



SOUTH HOLLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

NEW EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS

CONSULTATION WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTORS AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES

A Leader or a Mayor?

Introduction

Before December 2010 South Holland District Council must decide whether to adopt a variation of the existing Council Leader and Cabinet Executive or to have an elected Mayor and Cabinet Executive.

How does it work now?

Below is a quick overview of how we do things now:-

- South Holland District Council currently has a Leader of the Council and a Chairman of the Council, who are both elected councillors
- There are 18 wards within the District. Due to the number of electors in a ward some of these have more than one councillor to represent them. There are 37 councillors.
- The Council appoints the Leader from the 37 councillors.
- Once appointed the Leader appoints the Cabinet from the remaining 36 councillors. Currently there are nine Cabinet members as well as the Leader with the following portfolios:-
 - Leader, Strategic House, Community Leadership and Pathfinder
 - Deputy Leader, Rural Strategy
 - Deputy Leader, Financial Strategy, Value for Money, Asset Strategy and Efficiency
 - Economic Development and Waste
 - Community Cohesion, Community Engagement, Crime & Disorder and Voluntary Sector
 - Health Improvement, Housing Landlord, Homelessness and Supported Housing
 - Local Plan/Local Development Framework, Climate Change and Flood Risk and Mitigation
 - Human Resources, Performance, IT, Risk and Procurement
 - Customer Care, Service Standards, Web Site and Member Development
 - Enforcement and Street Scene

- The Cabinet will carry out the authority's functions which are not the responsibility of any other part of the authority. This will include but is not limited to:
 - Responsibility for the draft budget, subject to Council approval.
 - Responsibility for all plans and strategies subject to Council approval where these form part of the Budget and Policy Framework.
 - Residual planning functions such as supplementary Planning Guidance and Conservation Areas.
 - All housing functions with the exception of large scale voluntary transfer.
- There are separate committees for planning and licensing matters
- There are two overview and scrutiny committees which examine the Council's policy and performance and make recommendations and reports, usually to the Cabinet.
- The Standards Committee advises the Council on standards of conduct and deals with allegations made against councillors that they have failed to comply with these standards.
- The Governance & Audit Committee advises the Council on governance and audit issues.
- The Chairman of the Council chairs meetings of the Council and carries out ceremonial roles for the District.

Do you want a Leader or an Elected Mayor?

Under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 South Holland District Council must review the way that it is governed by 31 December 2010, which is before the next local election to be held in May 2011.

As a resident of South Holland, or interested party, you are invited to have your say in the way that the Council is run. This consultation allows you to comment on whether the Council should be led in a similar way as it is now with a Leader and a Cabinet executive, although with a slightly different approach, which we are calling Option A, or an elected Mayor and a Cabinet which we are calling Option B.

Set out below are key points about each option to help you decide and respond to this consultation.

So that your comments can be included in this consultation, please complete the "Your Comments are Important" section before 30 April 2010.

Which option do you think South Holland District Council should choose?

Option A: The "new-style" Leader and Cabinet Executive

- This option is closest to the way that we do things now. However, the "new-style" Leader would be strengthened.
- The Leader would be elected by the Council from one of the 37 elected councillors.

- The Leader would have a fixed term of four years, but could be removed by the Council earlier if this is included within the executive arrangements.
- The Leader would appoint a Cabinet of at least two and up to nine Councillors. The number is decided by the Leader.
- The Leader would be responsible for appointing a Deputy Leader from within those appointed to the Cabinet. The Leader may remove the Deputy from office.
- The Leader could either decide to carry out the Council's executive functions or delegate executive functions to the Cabinet, a committee of the Cabinet, individual members of the Cabinet, or Council officers.
- The Cabinet would continue to recommend the budget and major policies to the Council, but the full Council could change this by a simple majority.

Option B: The Elected Mayor and Cabinet Executive

- The Mayor would be elected by local electors in a separate election and would be in addition to the 37 elected councillors.
- The Mayor would hold office for four years and could not be removed by the Council
- The Mayor would appoint a Cabinet of at least two and up to nine from the 37 elected councillors.
- The Mayor would appoint the Deputy Mayor from within those councillors appointed to the Cabinet. The Mayor could remove the Deputy from office.
- The Mayor could either decide to carry out the Council's executive functions or delegate executive functions to the Cabinet, a committee of the Cabinet, individual members of the cabinet, or Council officers.
- The Cabinet would recommend the budget and major policies to the Council, but the full Council could only change this by a two-thirds majority

Frequently Asked Questions

When was the Council's Executive last reviewed?

