

CABINET

Planning Policy Cabinet Liaison Group 27 July 2010

Report of Chief Executive

PURPOSE OF REPORT					
To consider the chairmanship of the Planning Policy Cabinet Liaison Group.					
Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cabinet Member Referral	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Date Included in Forward Plan	N/A.				
This report is public.					

Recommendation of Councillor Bryning:-

- (1) That Cabinet approves the appointment of Councillor Blamire, Cabinet Member with special responsibility for Safety and Chairman of the Planning and Highways Regulatory Committee, as Chairman of the Planning Policy Cabinet Liaison Group.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Cabinet Liaison Groups are established by Cabinet and exist to share information about a particular topic. They provide individual Cabinet Members with a wider information and advisory platform to inform their executive decision-making and policy effectiveness. The participants in any Cabinet Liaison Group are by invitation of the Chairman and can be made up of any or all of the following:

- Other members of Cabinet
- Other members of the Council not on Cabinet
- Others from outside the Council
- Council officers

- 1.2 At its meeting on 1 June 2010, Cabinet reviewed all its Cabinet Liaison Groups. The current terms of reference agreed by Cabinet for the Planning Policy Cabinet Liaison Group are attached as Appendix 1 for Members' information.

2.0 Proposal

- 2.1 The Cabinet Member for Economy's portfolio currently includes responsibility for Planning. As the relevant portfolio holder, Councillor Bryning would

normally chair the Planning Policy Cabinet Liaison Group, and invite the participants.

2.2 The Planning Policy Cabinet Liaison Group met for the first time this municipal year on 23 June 2010. Councillor Bryning proposed Councillor Blamire, Cabinet Member for Safety, as chairman of the Group. The proposition was seconded and clearly carried, "subject to the proper constitutional procedures being followed." As a result, this report has been drafted to refer the matter to Cabinet for decision.

2.3 As the body responsible for establishing Liaison Groups, Cabinet is therefore asked to consider the Cabinet Member for Economy's request to approve Councillor Blamire's appointment as chairman of the Planning Policy Cabinet Liaison Group. The Cabinet Member for Economy would attend all meetings as a Member of the Group.

3.0 **Options and Options analysis**

3.1 The options are:-

(a) For the Cabinet Member for Economy to chair the Planning Policy Cabinet Liaison Group, in line with his portfolio responsibility for Planning.

(b) To approve the appointment of the Cabinet Member for Safety as the Chairman of the Planning Policy Cabinet Liaison Group, subject to the Cabinet Member for Economy being present at all meetings.

(c) For the Leader to review the allocation of the portfolio responsibility for Planning.

(d) To discontinue the Planning Policy Cabinet Liaison Group.

3.2 Regarding Option (a), the Council's Constitution states that participation in Cabinet Liaison Groups will be by invitation of the chairman. It is naturally assumed that the chairman will be the relevant portfolio holder. Option 1 accords with the Constitution and provides clarity regarding individual Cabinet Member roles and responsibilities and decision-making.

3.3 Option (b) is in accordance with the wishes of the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Planning and has the consent of Councillor Blamire and other members of the Planning Policy Cabinet Liaison Group. Members should also consider the comments of the Monitoring Officer in relation to this option.

3.4 Option (c) would be a matter for the Leader. However, Members should also consider the comments of the Monitoring Officer in relation to this option.

3.5 Regarding Option (d), the Planning Policy Cabinet Liaison Group has been a useful platform for the Cabinet Member with responsibility in the past. Planning Policy is a complex and important area. Should Cabinet wish to discontinue the Cabinet Liaison Group, some other consultative mechanism would need to be developed to support and inform the relevant Cabinet Member in his/her decision-making role.

4.0 **Officer Preferred Option and Comments**

4.1 Option (a) is the officer preferred option. To fully utilise the Liaison Group mechanism, the most appropriate chairman for any Cabinet Liaison Group will always be the relevant portfolio holder. This also avoids the issues raised by the Monitoring Officer in relation to options (b) and (c).

5.0 **Conclusion**

5.1 Members are asked to consider the content of this report and the recommendations of the Cabinet Member regarding the chairmanship of the Planning Policy Cabinet Liaison Group.

RELATIONSHIP TO POLICY FRAMEWORK

Cabinet Liaison Groups assist the Cabinet in the discharge of executive functions.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability etc)

Cabinet Liaison Groups provide clear focus, transparency, accessibility and inclusiveness in the Council's Executive decision-making processes.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications with regard to the recommendations.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Section 151 officer has been consulted and has no comments.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Cabinet Liaison Groups are established in accordance with the City Council's Constitution.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer would advise that, given that the function of a Cabinet Liaison Group, as set out in the Constitution, is to provide information to the relevant Cabinet Member to support decision making within that Cabinet member's portfolio, it is not appropriate for a different Cabinet Member to chair the Liaison Group. That would to all intents and purposes defeat the object of having the Cabinet Liaison Group, and the Monitoring Officer could not therefore recommend the Cabinet to support option (b).

With regard to option (c), whilst the allocation of portfolios is a matter for the Leader, the Monitoring Officer would draw attention to government guidance that the Cabinet member with responsibility for the Development Plan should not normally be the chairman of the Planning Regulatory Committee.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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