

## MUNICIPAL YEAR 2010/2011 REPORT NO. 189

### MEETING TITLE AND DATE:

Governance Review Group -  
15 February 2011  
Planning Committee - 16 February 2011  
Council - 2 March 2011

### REPORT OF:

Director of Finance and  
Corporate Resources

Agenda – Part: 1

Item: 20

### Subject:

**PROTOCOL FOR CABINET MEMBER FOR  
REGENERATION AND IMPROVING  
LOCALITIES TO ATTEND PLANNING  
COMMITTEE**

**Cabinet Member consulted:**

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### 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report seeks to introduce revised and more formal arrangements for the Cabinet member for Regeneration and Improving Localities to be able to attend the Planning Committee to put forward the Council's policies on relevant planning applications.

### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That members agree the draft protocol for Cabinet member for Regeneration and Improving Localities to attend Planning Committee in his capacity as a Cabinet Member.

### 3. BACKGROUND

At present there is no guidance in the Council's Constitution or the planning procedures relating to Cabinet Members attending the Planning Committee in a formal capacity. They like any member of the Council are able to attend committee and with the permission of the Chairman may speak on a particular application.

The proposed protocol would set out a more formalised role and would specify that the Cabinet member's contributions at the Planning Committee would be area based and restricted to commenting on applications relevant to the regeneration priority areas.

This suggested change in practice arose from experience in other authorities where the planning policy aspects were thought to be best supported by both the officer position and the cabinet position.

#### **4. DRAFT PROTOCOL**

The proposed draft protocol for the Cabinet member for Regeneration and Improving Localities to attend Planning Committee in his capacity as a Cabinet Member is set out below:

" The Cabinet member for Regeneration and Improving Localities (or equivalent) will be able to attend the Planning Committee. His/her role at those meetings will be to put forward the Council's views on relevant matters such as policies in the Council's Local Development Framework, master planning and urban design, and strategic regeneration and economic development issues to give a policy context the Committee's deliberations on particular matters. He/she will not be a member of the Committee and will not have a vote.

His/her role at the meeting will not be dissimilar to that undertaken by the Chairman of the Conservation Advisory Group in relation to relevant matters.

The Cabinet member will be invited to comment and respond to discussion at meetings after deputations and contributions from ward councillors. He/she will restrict his comments to those matters identified above and will not otherwise participate in the Committee's decision making process.

#### **5. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Cabinet member will be able to attend Planning Committee to highlight and assure that the various regeneration areas such as Ponders End are consistent with the Council's objectives and to give those matters greater prominence.

#### **6. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

The alternative would be to continue to rely on the Planning Officers to highlight to the Planning Committee the Council's regeneration objectives.

#### **7. COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND CORPORATE RESOURCES AND OTHER DEPARTMENTS**

##### **7.1 Financial Implications**

7.1.1 There are no specific financial implications relating to this report..

##### **7.2 Legal Implications**

7.2.1 There is no statutory or constitutional impediment to the Council introducing the proposed arrangements set out in the draft protocol.

The Constitution sets out how the Council operates within legal requirements.

It is necessary to review the constitution periodically to reflect changes in circumstances or to introduce more effective working practices as evidenced in the reasons for recommendations set out above.

### 7.3 Property Implications

7.3.1 There are no specific property implications relating to this report.

## **8. KEY RISKS**

8.1 There are no identified risks relating to this report. The proposals should enhance the role of the relevant Cabinet Member in relation to planning application.

## **9. IMPACT ON COUNCIL PRIORITIES**

The attendance of the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Improving Localities at the Planning Committee will strengthen the decision making process.

## **10. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 There are no specific performance management implications relating to this report.

## **11. HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 There are no specific health and safety implications relating to this report.

Background Papers

None