

REPORT OF HOUSING, HEALTH & SOCIAL EXCLUSION REVIEW PANEL

(Meeting held 18 September 2002)

1. CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAUX (MINUTE NO 17).

During a discussion on progress in negotiations with local Citizens' Advice Bureaux regarding the establishment of a new Service Level Agreement, Members raised the possibility of amending the Council's Constitution to allow any Review Panel to request an appropriate Cabinet Member to attend a future meeting to discuss a particular subject which they have raised.

At present, Panels have a right to require a decision maker (or a Member of the Cabinet where the decision was taken in a Cabinet meeting), to attend any meeting called to review the decision of the Executive. If an individual decision maker is not able to attend the meeting, a substitute Cabinet Member may attend.

It is the view of the Housing, Health and Social Exclusion Panel that the existing power should be broadened, in order to assist each Panel to pursue the scrutiny function and to ensure that it is fully briefed on recent developments.

RECOMMENDED:

That the Council consider amending the Constitution to enable any Review Panel to be empowered to request the appearance of the appropriate Cabinet member on any subject which it has raised with the Cabinet.

2. TENANTS' CONSULTATION GROUP (MINUTE NO 19) (REPORT B).

The Panel has received an update on the results of the first tenants' election which has resulted in the return of 11 nominees, following a ballot of all Council tenants.

Whilst the progress in re-establishing a Tenants' Consultation Group has been warmly welcomed by Members, they feel that it would be useful to allow tenant representatives to attend other Review Panel meetings, in order to express their views on matters which affect them. Particular reference was made to the Crime and Disorder Panel, but it is felt that consideration should be given by the Council to enabling participation by tenants' representatives in the areas of work of all of the Review Panels.

RECOMMENDED:

That the Council request Review Panels to discuss the possibility of inviting tenant representatives to attend their meetings as non-voting members.

**Cllr B Rule
CHAIRMAN**