

RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEES

POLICY & SERVICES COMMITTEE – 24 APRIL 2001

*** PUBLIC SPEAKING AT PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The Director of Planning and Technical Services reported on a recommendation from the Planning Committee that public speaking be introduced at its meetings and that Standing Orders be amended accordingly.

The Cabinet recommendation was approved and it was:

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: That the arrangements recommended in the report to the Planning Committee and the consequent changes to the Council's procedures and Standing Orders, be approved and:-

- (a) Public speaking be introduced at the Planning Committee for a trial period of one year, in accordance with the draft protocol, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.
- (b) Standing Order No. 44 be amended to reflect the need for all District Councillors to submit in writing their wish to speak at Planning Committee by not later than 5.00 pm on the Tuesday before Planning Committee.

*** MODERN LOCAL GOVERNMENT WORKING GROUP**

The recommendations of the meeting of the Modern Local Government Working Group held on 18 April 2001 were submitted regarding proposed changes to procedures and practices in respect of the Council's interim political management arrangements.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: That the following be approved and adopted:-

- (a) The frequency of meetings of the Policy and Services Committee be considered due to the volume of business transacted at each meeting and options be presented to the next meeting of the Working Group.
- (b) Members of the Council be allowed to remain at all meetings including Cabinet, during the consideration of exempt items of business.

- (c) The Delegation to Policy and Services Committee be amended to include:-

To recommend to the Council as to the filling of any casual vacancy on any Committee, in accordance with Standing Orders. Provided that a Member newly elected to the Council shall be entitled from the date of such recommendation to act as a Member of the Committee or Working Group until the recommendation is considered by the Council.

- (d) The creation of an additional Scrutiny Committee be supported in principle and options to achieve this be presented to the next meeting of the Working Group.
- (e) Further training be provided to Members on the new political management arrangements and the community representational role of non-executive members.
- (f) Prior to the adoption of the Council's new legislatively supported political management arrangements in May 2002, further consideration be given to:-
- (i) Models adopted by other local authorities particularly in respect of the operation of Council meetings.
 - (ii) The definition of Cabinet portfolios and the quorum for Cabinet meetings.
 - (iii) The extent to which Cabinet meetings can be arranged to avoid holiday periods.
 - (iv) The level of officer support to the Scrutiny process.
 - (v) The balance between executive control and delegation to officers.

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GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES SUB-COMMITTEE – 11 APRIL 2001

RESOLVED: (a) TO RECOMMEND: That a Committee of five Members having, so far as

possible, no material previous knowledge of the facts of the grievances raised, be appointed with the following terms of reference:-

To hear the grievances by considering the written submissions by all parties and interviewing such individuals (to be accompanied by a Trade Union representative, full time official or work colleague if they so wish) as it considers appropriate and to determine the grievance without making any findings of fact against individual named officers.

- (b) That, in the event of the Committee deciding that action taken by any named officers should be considered under the disciplinary procedure, it should recommend accordingly.
- (c) That, in view of the particular nature of this case and the expertise of the respective organisations, Mr. Adam Barker of the National Employers Organisation for Local Government and Mr. Adrian Crawford of DMH, Solicitors be retained to advise the Committee.
- (d) That a report on the budgetary implications of this case be presented to the Policy and Services Committee.
- (e) That the external legal adviser be not required to furnish any certificate as to his dealings with officers.