

From: [Bowles Michael \(DCEX\)](#)
To: [Henderson James \(CEX\)](#)
Subject: LocalGov.co.uk - Your authority on UK local government - Unitary council to adopt committee system of governance
Date: 28 May 2019 12:56:13

Hi James

Just spotted this article about Cheshire East Unitary (<https://www.localgov.co.uk/Unitary-council-to-adopt-committee-system-of-governance/47477>) starting the move to a committee system and remembered the local petition. Having looked on the local site they currently have 6,485 signatures and are targeting 10k online, and aiming to get the others on hard copy petitions (no figure given). If you haven't seen it already, there's a couple of older briefings on moving to committee systems that are quite interesting.

LGIU - <https://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=3&ved=2ahUKEwj0npLtg7iAhWBKewKHSajAAQFjACegQIBRAC&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.lgiu.org.uk%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2F2014%2F12%2FChanging-to-a-committee-system-in-a-new-era.pdf&usg=AOvVaw2PJZdizPjzhSHtD6w4CqYW>

and

CfPS - <https://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=5&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwj0npLtg7iAhWBKewKHSajAAQFjAEegOlABAC&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cfps.org.uk%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2FRethinking-Governance.pdf&usg=AOvVaw3ieVCzUR0nv0j68wVuZWc2>

I'm not aware of any evaluation on the effectiveness of committee systems that have replaced the Strong Leader model, though it was mentioned in last year's select committee review of O&S - somewhat disparagingly ... "However, as Professor Colin Copus from De Montfort University told us, it was "an illusion of power. If you put your hands up at the end of a meeting you feel, "I am powerful. I am making something happen". I am sure I am not giving any trade secrets away, but most of those decisions are made two nights before in the majority party group meetings.'"

Anyway, point of this is to note that the Campaign may be asking the Elections team sometime in Autumn to verify their signatures. With the team having the Polling District Review and the Postal vote refresh (not forgetting the possibility of either having to plan a general election or referendum) this could be quite a stretch and checking signatures could be an extra cost.

Thanks
Michael