

Key provisions of new governance arrangements

The decision to change from the 'Committee' to a 'Leader and Cabinet' form of governance was taken by Council on 15 July 2021.

The change was initially proposed by the council's Leader in a motion to Council at the meeting held on 29 April 2021. The proposal was referred to the council's Governance Committee for a report and discussion.

The Governance Committee met on 30 June 2021 to consider both the current and alternative options of governance. It made recommendations to Full Council on what it felt was the most appropriate option for Canterbury City Council.

The agenda and minutes of the Governance Committee meeting can be found on our website. For those viewing this notice online the link is [here](#).

The recommendations of the committee were considered by Full Council who resolved to change to the Leader and Cabinet model of governance. The agenda and minutes of Full Council can be found [here](#).

As a result of the change the leader, who is elected by Full Council on a four-yearly basis, will appoint at least two and a maximum of nine other councillors to the executive (known as cabinet) to support the leader in carrying out their role. The leader will assign each cabinet member a portfolio of responsibilities. There is no requirement for political balance within the executive.

The leader has the power to determine whether executive powers are taken by members of the cabinet collectively, as a committee of cabinet, individually by the leader or another single cabinet member or by an officer. This will shape the way decisions are made and the degree of power and accountability afforded to individual cabinet members.

As part of the new arrangements the council will have at least one overview and scrutiny committee with certain powers and functions of scrutiny set out in legislation. These include duties in relation to health, flood risk management and crime and disorder, and 'call-in' of key executive decisions. The committee/s will have the power to review or scrutinise decisions taken by the executive or any other part of the council and make reports to the council or to the executive. They can also report on any matter affecting the authority's area or its inhabitants. These committees are politically balanced.

A number of regulatory and other committees will be maintained to undertake the functions not reserved for the executive, such as the determination of applications for

planning permission. Further, we will set up committees required under powers other than in the 1972 Local Government Act, such as licensing.

Full council will continue to set the budgetary and policy framework of the authority within which the executive will operate.

Specifically, the regulations require Full Council to:

- adopt or approve specified plans and strategies of the local authority
- adopt or approve the budget and any plan or strategy for the control of the authority's borrowing or capital expenditure
- determine the scheme of members' allowances

Examples of plans or strategies to be approved or adopted by Full Council are the development plan (also known as the local plan) documents, licensing and gambling policy statements, local transport plan and the corporate plan. Together these make up the policy framework.

As stated in the public notice, the council is consulting on the configuration of the new governance arrangements from Tuesday 3 August until 25 October 2021.

People are invited to give their views about the proposals by responding to the questionnaire on the council's website. A paper copy of the questionnaire is available on request from the email below. <https://news.canterbury.gov.uk/latest-consultations>

Workshops will also be arranged during the consultation period and you can register for these by email at consultations@canterbury.gov.uk or by phone on 01227 862 059.