

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

COUNCIL – 15 DECEMBER 2004

REPORT BY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

11. AMENDMENT TO THE SIZE OF THE EXECUTIVE

WARD(S) AFFECTED : None specifically

RECOMMENDATION - that (A) the number of Executive Members to be appointed to the Executive be increased from 5 to 7, plus the Leader and the Deputy Leader, for the remainder of 2004/05; and

(B) the following Special Responsibility Allowances be approved:

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 This report proposes an amendment to the size of the Executive.

2.0 Contribution to the Council's Corporate Objectives

2.1 The proposal will contribute generally to all of the Council's corporate priorities.

3.0 Report

3.1 Members will recall that Council, at its Annual meeting held on 12 May 2004, agreed the size of the Executive of 5 Executive Members plus the Leader and Deputy Leader.

3.2 Members will also recall that the Leader of the Council gave notice of his intention to seek to increase the size of the Executive after six months. This was due to the anticipated resignations of 2 existing Executive Members (Councillors H G S Banks and N C Poulton) at the end of 2004/05. The Leader had identified a need to provide a suitable lead-in time for the incoming Executive Members to assume the responsibilities of the outgoing Executive Members.

3.3 It is proposed that the 2 'shadow' Executive Members will not have direct portfolio responsibilities, but will 'shadow' the existing Executive Members. However, the Leader will be issuing the new portfolio responsibilities from May 2005 for the year 2005/06.

3.4 Under the Members' Allowances Scheme, an appointment to the Executive carries a Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA). Members' Allowances are determined by Council in light of recommendations by the independent Remuneration Panel. The proposals to appoint these 'shadow' Executive Members for the remainder of 2004/05 has been referred to the Panel. The Panel's report is attached at Appendix 'A11' (pages 134 - 137).

4.0 Consultation

4.1 Consultation has taken place with the Leader and Executive Directors.

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 It is Council's responsibility to determine the size of the Executive. The Local Government Act 2000 specifies that an Executive may comprise a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 10 Members. Once the size of the Executive is determined, it is for the Leader to appoint Members and determine their portfolio responsibilities.

6.0 Financial Implications

6.1 The appointment of 'shadow' Executive Members will result in an increase of Members' Allowances payable of around £4,000 in the current year, which can be funded from the existing budget.

7.0 Human Resource Implications

8.1 There are no implications.

8.0 Risk Management Implications

9.1 None.

Background Papers

The Constitution, relevant Regulations and Guidance.

Minutes of Council's Annual meeting held on 12 May 2004

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