

Agenda Item 11

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Date	6 th January 2015

Subject	Motion 5/2014
RECOMMENDATIONS	
The Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the motion and to advise the Council to accept the motion, reject the motion, or to accept an amended motion.	

The Council has the authority to determine the Recommendations.

1. BACKGROUND

1.1. The following motion has been submitted by Councillor Stephen Cooksey:

“Council notes:

- a) the strong and enthusiastic participation shown by the people of Scotland in a remarkable democratic process leading to the Referendum on 18 September;
- b) the resulting increased discussion on the devolution of powers from central government in Westminster and Whitehall.

Council believes:

- I. That power should be devolved to the people in all parts of the United Kingdom;
- II. That England is currently ruled over by an over-centralised state that fails to reflect localities and regions;
- III. That concentrating more power to English MPs in Westminster is not the only answer for English devolution and that passing power down to the local areas of England is essential.

Council therefore calls for:

Mole Valley’s MPs, the Leader of the Council and the Executive to lobby for urgent major devolution of power, including tax raising and spending, from central government to the regions, counties, boroughs and districts and cities of England.

And that such lobbying should emphasise:

that the devolution of powers and finance to English councils be carried out in ways that enhance and strengthen local democratic bodies. This must include agreement that it shall be for local people and communities to decide their form of democratic leadership without having a specific model imposed (for example directly elected Mayors) in return for more powers;

a recognition that English devolution must include both large cities and county areas, as the many councils not within city regions must also gain greater powers and finance in order to build successful and prosperous futures.”

- 1.2 The motion was referred to the Scrutiny Committee for consideration and report.

2. OPTIONS

- 2.1 The Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the motion and to advise the Council to either:-

- (a) accept the motion
- (b) reject the motion, or
- (c) accept an amended motion.

3. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Monitoring Officer commentary - The Monitoring Officer confirms that all relevant legal implications have been taken into account

S151 Officer commentary - The S151 Officer confirms that the relevant financial implications have been considered in this report

Legal Implications – None arising from considering the motion.

Financial Implications – None arising from considering this motion

Reputational Implications – None arising from considering this motion

Risk Implications - None arising from considering the motion.

Equalities Implications – None arising from considering the motion.

Employment Issues – None arising from considering the motion.

Sustainability Issues – None arising from considering the motion.

Consultation -

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.