



MEETING OF THE RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL

THURSDAY, 22 DECEMBER 2005
9.00 AM

PANEL MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillor Conboy
Councillor Joynson
Councillor Kirkman (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Lovelock M.B.E. (Chairman)

Councillor M Taylor
Councillor G Taylor
Councillor Wilks

OFFICERS

Scrutiny Officer
Chief Executive
Administrative Officer
Corporate Manager Democratic & Legal
Services (Monitoring Officer) – present for
minute 53 only
BEHA Williams Norman Ltd Consultant
Scrutiny Support Officer

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillor Bryant
Councillor Mrs Cartwright
Councillor Kerr
Councillor Martin-Mayhew
Councillor O'Hare
Councillor Turner

53. CALL-IN REQUEST VALIDITY

Following a short adjournment, the Monitoring Officer advised on the validity of the call-in request. It was suggested by some of the members that, in light of Rule 16 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, the request was invalid because there was no evidence that the Cabinet decision had not been taken in accordance with the principles set out in Article 14. The Cabinet had only made a recommendation, which would then be debated by Full Council. The Monitoring Officer advised that in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000, the decision subject to the call-in request was valid for call-in because it was a minuted decision of the Cabinet, notwithstanding that it was a recommendation to Full Council.

54. MEMBERSHIP

The panel was advised that Councillor Moore had been replaced by Councillor Brailsford until the next annual general meeting of the Council and that for this meeting only, Councillor Brailsford had been replaced by Councillor Mike Taylor.

55. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Mrs Dexter and Fines.

56. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none declared.

57. CALL-IN OF CABINET DECISION 5TH DECEMBER 2005 - LARGE SCALE VOLUNTARY TRANSFER: PROGRESS REPORT

The Scrutiny Officer advised that this special meeting had been called to consider the call-in request of Cabinet decision CO90. He outlined the procedure to be undertaken in the meeting and reminded members that the power to support the call-in rested with the panel. Three members who had signed the call-in request were present at the meeting and they were invited to explain further the reasons for the call-in request.

One of the members explained that the essence of the call-in related to decision 2(a) of CO90, which recommended the proportion of capital receipts from stock transfer to be allocated to affordable housing. He suggested that the decision to make affordable housing a Category A priority had been made based on the anticipated capital receipt from stock transfer. It was not appropriate to limit the funds to that service. Cabinet had not given their decision sufficient debate, given the level of finance involved. This also had not been detailed in the report considered by Cabinet.

The member referred to:

- A media release following the decision of the Cabinet.
- Minutes from the Council meeting in May 2005 relating to stock transfer.
- Sections from the Audit Commission report on affordable housing that criticised the Council's strategic housing function.

The evidence presented and whether or not to support the call-in request was discussed by the panel with the officers. A proposal to not support the call-in was made and seconded. On being put to the vote, five members supported the proposal and two voted against.

Conclusion:

That the Resources DSP does not support the call-in request. The Cabinet decision CO90 is therefore implemented.

58. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 9.52a.m.