



AGENDA ITEM: 10

**EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW AND
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

3 July 2008

Report of: Council Secretary and Solicitor

Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor I. Grant (Leader)

Contact for further information: Mrs. S. Griffiths (extn. 5017)

SUBJECT: SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS – KEY DECISION FORWARD PLAN

District wide interest

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To consider the current arrangements for scrutiny of the Key Decision Forward Plan by Members of the Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the current arrangements for scrutinising the Key Decision Forward Plan by Members of the Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee be continued.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 Revised arrangements for pre decision scrutiny of items on the key decision forward plan was adopted by the Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 5 October 2006 for a trial period following which a report was presented to the Committee on 14 June 2007 who resolved to continue with these arrangements for a further 6 month period.

3.2 A further report was presented to the Committee in December 2007 who resolved to continue these arrangements for a further 6 month period.

3.3 These revised arrangements provide for Members of the Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise the key decision forward plan, at the time of

circulation, on an individual basis and to contact the report author and/or Portfolio Holder directly if they require any further information on a particular item. If a Member of the Committee then wishes for an item to be placed on the next available agenda of the Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee they can submit a requisition sheet within the agreed timescale, stating whether they wish for the attendance of a particular officer and/or Portfolio Holder at that meeting. The Chairman, in consultation with the Vice Chairman and Opposition Spokesperson will agree or otherwise for the item to appear on the agenda.

40 ISSUES

4.1 Members will recall that the revised arrangements came into place to encourage pre decision scrutiny of the Key Decision Forward Plan by Members of the Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

4.2 It was also previously agreed that from a resource point of view it is not practical or desirable to have all Divisional Managers or report authors with an item on the forward plan to be present at an Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee just in case an issue is raised.

5.0 PROPOSALS

5.1 As the mechanism has run smoothly for over 18 months I propose that this arrangement be continued.

6.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY

6.1 Overview and Scrutiny arrangements can assist in involving the community in decisions which affect their lives.

7.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There is a resourcing implication of requiring officers to attend the Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee which will be met from existing budgets and this may affect officers' work programmes.

8.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

8.1 Effective overview and scrutiny arrangements are important in holding the executive to account.

9.0 CONCLUSIONS

9.1 The revised arrangements do provide an effective mechanism for scrutinising the Key Decision Forward Plan by the Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members on an individual basis. The provisions within this mechanism provide for items to be placed on an Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee agenda by a Member of the Committee and to date three items from the Key Decision Forward Plan have been brought onto the agenda for scrutiny by Members of the Executive Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

Background Documents

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

Equality Impact Assessment

There is no evidence from an initial assessment of an adverse impact on equality in relation to the equality target groups.

Appendices

None