

Comments from consultation on new structure proposals
March – May 2010

<i>OPTION 1 Reasons for preferring leader and cabinet</i>	<i>OPTION 3 Reasons against changing from committee system</i>	<i>Other comments and questions</i>
Provided costs not increased	Power would be concentrated in too few hands	The case for change is unconvincing, as not enough detail is provided. There is no information on the advantages and disadvantages of the operating each system
Prefer this option on the basis there would be no increase in costs.	Would sideline Independents	Unconvinced that the principle of the committee based system should change
	Would marginalise minority parties	How is greater accountability to be measured?
	Less accountability	What powers would scrutiny committee have to overturn decisions?
	Less transparency	As a parish council we feel our views given insufficient weight by the district council – hope that whichever structure is adopted redressed this undemocratic imbalance.
	Retaining committee system brings the best talent in the Council to the consideration of policy, regardless of political affiliation.	No reference to or analysis of cost effectiveness provided. Solution selected should surely be the one which offers best VFM.
	Under the Committee system, views of wider range of councillors have influence. Debates within the committees allow every councillor to be involved in a	We may need to review the management agreement between the Council and the Museum

	particular area of council policy. Debates within committees can be influential in supporting or opposing policies.	Society if a cabinet member is appointed with responsibility for the Museum.
	Would be less democratic	Not in favour of an elected mayor and cabinet, not least because of the cost of a referendum.
	Any change must deliver significant benefits	What is important to the voluntary and community sector is that whatever structure is agreed, clear channels of communication with members are maintained so that communities are able fully to engage with the whole range of work of UDC
	Scrutiny after the event is no substitute and would not be sufficiently effective	
	Parish and Town Councils would have less influence, involvement and input	
	Might be faster, but faster is not better: no justification on grounds of speed of decision-taking. By their nature, decisions at local government level are suitable for general discussion beforehand.	
	Not balanced decision-making, would centralise power and marginalise the majority of councillors	
	Decisions would not be properly debated	
	Although it may be convenient to the Council to bring us in line with the more common executive systems, this is not in itself a good enough reason for changing from the committee system.	
	Given the situation at E Herts, this would seem a reason to resist change	