

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to Council

Date **21 February 2014**

Report of: **Monitoring Officer**

Subject: **Recording of Votes at Budget Decision Meetings**

SUMMARY

This report seeks authority to amend the Council's Constitution in anticipation of the coming into force of the Local Authorities (Standing Orders)(England)(Amendment) Order 2014 (SI.2014/165) on 25 February 2014.

RECOMMENDATION

That authority be delegated to the Monitoring Officer to revise the Council's Constitution – Standing Orders with respect to Meetings to record the way members vote on budget decision matters, subject to the confirmation of and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders)(England)(Amendment) Order 2014.

INTRODUCTION

1. The Local Authorities (Standing Orders)(England)(Amendment) Order 2014 (SI.2014/165) is due to come into force on 25 February 2014. The statutory instrument requires Councils to revise their Constitutions as soon as is reasonably possible to reflect voting by members on budget decision matters.
2. The new Regulations require Councils “immediately after any vote is taken at a budget decision meeting of an authority there must be recorded in the minutes of the proceedings of that meeting the names of the persons who cast a vote for the decision or against the decision or who abstained from voting”. Accordingly, this needs to be reflected in the Standing Orders with respect to Meetings by inserting a new paragraph 24.5.
3. Sections, 8, 20 and 190 Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Authorities (Standing Orders)(England)(Amendment) Order 2014 provide the statutory powers for the Council to adopt the regulations.
4. The Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Brandon Lewis MP, has written to the Executive Leader to explain the Government’s expectation that all councils will adopt the practice of recorded votes on any decision relating to the budget or council tax at this year’s budget meetings. A copy of the letter is attached at Appendix A to this report.

RISK ASSESSMENT

5. There are no significant risk considerations in relation to this report

CONCLUSION

6. That authority should be delegated to the Monitoring Officer to revise the Council’s Constitution – Standing Orders with respect to Meetings to record the way members voted on budget decision matters in accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders)(England)(Amendment) Order 2014.

Background Papers:

Letter from Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Brandon Lewis MP to the Executive Leader.

Reference Papers:

Local Government and Housing Act 1989

Local Authorities (Standing Orders)(England)(Amendment) Order 2014

Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact Leigh Usher. (Ext 4553)