

CABINET

Cabinet Liaison Groups

20th March 2007

Report of Overview and Scrutiny Committee

PURPOSE OF REPORT			
To advise Cabinet of the concern of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with regard to the development of Cabinet Liaison groups.			
Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-Key Decision	Referral from Overview & Scrutiny
Date Included in Forward Plan	N/A		
This report is public			

RECOMMENDATIONS OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

- (1) That Cabinet note the decision of the Overview and Scrutiny not to appoint representatives to the Transport Cabinet Liaison Group.
- (2) That Cabinet note the concerns of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with regard to the development of Cabinet Liaison groups.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 At their meeting on the 31st January 2007 the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered an invitation from Cabinet to appoint two representatives to the Transport Cabinet Liaison Group on a PR basis, taking account of the political groups already represented.

2.0 Proposal Details

- 2.1 Concern was expressed at the way in which Cabinet Liaison Groups appeared to be developing and it was agreed that this should be expressed to Cabinet, particularly as they could be viewed as compromising the impartiality of Overview and Scrutiny. Given the nature of Overview and Scrutiny it was not considered appropriate for the Committee to be fettered in their choice of representation.

With regard to making the appointments it was agreed that in this circumstance it was more appropriate to have representatives from political groups in order to ensure that Overview and Scrutiny was not politicised.

It was agreed that Overview and Scrutiny should not appoint to this liaison group, but that the Conservative and Independent Groups be asked to nominate. As leaders of their respective groups, Councillors Mace and Archer confirmed that Councillors Mace and Kerr would be their group representative.

- 2.2 It was agreed that Cabinet should be advised of the decision not to appoint to this Liaison Group on the basis proposed by Cabinet and the Committee's view that, as Overview and Scrutiny is a non-political process, to appoint on a party political basis could jeopardise this impartiality. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is also concerned at the way in which the Cabinet Liaison groups are developing, and particularly in view of their role as an advisory platform that the Cabinet Liaison groups have sought to appoint by virtue of position, e.g. Overview and Scrutiny, rather than expertise in the subject being addressed and promoting the inclusivity of all non-executive Councillors.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comment to add.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications arising from this report. The function and format of Cabinet Liaison Groups is defined in Cabinet Procedure Rule 2.8.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Deputy Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments to add.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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