

<b>Body:</b>	<b>Full Council</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>25 February 2009</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>DRIVE and change to constitution of the Cabinet</b>
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Local Democracy Manager</b>
<b>Purpose:</b>	To consider a request from the Leader that the membership of the Cabinet be increased to 6.
<b>Contacts:</b>	David Robinson, Local Democracy Manager. Telephone (01323) 415022 or internally on extension 5022.
<b>Recommendations:</b>	<p>(1) That the Council's Constitution be amended to provide that the number of members on the Cabinet may be between 4 and 6.</p> <p>(2) That it be noted that growth of £2,500 will be required in the Council's 2009/10 budget in respect of the special responsibility allowance payable to the additional Cabinet member.</p> <p>(3) To note that the Leader will make known his appointment in due course.</p>

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## **1.0 Introduction**

1.1 The Leader of the Council has asked that the membership of the Cabinet be increased to 6 from its present size of 5. The Council's Constitution provides for a Cabinet consisting of either 4 or 5 elected members. An increase will require the approval of full Council.

## **2.0 DRIVE and reasons for increase**

2.1 A review of the Council's structure and capacity is currently being undertaken. Known as DRIVE (Delivering Real Innovation and Value for Eastbourne), the review has been the subject of update reports to members of the Council and staff. Cabinet on 10 December 2008 approved a report outlining a proposed new management structure for the authority.

2.2 The appointments to the proposed new structure would be implemented in stages. It was proposed that the post of Chief Executive be advertised in the early new year and that the advertisement of the Deputy and the service heads be timed as soon as possible, subject to allowing the new Chief

Executive to play a role in the short-listing and the interview process.

- 2.3 It is the Leader's wish that the membership of the Cabinet be aligned with the new management structure. Accordingly he envisages individual Cabinet members' responsibilities being aligned with each of the Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive and the 3 heads of externally facing services (Community Services, Environmental Services and Tourism and Leisure Services). In addition he believes that a single Cabinet member should continue to have responsibility for the Council's finances.

### **3.0 Appointment**

- 3.1 If Council approve this constitutional change it will be for the Leader to make the appointment of a sixth Cabinet member and otherwise re-arrange Cabinet portfolios. The appointment, when made, will be notified to members.

### **4.0 Implications/risk assessment**

- 4.1 **Resources.** A special responsibility allowance is payable to Cabinet members. This is currently £2,469 per annum. An increase in size of the Cabinet will therefore require growth in the Members' Allowance budget for 2009/10 of £2,500. Costs in the current year will be minimal as it is likely that the appointment will not be made until near to the end of the financial year.
- 4.2 **Benefits of proposal.** It is important that the allocation of responsibilities among Cabinet members is clearly understood by members of the public, stakeholders and staff. Aligning these responsibilities with the Council's new management structure (with Cabinet members being able to work closely with a designated senior officer) will give greater focus and clarity and assist the Council in the effective provision of services and in delivering its corporate vision.

**David Robinson**  
**Local Democracy Manager**

**Background papers** (used in writing this report):

None.