

AGENDA ITEM

**REPORT TO EXECUTIVE
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

22 SEPTEMBER 2009

**REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF
LAW AND DEMOCRACY**

CHAIRS' SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS

SUMMARY

This report seeks views on future support arrangements for Select Committee Chairs given the wider scrutiny powers and the potential increasing complexity of reviews.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That individual Chair's support meetings are introduced on a monthly basis.

DETAIL

1. Members will recall that during the implementation of the Council's new scrutiny co-ordination arrangements in 2006, regular informal meetings with Chairs were arranged in order to share experiences and discuss development ideas prior to formal consideration by Executive Scrutiny Committee.
2. Recent months have seen the introduction of legislation strengthening scrutiny powers and placing more emphasis on scrutiny of partner organisations. Over the next year, the Council will need to consider how scrutiny responds to the new legislation and it is likely that future review work will have a greater emphasis on external scrutiny and holding partner organisations to account. It is therefore perhaps timely to review the support given to Chairs given the new developments and potential increasing complexity of review work in the future. This could be achieved through:
 - Re-instating monthly informal chairs' meetings (although it may be difficult to identify dates which accommodate all Chairs' commitments); or
 - Introducing individual Chair's support meetings with the Head of Democratic Services and Scrutiny Team Leader
3. Scrutiny Officer support to Select Committees will continue to be flexible with officer support rotating around the themed Select Committees in order to maintain freshness of support and team development.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

4. None.

RISK ASSESSMENT

5. Low – risk will be mitigated by regular management controls.

COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

6. Service Delivery (Enhance Local Democracy).

Director of Law and Democracy

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Background Papers:

None

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:

Not Ward Specific

Property Implications:

None