
Review of Leader's Report

To: **Constitutional Review Working Party – 11 November 2010**

Main Portfolio Area: **Democratic Services**

By: **Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Ward: **N/A**

Summary: **Following discussion at the last meeting of Council this report sets out evidence of current practice relating to Leader's reports and possible ways of amending the item..**

For Decision

1.0 Introduction and Background

1.1 Following discussion at the last meeting of Council it was agreed that an alternative way of conducting the Leader's report at Council meetings be researched. It was reported that Kent County Council had a significantly different way of conducting the Leader's report item on their Council agenda and that consideration of whether to change to their method should be put to the Constitutional Review Working Party.

2.0 The Current Situation

2.1 Currently the Council's constitution allows for a Leader's report; however it is not prescriptive in how that report is structured or dealt with or how it is responded to. Thanet District Council's rules on Leader's reports are included in Annex 1.

2.2 Attached at Annex 2 is a summary of Dover District Council, Shepway District Council and Kent County Council's constitutions covering their rules on Leader's reports. Of Thanet's near neighbours Canterbury City Council does have an announcements item at their Council meetings, but the Leader of the Opposition has no right of reply.

2.3 All three Councils schemes outlined in Annex 2 do not require the Leader to provide a written report to support his speech.

2.4 It was also suggested after the same discussions to offer a wider review on "Modern Council", which would cover a number of different options on the way that Council meetings were run.

3.0 Options

3.1 The Constitutional Review Working Party can recommend to Standards Committee that the rules for the Leader's report are altered as per those alternative schemes attached, or remain as they are or amended in another way.

3.2 That the Constitutional Review Working Party considers asking for a wider review of "Modern Council".

4.0 Corporate Implications

4.1 Financial

4.1.1 There are no financial implications.

4.2 Legal

4.2.1 If changes are made to the existing Leader's report arrangements, the Council's constitution will need to be amended.

4.3 Corporate

4.3.1 Amendments to the Council's constitution such as the Leader's report fit with the Modern Council theme of the Corporate Plan.

4.4 Equity and Equalities

4.4.1 None Apparent

5.0 Recommendation

5.1 The working party's instructions are requested.

6.0 Decision Making Process

6.1 If the Constitutional Review Working Party recommends any changes to the Leader's Report then they would be recommended to the Standards Committee.

Meeting: Constitutional Review Working Party	Date: 11 November 2010
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Contact Officer:	Nick Hughes, Committee Services Manager
Reporting to:	Glenn Back, Democratic and Scrutiny Manager

Annex List

Annex 1	Thanet District Council's rules on the Leader's report
Annex 2	Summary of Dover District Council, Kent County Council and Shepway District Council's Leader's report rules.

Background Papers

Title	Details of where to access copy
<i>None</i>	

Corporate Consultation Undertaken

Finance	<i>N/A</i>
Legal	<i>Harvey Patterson, Head of Legal & Democratic Services</i>