

**MINUTES OF THE WORKING PARTY
ESTABLISHED TO REVIEW DECISION-
MAKING AND SCRUTINY PROCESSES**

**4 APRIL 2005
5.00pm – 7:00pm**

Councillors Present: C Rosenstiel (Chair), Adigun-Harris, Bailey, Barrett-Payton, Boyce (Vice Chair), Bradnack, Durrant, Herbert and James.

1 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2005 were confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

2 APOLOGIES

Cllr J Smith.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

4 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No members of the public were present.

**5 DETAILS OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE COUNCIL'S DECISION-
MAKING AND SCRUTINY STRUCTURE**

The Senior Strategy Officer (TW) introduced the draft report and asked members to provide comment. He advised that the report would be sent to the next meeting of the Civic Affairs Committee who will decide on the recommendations.

Cllr Durrant suggested that the issue of public speaking rights be reviewed as it was only the Executive Councillor who could respond to a question from the public during a committee meeting. He suggested that the process be opened up to allow all members to participate and provide comment. The Head of Legal Services commented that this could be looked into at a later date by the Civic Affairs Committee.

Cllr Bradnack commented that he would like a review of how the Council conducted its Committees of Inquiry. He said that at present it was unclear whether committees of inquiry were independent or a function of the executive. Cllr Rosenstiel commented that this could be looked into at a later date by the Civic Affairs Committee.

Following discussion on how the new decision making process would work in practice, members suggested that the following changes be made to the draft report:

- All Democratic Services functions to be placed in the Customer Services and Resources portfolio (section 5.25).

- Chair of Strategy Scrutiny Committee to rule on any disputes over which committee should scrutinise a report (section 6.1).
- Change post scrutiny call-in to post decision call-in (section 6.7).
- Include the need to consult tenants on the Housing Management Board. Include a suggestion that in the interim up to 3 tenants to be co-opted onto the Community Services Scrutiny Committee but only for housing related issues. It should be made clear that co-opted members cannot vote (section 7.7)
- Include any urgent decisions taken by Exec Cllr to be reported to the next scrutiny committee meeting (section 12).

CHAIR