

COUNCIL - 22 APRIL 2021

AGENDA ITEM 14

MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR JOHN PUGH

LEARNING THE LESSONS FROM THE CALLER REPORT

AMENDMENT TO MOTION

Proposed by Councillor Sir Ron Watson CBE

Seconded by Councillor Tony Brough

That the Motion be amended by:

Deleting the following word(s) or Adding the following words:

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Pugh SECONDED BY: Councillor Lewis LEARNING THE LESSONS FROM THE CALLER REPORT In the light of the Caller Report and recent events in Liverpool, this Council

(a) believes that the role of executive mayors within local government ~~has few real benefits and many obvious risks~~ **carries some risks in respect of transparency**

(b) ~~deplores central governments' encouragement and the imposition of the Executive Mayoral system within local government~~

(c) notes the real risk to transparency, accountability and good decision making when power is overly centralised

(d) regrets the limited role in decision-making currently assigned to 'backbench' councillors in all parties and resolves following lessons learnt from the Caller report to strengthen independent scrutiny within this Council - such moves to include allowing opposition members to chair scrutiny committees in line with best practice and **to add to the Cabinet Membership as ex-officio members the Leaders of all Political Parties on the Council subject to them having a minimum of 4 Elected Members.**

These new Members to have access to all the Cabinet reports, including those recommended for exclusion from the press and public, to have the right to speak at the Cabinet but not to have a vote.

(e) In addition believes that the Council in view of the light of experience should take an early opportunity to review the Cabinet System in total with a view to its replacement by a more democratic Committee System which applies in other parts of Merseyside.

The revised motion if approved would read as follows:

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Pugh SECONDED BY: Councillor Lewis LEARNING THE LESSONS FROM THE CALLER REPORT In the light of the Caller Report and recent events in Liverpool, this Council

(a) believes that the role of executive mayors within local government carries some risks in respect of transparency

(b) notes the real risk to transparency, accountability and good decision making when power is overly centralised

(c) regrets the limited role in decision-making currently assigned to 'backbench' councillors in all parties and resolves following lessons learnt from the Caller report to strengthen independent scrutiny within this Council - such moves to include allowing opposition members to chair scrutiny committees in line with best practice and to add to the Cabinet Membership as ex-officio Members the Leaders of all Political Parties on the Council subject to them having a minimum of 4 Elected Members.

These new Members to have access to all the Cabinet reports, including those recommended for exclusion from the press and public, to have the right to speak at the Cabinet but not to have a vote.

(d) In addition believes that the Council in view of the light of experience should take an early opportunity to review the Cabinet System in total with a view to its replacement by a more democratic Committee System which applies in other parts of Merseyside.