

**NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S REPORT TO CABINET**

**Date: 22 July 2015**

**Report Title:** Cabinet Panels

**Submitted by:** Chief Executive

**Portfolio:** Environment and Recycling; Finance, IT and Customer; Leisure, Culture and Localism; Town Centres, Business and Assets; Policy, People and Partnerships

**Wards affected:** All

**Purpose of the Report**

To review the composition of the current Cabinet Panels with the aim of achieving consistency (and thereby enhance effectiveness).

**Recommendations**

- (i) That the number of Members serving on each of the following Cabinet Panels be confirmed to be seven:
- Recycling and Waste
  - Concurrent funding
  - Locality Action Partnerships
  - Revenue Investment Fund
  - Capital Investment Programme
  - Community Centres
- (ii) That the Community Centres Cabinet Panel be chaired by the Portfolio Holder for Policy, People and Partnerships.

**Reasons**

Currently some Cabinet Panels have five members and others seven. It is considered that the effectiveness of the Cabinet Panels would be enhanced by increasing the number of Members able to participate; it is recommended that the number on each be set at seven.

**1. Background**

1.1 This section of the report confirms the current arrangement for Cabinet Panels.

**Existing Cabinet Panels**

Cabinet Panels may be established by the Cabinet under the provisions contained in Section 4 of Appendix 8 of the Constitution. Members are reminded that Cabinet Panels are politically proportionate and are chaired by the relevant Portfolio Holder. Cabinet Panels report to the Cabinet and may refer matters to the relevant scrutiny committee for comment. Panels are time-limited concluding when they report to Cabinet unless their brief is extended by the Cabinet.

The following Cabinet Panels have been formed:

#### Recycling and Waste

This Panel was established in October 2012 and has met regularly since that time. The role of the Panel is to advise on the policy framework for the council's new recycling and waste service. The Panel is chaired by the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Recycling.

#### Concurrent funding

This Panel was established in March 2015 and has met once. This Panel has a "task and complete" remit to review the concurrent funding for Town and Parish Councils. The Panel is chaired by the Portfolio Holder for Finance, IT and Customer.

#### Locality Action Partnerships

This Panel was established in March 2015 but has not met as yet. The remit of this Panel is to promote the further development of the Locality Action Partnerships and to ensure that these are meeting their objectives and potential. The Panel is chaired by Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Culture and Localism.

#### Revenue Investment Fund

This Panel was established in July 2013 and it makes recommendations on expenditure from the Revenue Investment Fund. The Panel is chaired by the Portfolio Holder for Finance, IT and Customer

#### Capital Investment Programme

This Panel was established in March 2015 but has not met as yet. The Panel has a remit to review the council's capital investment programme and to make recommendations for the future programme of capital expenditure taking account of the need for prioritising expenditure and clarification / monitoring of the resources to meet these requirements (most notably from asset disposals). The Panel will consider capital programme bids as set out in the Newcastle Investment Programme. The Panel is chaired by the Portfolio Holder for Town Centres, Business and Assets.

#### Community Centre Review Cabinet Panel

The Panel was established with delegated powers to implement the outcome of the Community Centres Review in December 2014 and has met on numerous occasions since. The remit of the Panel is to continue discussions with community centres to achieve in the first instance an internal repairing lease and ultimately towards full repairing leases as appropriate, to support community activities moving to alternative venues where management committees are not in place and where there are business activities in community centres that these are formalised on a commercial basis. The Panel is currently chaired by the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources but it is recommended that this be changed to the Portfolio Holder for Policy, People and Partnerships.

2. **Outcomes linked to sustainable community strategy and corporate priorities**
  - 2.1 The work of the Panels will support the delivery of all of the council's priorities and is consistent with the objectives of the sustainable communities strategy.
3. **Legal and Statutory Implications**
  - 3.1 The Council's Constitution contains provision regarding the arrangements for the establishment of Cabinet Panels.
4. **Financial and Resource Implications**
  - 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the report; the officer time involved in supporting the work of the Cabinet Panels will be prioritised within individual work programmes.
5. **Major risks**
  - 5.1 There are no risks in progressing the recommendation which would need to be recorded in the Council's risk management system. Indeed it could be argued that the operation of these Panels should assist delivery of key activities by providing additional focus and capacity (i.e. help to mitigate project delivery risks).

#### **Earlier Cabinet resolutions**

- 17 October 2012 – Review of Integrated Recycling and Waste Strategy (minute 28b)
- 13 July 2013 – Revenue investment and Budget Support Cabinet Panel (minute 10)
- 25 March 2015 – Establishment of a Cabinet Panel – Capital (minute 5)
- 25 March 2015 – Establishment of a Cabinet Panel – Concurrent Funding (minute 6)
- 25 March 2015 – Locality Action Partnerships (LAPS) – Further Development (minute 13d)

#### **Background papers**

None