

Report of the Head of Civic, Democratic and Legal Services

## **FORMATION OF STRATEGIC POLICY PANEL**

### **Summary**

1. This report sets out arrangements and delegations for a Strategic Policy Panel with a remit to consider significant items of Executive business prior to any formal decision being made on such issues by the Executive.

### **Background**

2. In order to establish a new Strategic Policy Panel (SPP) to consider significant items of Executive business at a politically balanced public meeting of the Council prior to any decisions formally being made by the Executive, Council needs to:
  - approve delegated powers for SPP
  - revise article 7 in the Constitution; and
  - agree diarised arrangements for meetings

### **Consultation**

3. Consultation has taken place with party groups in relation to the arrangements for setting up this Panel and any meetings.

### **Options**

4. Council can approve, reject or propose amendments to the suggested delegations and operational arrangements for the Panel.

### **Analysis**

#### **Arrangements for meetings**

5. It is proposed that these are as follows:
  - Panel to be scheduled to meet fortnightly on Mondays following the Executive meeting as and when required (time to be finalised)

- Any major group leader (or in their absence, Deputy Group Leader or designated substitute) may make a referral to the SPP (see Annex A attached).
- SPP will consider any reports associated with items referred from the Executive agenda and make its recommendations on such matters to the relevant Executive meeting. Such Executive meeting will then decide upon the matters in hand, taking account of the recommendations and advice of SPP.

### **Corporate Priorities**

6. The aims in establishing a politically balanced Strategic Policy Panel accord with the key principles of openness and transparency set out in the Council's Constitution.

### **Implications**

7. There are no known financial, IT, human resources or other implications associated with establishing a Strategic Policy Panel other than any costs associated with any large volume of referrals to it resulting in a significant number of additional meetings being arranged.

### **Risk Management**

9. There are no risk management implications associated with establishing the Panel.

### **Recommendations**

10. That Council establish a Strategic Policy Panel on the Council's structure and approve the attached delegations, revised article 7 and revised Executive delegations in support of that, with a view to scheduling the first meeting on 23 July 2007 .

Reason: In line with Constitutional requirements.

## Contact Details

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**Report Approved**



**Date** 22/6/07

**Specialist Implications Officer(s)**

*N/A*

**Wards Affected: All**



**For further information please contact the author of the report**

**Background Papers:**

None

**Annexes**

Annex A – Delegated Authority for Strategic Policy Panel

Annex B – Revised Article 7 of Constitution

Annex C – Revised Executive Delegations