

Record of Executive Decision

REVIEW OF DECISION MAKING

Decision of: Councillor Ian Nimmo-Smith, Leader

Reference: 04/STR/25

Date of decision: 19 July 2004

Recorded on: 20 July 2004

Decision Type: Not a key decision.

Matter for Decision: To agree the principles and criteria that should shape any revised decision making and scrutiny structure for the Council. To agree key issues which should be addressed by any revised decision making and scrutiny structure for the Council.

Why the decision had to be made (and any alternative options): The Council moved to an Executive and Scrutiny form of decision making in May 2002 in order to comply with the Local Government Act 2000. Members agreed that the structure and processes should be formally reviewed after two years to ensure that they were delivering effective decision making for the Council.

The Leader's decision:

For recommendation to Civic Affairs and Council:

- 1) That the principles and criteria listed in paragraph 5.6 of the report are agreed as those that should be used to shape any revised decision making and scrutiny structure for the Council.
- 2) That any revised decision making and scrutiny structure for the Council is designed to address the key issues arising from Member and officer consultation listed in paragraphs 6.2.1 to 6.2.8 of the report.
- 3) That in criteria 3, 'efficient' is defined as "A revised decision making and scrutiny system that will deliver the other 7 criteria and principles using minimum resources" and,
- 4) That in terms of resources, the starting point for a revised decision making and scrutiny structure is that it should cost no more than the existing system.
- 5) That the Member Working Group consider the issues raised in Councillor Bradnack's motion to Council on 24th June 2004, work up options for a revised decision making and scrutiny structure for the Council that complies with 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 above, and report to Strategy Scrutiny and Civic Affairs Committees in November 2004 and to Council in December 2004 so that a

preferred option can be agreed.

Reasons for the decision: These are outlined in the report.

Scrutiny consideration: The Scrutiny Committee approved the recommendation for the Leader by 6 votes to 0.

Report: Agenda Item 9 of the Strategy Scrutiny Committee, 19 July 2004.

Conflicts of interest: -

Comments: Scrutiny Committee asked for more information see minutes.

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Extract from minutes 19/7/04

04/STR/39 **REVIEW OF DECISION MAKING**

The Committee noted that the Head of Legal & Democratic Services had advised following publication of the report that the recommendations would need to be referred by the Leader to Civic Affairs Committee and Council for approval.

Councillor Durrant requested, and the Committee agreed, that the Working Party be provided with approximate costings of the current decision making process. Referring to recommendation 2.3b, the Chair proposed that any revised decision making structure should not lead to an increase in resources compared to the existing levels. The Committee agreed with this proposal for the Leader. Councillor Bradnack requested that the Working Party be provided with the recent research from the Local Government Information Unit on Scrutiny.

Action by: Head of Strategy & Partnerships

With the consent of the Committee, the Deputy Leader spoke and suggested that the Working Party consider that any revised system should limit the agenda content of pre scrutiny and suggested that a useful illustration would be to provide the Working Party with a list of the key and non-key decisions reported in the July scrutiny cycle.

The Scrutiny Committee agreed the recommendations for the Leader, as amended in 2.3b by the Chair above, by 6 votes to 0.

The Leader agreed the recommendations.