

## **Constitution – Deputy Leader**

### **1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To consider amending the Constitution to accommodate the appointment of more than one Deputy Leader.

### **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 To amend the Constitution to make provision for the appointment of more than one Deputy Leader, and, if more than one Deputy Leader is appointed, that the Deputy Leader's allowance be shared equally between holders of the position.

### **3. Links to the Corporate Business Plan**

- 3.1 Governance arrangements underpin the delivery of all the Council's Corporate Priorities.

### **4. Background**

- 4.1 Government guidance states that local authorities will need to ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place to cover for the absence of the Leader.
- 4.2 Article 7.02 of the Constitution states that the Leader shall appoint a Member of the Executive as Deputy Leader with authority to act in the absence of the Leader. Consequently, the Constitution prevents the role of Deputy Leader being shared.
- 4.3 There is nothing in the legislation which precludes the appointment of more than one Deputy Leader.
- 4.4 If the Leader considers that the appointment of more than one Deputy Leader will facilitate the discharge of Council business then it would be reasonable for such an arrangement to be accommodated within the Constitution.

### **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1 None.

### **6. Equal Opportunities**

- 6.1 The proposal would accord with the Council's equalities and diversity policy in that it would create the opportunity for an innovative job-share arrangement in a political as opposed to an employment context.

### **7. Other Implications**

- 7.1 None

Documents used in preparing this report.

None.

**REPORT OF THE CORPORATE SERVICES STRATEGIC MANAGER TO COUNCIL:  
25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2006.**

Report Author:

**Peter Jeremiah**

**Solicitor**

**Team Leader Legal Services**

Tel. 01249 706600

Fax. 01249 462283

Email [pjeremaih@northwiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:pjeremaih@northwiltshire.gov.uk)