

Local Government Act 2000 - Part 2 The 4th Option

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Topics of Discussion

- ◆ The 4th option
- ◆ Comparisons to the Executive Model
- ◆ The Statutory Timetable
- ◆ Next Steps for HDC
- ◆ Conclusion

The 4th Option - Main Points

- ◆ Does not involve an Executive
- ◆ Retains Scrutiny & Overview Committees
- ◆ Secretary of State must be satisfied decisions taken in an efficient, transparent & accountable way:
 - ensure quick decisions
 - can identify who makes them
 - can be scrutinised

The 4th Option - Broad form

- ◆ Full Council sets policy framework and approves budget proposals from one or more policy Cttes
- ◆ At least 1 Policy Committee (the max is 5) with delegated powers to implement policies and put policy & budget proposals to Council
- ◆ 1 (or more) overview & scrutiny Committees to hold policy committee(s) to account in public

Comparisons with the Executive Model

- ◆ Underlying features appear the same
- ◆ Differences in emphasis
- ◆ Similar features:
 - Council powers are similar - but may be able to decide areas of Committee responsibility (they are clearly set out in the Executive model)
 - Scrutiny arrangements are substantially the same

Comparisons with the Executive Model

- ◆ Differences
 - No more than 5 Policy Committees
 - need one for development control/licensing
 - Must be kept to the minimum
 - Must be politically balanced
 - Member of a policy Committee cannot be a member of Scrutiny which deals with that Ctte's decisions
 - Maximum of 15 members - Regulations will ensure substantially less in small Councils

Comparisons with the Executive Model

4 th Option	The Executive Model	HDC executive
Decisions may be delegated to Policy Committees	Decisions may be delegated to individual Exec Members	Council Policy - No delegation to individual Exec Members
Regulatory functions dealt with by a separate Cttee	Regulatory functions dealt with by a separate Cttee	Regulatory functions dealt with by a separate Cttee
Leader of Council appointed who can attend speak & vote at all policy cttees Must be politically balanced	Leader of Executive appointed cannot take part in regulatory matters Need not be politically balanced	Leader of Executive appointed cannot take part in regulatory matters Council Policy - must be politically balanced
Need not meet in public	Need not meet in public except for "key" decisions	HDC policy - will meet in public
Scrutiny cannot review regulatory decisions	Scrutiny cannot review regulatory decisions	HDC call-in procedure excludes planning application
Advance notice & consultation required on "key" decisions	Advance notice & consultation required on "key" decisions	Advance notice & consultation will be required on "key" decisions

- ### The Statutory Timetable
- ◆ Assumes a local referendum on an elected mayor is not demanded
 - ◆ Further consultation as soon as possible
 - ◆ Proposal to Executive > Scrutiny > Council in May 2001?
 - ◆ Submit proposal to DETR by June 2001
 - ◆ Arrangements implemented a.s.a.p. after submission
 - ◆ All Councils must have changed by ~~December~~ ^{April} 2002

- ### Next Steps for HDC
- ◆ **Members:**
 - Seminar for everyone late January/early February:
 - topic groups to develop current arrangements
 - discuss consultation requirements
 - ◆ **Officers:**
 - Find out more about the consultation requirements
 - Advise on emerging statutory requirements

- ### Conclusion
- ◆ Still a moving target
 - ◆ Our arrangements very close to the 4th option
 - ◆ Legislation not complete until early 2001
 - ◆ Still learning all the time -
 - within HDC
 - from elsewhere