



**PORTFOLIO HOLDERS: HOUSING,  
HEALTH & SOCIAL INCLUSION  
ALL**

**CABINET – 5 OCTOBER 2005**

**CALL-IN OF EXECUTIVE DECISIONS**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This report is submitted to the Cabinet in accordance with the requirements of paragraph 5.1 of Chapter 8 of the Council's Constitution, which provide that any decision of a Review Panel on a call-in by a single member should be reported direct to the Cabinet and the Council. The report sets out the decisions of the Housing, Health & Social Inclusion and the Corporate Overview Panels on recent Cabinet decisions. As each decision was called in by a single member, the implementation of the decisions has not been delayed.
- 1.2. Under the provisions of the Constitution, because the decisions were called in by one member only, the Panels' consideration in each case was limited to:
- (a) whether the decision was within the Council's policy and budget; and
  - (b) if it was, whether the policy or budget should be reviewed.
- 1.3 In both cases the decisions were within policy and budget and the Panels therefore had to consider whether to ask the Cabinet to review the policy and budget.

**2. HOUSING, HEALTH & SOCIAL INCLUSION REVIEW PANEL – MEALS ON WHEELS IN COUNCIL-OWNED SHELTERED HOUSING SCHEMES**

- 2.1 This call-in, by Cllr Mrs Robinson, relates to the following decision of the Cabinet on 4 July 2005:
- (a) That the Council cease the provision of meals to residents of Clarks Close, Gore Grange and Winfrid House in the way that they are currently provided with effect from 1 November 2005, but that, in order to achieve equality, all residents of the Council's sheltered housing schemes be offered the opportunity to purchase meals on wheels at full cost if they are not entitled to receive one under existing Social Services criteria; and
  - (b) That the Council cease the provision of meals to Gore Grange Day Centre in the way they are currently provided with effect from 1 November 2005, unless Age Concern are willing to pay the additional subsidy of £2.77 per meal, and offer a meal on wheels at full cost if attendees are

not entitled to receive a subsidised meal under existing Social Services criteria.

- 2.2 The Housing, Health & Social Inclusion Review Panel on 21 September decided to take no action on the call-in. Some members expressed concern at the decision to cease the provision of the meals, and at the consultation process undertaken. They questioned whether the Cabinet and the Panel had had sufficient information in order to make informed decisions. The majority of members was, however, satisfied with the decision taken. The Panel was advised that a full report on the meals on wheels service was to be submitted to the November meeting. It was also reported that an alternative opportunity for the provision of meals to certain of the Council's sheltered housing schemes was being investigated – the Panel is to receive an update in November.

### **3. CORPORATE OVERVIEW PANEL – COMMUNITY STRATEGY ACTION PLAN**

- 3.1 Cllr F R Harrison called in the decision of the Cabinet on 3 August, approving the Community Strategy Action Plan. He wished the decision called in as he wished the Economy & Planning Review Panel to consider which Partnerships had relevance to that Panel's interests and whether it wished to scrutinize them. However, as the call-in related to the decision the Community Strategy Action Plan, the matter had to be referred to the Corporate Overview Panel.
- 3.2 The Corporate Overview Panel on 22 September 2005 decided not to ask the Cabinet to review its decision, but accepted the concerns raised about what could be described as a 'democratic deficit' in terms of the Council's involvement in various bodies and partnerships, such as the Community Action Networks (CANs). The Panel noted that Member involvement with these bodies was a difficult and sensitive issue, given that each of the bodies had its own particular character and way of operating. The Corporate Overview Panel agreed that individual Review Panels should, at their discretion, deal with particular issues under their remits, while the Corporate Overview Panel would retain its overview of the Community Strategy process.

#### **Further information:**

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#### **Background Papers:**

Published documents