

Winchester City Council

New Executive Arrangements

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 required the City Council to make changes to its decision-making arrangements. The introduction of the strengthened Leader with Cabinet option was supported by a public consultation exercise and was agreed at a Special Meeting of Council held on 3 November 2010. The consequential changes to the Constitution resulting from new arrangements were approved at a meeting of Council held on 6 April 2011 and will come into effect immediately after the elections in May 2011.

New Executive Arrangements

With effect from the third day after the May 2011 elections, Winchester City Council has adopted the strengthened Leader and Cabinet Executive (England) model, as set out in the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000 (as amended).

The key elements are: -

1. Election of Leader.

The Leader

- Is elected until their term of office as a Councillor expires (where the Council operates elections by thirds).
- Determines the size of the Executive (Cabinet) (two or more up to a maximum of 10) for a term of up to 4 years.
- Appoints/dismisses a Deputy Leader to act in the Leader's place if they are absent. If the Deputy Leader is unable to act or the office is vacant, the Cabinet must act in the Leader's place or arrange for a member of the Cabinet to do so.
- Appoints/dismisses Cabinet Members.
- Is responsible for all Cabinet functions.
- Can exercise all the Cabinet functions him/herself or may delegate functions to the Cabinet, Cabinet members individually, other Committees or Officers.

2. Removal of Leader from Office

The Council as a whole is able to remove a Leader and the Authority's Constitution (and Executive Arrangements) provide for this.

3. Transitional Arrangements

The Chief Executive has been given delegated authority for decision making during the transitional period between 5 May 2011 and 18 May 2011 – by using the emergency powers procedure in Part 3 of the Constitution.

4. Allocation of Functions

The local choice functions (which may be exercised by either the Council or Executive) will continue as currently operated within the Constitution. Those functions that have been assigned to Cabinet as the Executive may also be exercised by the Leader to reflect the change in the law whereby the Leader decides upon the scheme of delegation to Cabinet.

Timetable	
Constitution revised in the light of the new arrangements	Approved at Council on 6 April 2011.
New arrangements come into effect	8 May 2011 - 3 days after elections of 5 May 2011.
Leader elected at full Council. Leader appoints Deputy Leader and Cabinet Members.	Annual Meeting of Council on 18 May 2011.
Allocation of responsibilities of Cabinet Members by the Leader.	At Cabinet on 19 May 2011, or as soon as possible thereafter.
Further revisions to the Constitution to reflect the Leader's Scheme of Delegation	As soon as possible following the Leader's election. The Corporate Director (Governance) has also been given delegated authority to make subsequent minor consequential changes to the Constitution and other approved documents to give effect to the above.

5. Public Inspection

Notice of these arrangements has been advertised in the Hampshire Observer dated 13 April 2011. They are available for public inspection at the offices of the City Council, Colebrook Street, Winchester SO23 9LJ during normal office hours between 8.30am and 5.00pm, Monday to Thursday, 8.30pm and 4.30pm Fridays. A copy is also available for inspection on the City Council's website at www.winchester.gov.uk, including Report CAB 2133 entitled Leadership Arrangements – Constitutional Changes, which details the changes to be made for the Constitution for the introduction of the New Executive Arrangements on 8 May 2011 as approved at Council on 6 April 2011.

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Further Information

If you have any questions, please contact the Democratic Services Team on 01962 848264 or email democracy@winchester.gov.uk