

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE SCRUTINY

4 JULY 2006

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF LAW AND DEMOCRACY

MEMBERS' ADVISORY PANEL – UPDATE REPORT

SUMMARY

This report presents a draft update to Members' Advisory Panel on progress on the implementation of the Council's new scrutiny co-ordination arrangements.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Scrutiny Committee approves the progress report to the Members' Advisory Panel.

DETAIL

1. Following an all Member Seminar and consideration by the Members' Advisory Panel, Cabinet, on 3 November 2005, made the following recommendations for new scrutiny co-ordination arrangements. These recommendations were subsequently approved by Council on 14 December 2005 and are set out below:

- a. The development and implementation of stronger coordination arrangements for scrutiny work be approved by:
 - Extending the remit of the Executive Scrutiny Committee to include coordination of an overall scrutiny work programme, with all Scrutiny Chairs becoming members of this new overview committee.
 - A scrutiny liaison forum of Scrutiny Chairs, Cabinet Members and Corporate Directors
- b. The reorganisation of thematic select committees to focus on time-limited policy review and development work be adopted, with
 - Six such select committees with the headline remits set out in Appendix 1 of the report
 - A separate Audit Committee be formed which sits outside of the select committee structure (in line with recommended good practice).
- c. The appointment of an additional scrutiny officer on the basis specified within the report, be approved.
- d. Further work and consultation be undertaken to develop the detail and constitutional changes needed for the new arrangements.
- e. Arrangements be then reviewed by the Members' Advisory Panel after six months of operation, with an interim progress check at the three month point.

3. This report provides an interim progress report as requested by the Members' Advisory Panel. The Executive Scrutiny Committee are asked to comment on and approve the update report.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial or legal implications arising from the report.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The proposal is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

Enhanced service delivery through the development of improved scrutiny arrangements.

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Background Papers

Previous MAP Reports

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:

Not Ward Specific