The Local Government Act 2000 required most Councils to choose between three possible executive models: a Leader and cabinet, elected Mayor and Cabinet and elected Mayor and Council Manager. After due consideration and public consultation South Holland District Council in common with around 300 local authorities around the country chose a Leader and Cabinet executive model which has operated since 2002.

Why are we consulting you now?

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 abolished two of the executive models, the elected Mayor and Council Manager and the old style Leader and Cabinet Executive model. Local authorities are therefore obliged to choose between the "new-style" Leader and Cabinet Executive (Option A) and an

elected Mayor and Cabinet Executive (Option B), and consulting with residents and other interested parties is an important part of the process.

Once the Council has consulted with residents and other interested parties, it must draw up its draft proposals on the option the Council intends to adopt. In drawing up its proposals the Council must consider the extent to which they would be likely to assist in securing continuous improvement in the way that the Council's functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

Finally, South Holland District Council must pass a formal resolution on the future of the Council's governance before 31 December 2010, with the new arrangements becoming effective no later than three days after the next local government elections in May 2011. In order for all residents and partner organisations' comments to be given due consideration, this process is being allocated a consultation period from 15 March 2010 to 30 April 2010.

What happens next?

As well as indicating your preferred option, you are invited to make further comments, which the Council will consider in drawing up its proposals. Your views are important in the decision making process and will be taken into consideration along with the extent to which the proposals would be likely to assist in securing continuous improvement in the way in which the Council's functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

The draft proposals will be considered by the Council's Cabinet before final approval by the Council. If the Council approves the draft proposals the Council will publish its proposals in the press so that local residents and other interested parties are made aware of the outcome of the public consultation process. The Council will pass a resolution to make the changes in governance arrangements and amend the constitution at a meeting which is likely to be held in June 2010.

How will these changes affect the role of the ceremonial Chairman of the Council?

The Leader or elected Mayor would be a completely separate role to that of the Chairman of the Council. Under both Option A, "new-style" Leader and Cabinet Executive and Option B, Elected Mayor and Cabinet Executive, the Chairman will continue to chair meetings of the Council and carry out the traditional ceremonial roles for the District.

Your comments are important

The information given here will be treated confidentially and in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. It will be used for analysis purposes only. Please complete the form below and tell us which option you think South Holland should choose.

Replies can only be considered if the details below are completed.

The deadline for responses is 30 April 2010.

If you would prefer to respond electronically, these questions are available at:

www.sholland.gov.uk/doitonline/executive_arrangements_t.htm

1. Your first name.....

2. Your surname.....

3. Your address.....
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.....
.....

4. Your postcode
.....

5. EITHER

Are you in favour of the proposal for South Holland District Council to be run in a new way which includes a councillor, who will be elected by the councillors of South Holland District Council to lead the Council and community which it serves (Option A- the new style Leader and Cabinet executive) ?

Please tick

OR

Are you in favour of the proposal for South Holland District Council to be run in a new way which includes a mayor, who will be elected by the voters of the District to lead the Council and community which it serves (Option B- the Mayor and Cabinet executive)?

Please tick

6. Your comments:-

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Please tell us a little about yourself:-

Q1. Are you male or female ?

Q2. What was your age on your last birthday? (Years)

Q3. Do you consider that you have a disability? Yes No

Q4. To which of these ethnic groups do you consider you belong? (please tick one)

Asian or Asian British		Mixed race	
Black or Black British		White British	
Gypsy / Traveller community		White other	
Prefer not to say		Other	

Q5. What is your religion?

All paper responses should be sent by prepaid post or email to:-

Partnerships
South Holland District Council
Council Offices
Priory Road
Spalding
Lincs PE11 2XE

Email:- survey@sholland.gov.uk
Tel:- 01775 761161 (Jim Scarsbrook)

Thank you for taking part. This survey will run until 30th April 2010