

## SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on  
Thursday, 23 April 2009 at 5.04 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor JH Stewart – Chairman  
Councillor CR Nightingale – Vice-Chairman

Councillors: Mrs FAR Amrani, Dr DR Bard, RE Barrett, Mrs VM Barrett, JD Batchelor, AN Berent, NCF Bolitho, FWM Burkitt, TD Bygott, NN Cathcart, JP Chatfield, Mrs PS Corney, Dr DR de Lacey, Miss JA Dipple, SM Edwards, Mrs SM Ellington, Mrs VG Ford, Mrs JM Guest, R Hall, Dr SA Harangozo, Mrs SA Hatton, Mrs EM Heazell, MP Howell, SGM Kindersley, MB Loynes, RMA Manning, RB Martlew, RM Matthews, DH Morgan, Mrs LA Morgan, Mrs CAED Murfitt, AG Orgee, Mrs DP Roberts, Mrs BZD Smith, Mrs HM Smith, RT Summerfield, PW Topping, Dr SEK van de Ven, Mrs BE Waters, JF Williams, TJ Wotherspoon and NIC Wright

Officers:	Catriona Dunnett	Principal Solicitor
	Steve Hampson	Executive Director
	Greg Harlock	Chief Executive
	Richard May	Democratic Services Manager

An apology for absence was received from Councillor D Bird.

### 1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

### 2. Move to new Executive Arrangements (Council, 17 July 2008 and Constitution Review Working Party, 7 April 2009)

Council considered a report noting the outcome of the consultation on a move to new executive arrangements and setting out recommendations to adopt revised arrangements and the corresponding Constitutional changes required for them to take effect.

During debate on this matter, some Members expressed concern that the concentration of too much power in one individual was damaging for democracy and meant the Council would vest similar levels of power in an indirectly-elected Leader as would be held by a directly-elected Mayor. Other Members considered the changes to be necessary to confirm the 'strong Leader' model of governance under which the Leader would hold full executive power for up to four years, yet remained directly accountable to the Council, which retained power to remove him/her from office by simple majority, and indirectly accountable to the electorate, which could vote for a change in the political control of the Council.

Council **RESOLVED**, with 26 Members voting in favour, 15 against and two abstentions:

- (a) That the Leader and Cabinet form of governance proposed in paragraph 5 of the report and required under Sections 11 and 14 of the Local Government Act 2000 as amended, be implemented with effect from the commencement of the Annual Council Meeting on 21 May 2009;
- (b) That the corresponding changes to the Constitution set out in the recommendations of the Constitution Review Working Party set out at

paragraph 9 and Appendices A-E of the report be agreed.

Councillor MP Howell requested to be recorded as voting in support of the proposal.

Councillor Mrs DP Roberts requested to be recorded as voting against the proposal.

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**The Meeting ended at 5.26 p.m.**

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