

FORM 2

NOTICE OF DECISION OF CABINET MEMBER

Pursuant Section 15(4) of the Local Government Act 2000, as amended by section 63 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, the senior executive member may discharge any of the functions that are the responsibility of the Cabinet or may arrange for them to be discharged by another member of the Cabinet or Officer. On 1st December 2010, the Council adopted the Strong Leader Model for Corporate Governance 2011 as required under Part 3 of The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (The 2007 Act).

In accordance with the authority delegated to me, I have made the following decision:

Subject	Decision	Reason for decision	Date for Decision to be taken
<p>Cabinet Financial Strategy Advisory Panel and Armed Forces Champion</p>	<p>To establish an advisory panel involving all the political groups to work on the medium term financial strategy and budget.</p> <p>To appoint Councillor John-Paul Campion as Armed Forces Champion</p>	<p>This would provide a forum for all the groups to identify and discuss options for any changes that may be necessary to the medium term financial strategy and the shape of the budget proposals for 2015-16.</p> <p>To fill the vacancy arising as a result of the elections on 22 May 2014.</p>	<p>13 / 8 / 14</p>

I confirm that the appropriate statutory officer consultation has taken place with regard to this decision.

12th August, 2014

Dated: _____
 Signed: 

Councillor: Marcus J Hart
 Leader of the Council

To: Councillor Marcus Hart, Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategy

From: Ian Miller, Chief Executive

Ext. 2700

ian.miller@wyreforestdc.gov.uk

Date: 12 August 2014

1) FINANCIAL STRATEGY ADVISORY PANEL

2) ARMED FORCES CHAMPION

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To establish an advisory panel involving all the political groups to work on the medium term financial strategy and budget.

1.2 To appoint a Councillor to fill a vacancy that has arisen in respect of an Armed Forces Champion.

RECOMMENDATION

2 That the Leader **AGREES**:

2.1 to establish the Financial Strategy Advisory panel comprising two members from each political group and chaired by the Cabinet Member for Resources and Transformation; and

2.2 to appoint Councillor John-Paul Campion as Armed Forces Champion.

BACKGROUND

3.1 The Cabinet is proposing to establish an advisory panel involving all the political groups. This would provide a forum for all the groups to identify and discuss options for any changes that may be necessary to the medium term financial strategy and the shape of the budget proposals for 2015-16.

3.2 The value of such a panel would be to enable a shared understanding of issues and options to be developed. It will not be a "one way street" with the only proposals coming from the Cabinet – the other groups are expected to participate and bring forward their ideas for discussion too.

3.3 In 2013 full Council appointed Councillors Nigel Knowles and Nicky Gale as Armed Forces Champions. Following the elections on 22 May, there is a vacancy to fill.

KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 The proposed Financial Strategy Advisory Panel would be chaired by Cllr Desmond as Cabinet Member for Resources and Transformation, with two representatives from each of the political groups. All other councillors will have the right to attend. The panel would be expected to meet no more than about 3 times, starting in September, and would finish its work by the end of January. It would provide advice for the Cabinet for the meeting on 16 December to inform the Cabinet's proposed strategy and budget and for the meeting on 17 February in respect of any alternative budget proposals. The panel's final meeting in late January would focus solely on alternative budget proposals.
- 4.2 The proposed terms of reference are:
- “Within the context of the Council's approach to transformation as set out in the Wyre Forest Forward programme, to consider whether or not any major changes to the medium term financial strategy are required as a result of the latest information about the Council's financial position and revised projections of future Government funding.
- “To consider options from members of the advisory panel for any such changes if required.
- “To provide advice and proposals for the Cabinet's meetings in December and February.”
- 4.3A Councillor should be selected to serve with Councillor Nigel Knowles as Armed Forces Champion. Councillor Campion has indicated his willingness to be appointed.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5 The recommendations have no direct financial implications. Administration and support for the advisory panel will be provided from existing staffing resources.

6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The recommendations are about internal matters only and there are no specific legal requirements.

7. EQUALITY IMPACT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 The recommendations in this report have been screened for their impact on the various equality strands. There is none.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

8.1 The advisory panel will ensure that all political groups are involved in and contribute to work and discussions on the medium term financial strategy.

9. CONSULTEES

9.1 Cabinet members and Corporate Leadership Team.

9.2 Group leaders, 17 July 2014

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 None.