

HAMBLETON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report To: Cabinet
11 June 2013

Subject: NEW ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS – CHANGES TO COUNCIL STRUCTURES

**All Wards
Leader of the Council: Councillor M S Robson**

1.0 PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND:

1.1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England has now confirmed its recommendation that the number of Councillors on Hambleton District Council be reduced to 28 with effect from 2015. Although this is still subject to a simple parliamentary procedure which will not be completed until November 2013, the change is now almost certain to take place in 2015. This report considers how the Council should determine what, if any, alterations to Committee structures should take place as a result of the reduction in the number of Members.

2.0 DEVELOPING STRUCTURES:

2.1 Part of the Council's submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission suggested that a reduction in the number of Councillors would be facilitated by changes in the organisational structure of the Council. It envisaged a reduction and reorganisation of the Committee structure. However, no firm decisions have been made in this area and the Council now needs to consider what that structure will look like going forward.

2.2 It is recommended that a Working Group of Members be formed to consider proposals to be put forward to Council for approval. It may be appropriate to introduce any new structures with effect from May 2014 so that any practical issues can be dealt with prior to the reduction in Councillor numbers in May 2015.

2.3 If a Working Group is to be established then the number should be set and the Political Groups be asked to nominate their representatives on the Group.

2.4 It is recommended that the Working Group comprise 10 Members, with 8 Members from the Conservative Group, 1 Member from the Liberal Democrat Group and 1 Member from the Independent Group.

2.5 The terms of reference of the Working Group would be to make recommendations to Council on the Committee structures and related organisational matters required as a result of the reduction of Council Members to 28.

3.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

3.1 Any changes to Committee structures will have to be approved by full Council in due course.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

4.1 Any changes to Member numbers and Committee structures will affect the cost of operating the democratic process. It is estimated that the reduction to 28 Members will make an annual saving of £110,000. A reduction in Committees may reduce car allowance payments for Members. This has already been budgeted for.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS:

5.1 It is recommended that a New Structures Working Group be established comprising 10 Members as set out in paragraphs 2.4 and 2.5 and that the Political Groups be asked to make their nominations.

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Background papers: None

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