

BRECKLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of: Executive Director Strategy & Governance

To: Cabinet – 28 November 2017

(Author: Helen McAleer – PA to the Leader of the Council)

Purpose: References from the meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Commission meeting held on 2 November 2017.

Subject: AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION (CABINET AGENDA ITEM 12)

- 1.1 The Executive Manager for Governance explained the reasons that the changes were being made and answered questions about the amendments.
- 1.2 Councillor Oliver was not convinced of the need for an amendment to the Call-in procedure but other Members accepted the Executive Manager's explanation that the change would provide a framework for non-key decisions and make the process more open and transparent.

Resolved to Recommend to Cabinet that:

- 1) The amendments detailed in Appendices A to F of the report be approved and the Constitution be amended accordingly; and
- 2) Membership of the Governance and Audit Committee at Para 3 Section D1 (Delegations to Committees), which currently refers to "6 members and 2 substitutes politically balanced" be amended to read 26 non-Cabinet members and 2 substitutes politically balanced".

Subject: INVESTMENT & COMMERCIALISATION

- 2.1 The Executive Director Commercialisation gave a short presentation. Members were advised that balances were reducing and it was necessary to be more careful with the residual funds.
- 2.2 In the presentation it was noted that the Council's biggest source of income was from Business Rates. It was further noted that the Council was entitled to keep 100% of Business Rates from green energy developments in the District. However, the Executive Director warned against placing too much reliance on Business Rates as the Government could change the rules in future.
- 2.3 Councillor Oliver suggested that the Council should form a land formation company; buy land (or use land it already owned) for any renewable project and employ a company with the relevant specialism to act as a conduit for development. Once planning permission had been gained the development could be built and the land could be sold or leased. Such a move would expedite green investment in the District and provide an on-going stream of income from Business Rates and rent.

Resolved to Recommend to Cabinet that: The Council should consider options to maximise the 100% allowance on renewables in the District.

Lead Contact Officer

Name and Post:

Helen McAleer

Telephone Number:

01362 656214

Email:

helen.mcaleer@breckland.gov.uk

Key Decision:

No

Exempt Decision:

No