

CABINET – 4 DECEMBER 2002

RESPONSIBILITIES OF REVIEW PANELS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report deals with the responsibilities of Review Panels, consequent on the recommendations to change the composition of some Cabinet Portfolios at item 17 of the agenda for this meeting.

2. PRESENT SITUATION

- 2.1 At present, each Review Panel has responsibility for the overview and scrutiny function of one entire Portfolio (or, in the case of the Corporate and Finance and Housing Health and Social Exclusion Panels) two entire Portfolios. The Housing, Health and Social Exclusion Panel (likely to be renamed Housing, Health and Social Inclusion Review Panel from 16 December) already has a considerable workload. The effect of the proposed changes to the content of the Cabinet Portfolios is to add more duties to the Housing, Health and Social Exclusion Portfolio, while reducing those of the Environment Portfolio.

3. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

- 3.1 If the existing practice of linking Review Panels' work to entire Portfolios were to continue, the workload of the Housing, Health and Social Exclusion Panel would become even heavier than is currently the case, and that of the Environment Panel would become lighter. It is therefore proposed that the overview and scrutiny functions for the environmental health matters that are transferring to the Housing, Health and Social Exclusion Portfolio from the Environment Portfolio should remain with the Environment Review Panel, and that those for the Council's health and safety responsibilities as an employer that are transferring to the Housing, Health and Social Exclusion Portfolio from the Policy and Strategy Portfolio should also be undertaken by the Environment Panel.
- 3.2 This will require some amendments to the Terms of Reference of Review Panels at Chapter 9 of the Council's Constitution. Suggested amendments are shown in ***bold italic script*** in Appendix 1 to this report. In addition, as the functions of the Health and Social Exclusion Portfolio are to be split between Panels, for the avoidance of confusion the names of the Panels are now included.
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4. EFFECT OF THE AMENDMENTS

- 4.1 With one small exception, the proposals in paragraph 3.2 mean that the subjects currently dealt with by each Review Panel will remain unchanged, thus maintaining the current workloads of each. For this reason, Review Panels have not been consulted on these proposals.

- 4.2 The exception is that responsibility for overview and scrutiny of the Council's duty as an employer under Health and Safety legislation will transfer from the Corporate and Finance Review Panel to the Environment Review Panel.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 That, subject to approval of the changes to the composition of Portfolios proposed at item 17 on the agenda for this meeting, it be recommended to Council that:
- (a) the amendments to Chapter 9 of the Constitution shown in bold italic print at Appendix 1 to this report be approved; and
 - (b) that the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to make any other minor amendments to the Constitution that are required as a direct consequence of recommendation (a).

Further Information

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Background Papers

Published material only

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF REVIEW PANELS

1. The statutory overview and scrutiny functions of the Council shall be undertaken by Review Panels. Each Panel shall have a particular responsibility for the overview and scrutiny of the functions undertaken for the following Portfolios within the Cabinet:-

The Corporate and Finance Review Panel:

The Policy and Strategy and Finance and Support ***Portfolios***

The Crime and Disorder Review Panel:

The Crime and Disorder ***Portfolio***

The Environment Review Panel:

The Environment Portfolio, ***and the environmental health and health and safety functions of the Health and Social Inclusion Portfolio***

The Housing, Health and Social Inclusion Review Panel:

The Housing ***Portfolio, and those functions of the*** Health and Social ***Inclusion Portfolio not assigned to the Environment Review Panel***

The Economy and Planning Review Panel:

The Economy and Planning ***Portfolio***

The Leisure Review Panel:

The Leisure ***Portfolio***