



Consultation on New Executive Arrangements

Have your say!

What's this all about? A change in the law means we must change the way the council is run. The council has two options. Both options are different from the current system.

Council leader and cabinet or directly elected mayor and cabinet?

How is the council run now? At present, local voters elect councillors to represent them on Shepway District Council. Elections run on a four-year cycle. Each year the councillors elect a leader and he/she chooses up to nine other councillors to sit on the cabinet with him or her. The cabinet makes the majority of the decisions.

What are the two options?

Council leader and cabinet

This option is similar to how the Council is run now. However, instead of the leader of the council being elected annually he / she will be elected for four years until the next district election.

The council leader will be able to appoint up to nine other councillors including a deputy leader. Together they will form the cabinet.

The council as part of this consultation is asking for views on whether the whole council should be able to remove the council leader from office during his / her term. If there is no provision for this the leader could not be removed from office. A civic chairman would continue to be appointed annually to carry out ceremonial and other duties.

OR

Directly elected mayor and cabinet

With this option there would be a specific election to elect an individual as mayor. The mayor will then remain in office for four years.

The directly elected mayor will be able to appoint up to nine councillors, including a deputy mayor. Together they will form the cabinet. The whole council would not be able to remove a directly elected mayor from office.

What are the main differences?

The directly elected mayor would be elected by Shepway residents as a whole rather than by electors in one area (or ward).

The council cannot remove a directly elected mayor from office. The council can decide to introduce a rule allowing for the leader of the council to be removed.

The council can decide to change the directed elected mayor's proposals for the council's budget and important policies but only if at least two thirds of the council agree. A simple majority can change a leader's proposals.

Are there any cost implications?

A directed elected mayor will require a separate election (though held at the same time as the district elections). The directly mayor's allowance will be greater than the leader's allowance

What do you think?

We would like to know what you think about the two options for the executive arrangements.

You may send your views by e-mail to: peter.wignall@shepway.gov.uk

You can also write to: Peter Wignall at the address below.

The closing date for feedback is: 12 noon on 6 August 2010.

What happens next?

The council will take into account all the feedback it has received when drawing up its proposals. Your views are an important part of this process. The council must consider to what extent the proposals would be likely to assist in securing continuous improvement in the way the council goes about its business having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

The draft proposals will be considered by the council's Constitutional Advisory Committee in August before final approval by the council on 29 September 2010. The final proposals will be published in the local press and on our website so that local residents and other interested parties are made aware of the outcome of this consultation process. The new arrangements will come into force following the next district elections in 2011.

Date: 5 July 2010

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