

# North Tyneside Council

## Report to Council

### Date: 19 May 2016

### ITEM 3

Title: Result of  
Referendum on future  
Governance  
Arrangements for the  
Authority

Portfolio(s): Elected Mayor

Cabinet Member(s): Mrs N Redfearn

#### Report from Service

Area: Law and Governance

Responsible Officer: Vivienne Geary, Head of Law and Governance (Tel: (0191) 643 5339)

Wards affected: All

### PART 1

#### 1.1 Executive Summary:

At its meeting held on 21 January 2016 the Council considered a report on future governance arrangements for the Authority and agreed to hold a referendum on whether to change the model of governance in North Tyneside.

This report details the result of the referendum held on 5 May 2016.

#### 1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Council note that the result of the referendum held on 5 May 2016 was to retain the current mayoral model of governance in North Tyneside.

#### 1.3 Forward Plan:

This report does not appear on the Forward Plan. The result of the referendum must be reported to Council within twenty eight days of the date of the referendum

#### 1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

This report has no direct relevance to the Our North Tyneside Plan priorities.

#### 1.5 Information:

##### Background

1.5.1 The Council, at its meeting on 21 January 2016, resolved that a referendum on the Authority's model of governance be held on 5 May 2016 at the same time as the local elections and the elections for the Police and Crime Commissioner.

1.5.4 The Council determined that the Committee System (including a leader) would be the alternative model of governance in the event that residents rejected the current model.

1.5.5 The Council therefore determined that the question put to the electorate (as provided in law) in the referendum held on 5 May 2016 was:

How would you like North Tyneside to be run?  
By a Mayor who is elected by voters. This is how the Council is run now.

or

By one or more committees made up of elected councillors. This would be a change from how the Council is run now.

#### The Result of the Referendum Poll

1.5.6 The result of the poll in the referendum on the Authority's governance arrangements was as follows:

<u>Question</u>	<u>Number of Votes</u>
By a mayor who is elected by Voters. This is how the Council is run now	32,546
By one or more Committees made up elected Councillor. This would be a change from how the Council is run now	23,703

1.5.7 A total of 56,605 votes were cast in the referendum. 356 ballot papers were rejected because the voters had not completed their ballot papers correctly.

1.5.8 The majority of votes cast (57.5%) were in favour of retaining the current model of governance – a mayor who is elected by Voters.

1.5.9 The Local Government Act 2000 provides that a further referendum to change the Authority's model of governance may not be held a period of 10 years; i.e. not before 2026.

#### **1.6 Decision options:**

There are no decision options. This report is for information.

#### **1.7 Appendices:**

None.

#### **1.8 Contact officers:**

Vivienne Geary, Head of Law and Governance: 0191 643 5339  
Stephen Ballantyne, Lawyer Specialist – Governance and Employment: 0191 643 5329  
Dave Brown, Democratic Services Manager: 0191 643 5358  
Alison Campbell, Senior Business Partner: 0191 643 7038

## **1.9 Background information:**

The following background papers/information have been used in the compilation of this report and are available at the office of the author:

- (1) Report to Council 21 January 2016
- (2) Report to Cabinet 23 November 2015
- (3) Notice of Referendum result
- (4) Local Government Act 2000 (as amended)

## **PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING**

### **2.1 Finance and other resources**

There are no financial or resource implications arising from this report.

### **2.2 Legal**

The legal implications of this report are set out in the body of the report.

### **2.3 Consultation/community engagement**

There are no consultation or community engagement issues arising from this report.

### **2.4 Human rights**

There are no human rights issues directly arising from this report.

### **2.5 Equalities and diversity**

There are no equality and diversity issues directly arising from this report.

### **2.6 Risk management**

There are no specific risk management implications directly arising from this report.

### **2.7 Crime and disorder**

There are no crime and disorder implications directly arising from this report.

### **2.8 Environment and sustainability**

There are no environment and sustainability implications directly arising from this report.

### **PART 3 - SIGN OFF**

- Deputy Chief Executive  X
- Head(s) of Service  X
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s)  X
- Chief Finance Officer  X
- Monitoring Officer  X
- Head of Corporate Strategy  X