

Motions Submitted to Council

In accordance with Chapter 2, Part 2 (Rule 15) of the Council's Constitution

Motion 3

Submitted by Councillor J Kent

Council welcomes the release of the Best Value Inspection report, endorses its recommendations, and resolves to move to all out elections from May 2024.

Monitoring Officer Comments:

The Best Value inspection report recommends that the Council change its scheme of elections, from electing its members in thirds, to "all-out" elections, where all members are elected at the same time. The report recommends that if the Council does not make this change by 31 July, that the Secretary of State should consider making an Order under Section 86 of the Local Government Act 2000 to secure this.

The Secretary of State has concluded that he wishes to seek representations on using his powers under Section 86 of the 2000 Act, to bring about a move to whole council elections from May 2025. The Secretary of State has indicated that the May 2024 elections of one third of members will go ahead as planned, to ensure residents have the opportunity to have their say.

Further the Secretary of State has indicated that it is important that the Council can express its view on this proposal before a final decision is made. The Secretary of State has written to the Leader of the Council and Commissioners to notify them of his proposals, and representations should be received, from the Council or any other interested party by 29 June.

Section 151 Officer Comments:

The motion has no direct financial implications as it alludes to a Council process. The Council has developed and is implementing an improvement and recovery plan which addresses most of the findings of the BVI report. This will continue to evolve in light of the findings of the report and will extend the wide-ranging actions which are already agreed with Commissioners and are progressing to ensure the Council addresses all the concerns that have been highlighted to date. There are specific financial implications attached to the delivery of the improvement and recovery plan which will be considered by members alongside wider decisions that enable the improvements required to be delivered.

The move to all out elections does carry specific financial implications which will be assessed in due course. It is expected the cost will be managed from within the existing funding available that supports the current election cycle.

Is the above motion within the remit of Council to approve?

Yes