

## County Council 18 October 2019

### Item 10(b) - Notice of Motion by Dr Walsh

#### System of Council governance

#### Amendment by Mr Jones

The County Council has been found 'inadequate' by HM Inspectorate, in respect of the Fire and Rescue Service, as well as in its provision of Children's Services by Ofsted, where the Government has appointed a Commissioner to run the service. The Member of Parliament for Mid Sussex has written to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government expressing his "grave concerns about the governance of this authority" and asking him "to investigate why things have gone so wrong".

It is abundantly clear to all that there is a systemic failure of political leadership of West Sussex County Council encompassing all our major services, and further evidenced by the high turnover rate of most senior officers at Director level including Chief Executive over the last few years, and the churn of Cabinet Members.

The Council therefore resolves to **review** ~~serap~~ the current Cabinet system of governance, where most major decisions are taken either by individual Cabinet Members, or occasionally by the whole Cabinet, and to replace it with **either the** Committee-based system **or an alternative arrangement which leads to far more transparent and collective decision-making**, ~~where all councillors play a part in decision-making~~, and for this to be in place by May 2020.