

POLICY SCRUTINY PANEL

6th November, 2007

Present: Cllr. Wilkes (in the Chair), and Councillors Cowper, Kellett, Lodge, McDonnell, Simmons and Walker.

Also Present: Councillors Carr, Marsden, Robinson and Turnbull.

Apologies for Absence: Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Lightley, Martin and Wolstenholme.

Bullet Points from the Meeting held on 9th October, 2007.

The Bullet Points from the Meeting held on 9th October, 2007, were approved as a correct record.

BULLET POINTS

MEMBERS ONLINE

- A Draft Report on this Scrutiny was presented to the Panel.
- After a general discussion of the Draft Report, Members suggested the following amendments/additions to the Draft Recommendations:-
 - To Draft Recommendation No. 1 be added:-
 - Costs incurred (*in relation to printing, general overheads and telephone/broadband costs in relation to downloading Committee Papers from the Internet*).
 - To Draft Recommendation No. 2 be added:-
 - (*and that a further letter of invitation to take advantage of the instruction be sent to all Members*).
 - That Draft Recommendation No. 3 be amended to read:-
 - (*That the Human Resources Section be requested to develop a further programme of basic, general Computer Training, specifically for Elected Members, to be offered on an ongoing basis*).
- The Panel agreed that subject to the above amendments/additions, the Report and Recommendations be submitted for consideration to the Scrutiny Committee.
- In relation to Section 8.2 of the Draft Report, Members emphasised that their requested circulation of the weekly Schedule of Meetings to all Councillors had proved very useful and expressed their appreciation to the Democratic Support Team for swiftly putting the measures in place.
- Members also requested that one copy of all weekly Committee papers continues to be held in the Members Room at 4 Saddler Street and stressed that the copies should be for reference only, not to be removed, and should be appropriately identified as such.

EQUALITIES POLICIES

- This topic had been allocated to the Policy Scrutiny Panel by the Scrutiny Committee.
- The Centre for Public Scrutiny in conjunction with the Commission for Equalities and Human Rights had produced a document entitled "Equal to the Task". The document advised Local Authorities how to ensure that their Equalities Policies were in place, were adequate, were being actioned and met the "Equality Standard for Local Government".
- The Panel agreed that for the next meeting an Officer from the HR Section be requested to attend to give Members an overview of the current status of the Council's Equalities Policies.
- It was also agreed that Panel Members be provided with appropriate background documents, prior to the Meeting.

The Meeting terminated at 6.35pm