



REPORT OF THE CABINET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Date: 19th July 2006

Report of: Councillor M M G Oborski
Chairman of Cabinet Scrutiny
Committee

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The definition of 'The Role of the CABS Chair' in the draft PROTOCOL FOR DELIVERING THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY FUNCTION specifically includes "Representing overview and scrutiny at meetings of the full Council and being accountable to it". Hence this report.

2. Issues

- 2.1 Prior to the first meeting of the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee on 6th June it became clear that there were three issues which needed to be resolved:-
- (a) The need for new protocols to reflect changed terms of reference for the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee and the Policy Panels;
 - (b) The need to resolve possible contradictions and uncertainties in the various terms of reference;
 - (c) The fact that the agreed schedule of Council Meetings did not meet the new imperatives created by the new structure and terms of reference (ie. the need for the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee to approve the Work Programmes of the Panels)
- 2.2 These issues were raised at meetings of myself and the Vice-Chairman with the Leader, Chief Executive and Head of Legal and Democratic Services and subsequently with the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Panels and finally with the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee itself on 6th June 2006.
- 2.3 The collective impact of these issues means that most of the matters on the Agenda for the 6th June Meeting of the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee were deferred to a second Meeting of the Committee on 28th June.

3. Cabinet Scrutiny Committee - 6th June 2006

3.1 Matters determined at the 6th June Meeting included:-

- (a) The need for a more structured Cabinet Member Response Form in respect of scrutiny recommendations.
- (b) Community Safety issues will be dealt with by the Prosperity Policy Panel rather than the Service Policy Panel (There was an element of confusion on this point in the papers before the last Meeting of Council).

3.2 Full copies of the Minutes of the 6th June Meeting are available to Members.

4. Cabinet Scrutiny Committee – 28th June 2006

4.1 Matters determined at the 28th June Meeting included:-

- (a) The presentation of the recommendations contained in the MOBILE PHONE MAST REVIEW by the Chairman of the Prosperity Policy Panel. The Report was unanimously and enthusiastically welcomed and the Cabinet was urged to support its conclusions.
- (b) Adoption of the PROTOCOL FOR DELIVERING THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY FUNCTION produced by the Chief Executive. This is an important and helpful document and all members of the Council should be aware of the contents.
- (c) Policy Panel Work Programmes were noted and approved. It was accepted that these are generally “work in progress” at this stage and will be subject to change and addition. They are all available on the web site.
- (d) The initial Cabinet Scrutiny Committee Work Programme was approved. In particular the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee is undertaking a major and ongoing scrutiny exercise on the role of “Ward Members” and the means of developing and supporting their roles both as effective local councillors and in terms of community leadership. Work on this starts in July and there will be opportunities for all members of the Council to contribute.

Cllr M M G Oborski
Chairman, Cabinet Scrutiny Committee