

Motion for council on 25th June.

This Council is committed to a reforming agenda and as part of that agenda it will review the authority's democratic structure to ensure that we have a council which is more accessible, open, transparent and sustainable. In order to fulfil these commitments a Governance Reform Working Group is to be established, reflecting political balance, to review existing governance arrangements and bring recommendations for change to this Council at the earliest opportunity. The review will look specifically at:

- The most effective way of creating an inclusive, open and transparent system decision-making structure to supercede the current model;
- Opportunities for greater devolution of responsibilities to and partnerships with Town and Parish Councils (should they so wish) and further collaboration with the voluntary sector;
- Options for greater decision-making and/or budget holding by empowered ward councillors or area groupings of North Somerset councillors;
- Increasing opportunities for residents, local stakeholders, and town and parish councils to comment upon and influence decisions of the council;
- Ensuring that the new decision-making process balances speed of execution with the need to consult to ensure optimal decision making for our communities;
- The use of collaborative ways of working and technology.

This will enable the authority to provide the best possible services, promote fairness and reduce inequalities creating a better North Somerset for all, provide opportunities for growth and deliver a financially secure local authority.

The working group will produce a first report for consideration at September's council meeting and the new structure is to be in place on or before the 2020-21 Annual Meeting in May 2020. The working group will consist of 12 members, chaired by Cllr Paul Gardner and be given support by the Local Government Association.