a more consensual operational model that encourages all Council members to be involved in the decision-making process and providing more participation by residents in Council processes.

There are multiple ways in which the Council can operate including a hybrid model that retains the Leader and Cabinet model and therefore **require** minimal **formal** governance changes.

The two main systems of governance **available** under current legislation are:

- Executive arrangements – Including our own leader and cabinet
- Committee system – reintroduced as part of the Localism Act of 2011

The hybrid model operates under the Executive model, providing for executive ratification but includes **some of the flexibility and inclusiveness** of a committee system.

Under a hybrid model the Council can operate:

- Committees which are legally Scrutiny Committees acting as decision making committees  
Or
- Politically balanced Cabinet Advisory Committees which in effect operate as sub-committee of Cabinet

The proposal is for this council to review current governance and provide a recommendation for the Council to move forward without an initial major change to governance arrangements but providing increased decision making by all Council members

More information on options are available at:

<https://www.cfgs.org.uk/?publication=rethinking-governance-for-the-20s>

<https://www.cfgs.org.uk/?publication=rethinking-governance-for-the-20s-appendix>