
REPORT OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

(SPECIAL) MEETING HELD ON 12 MAY 2008

Chairman:	* Councillor Stanley Sheinwald	
Councillors:	* Ms Nana Asante (3) * Mrs Margaret Davine * Manji Kara * Ashok Kulkarni (2) * Jerry Miles * Mrs Vina Mithani	* Mrs Rekha Shah (4) Dinesh Solanki * Yogesh Teli * Mark Versallion * Jeremy Zeid (7)
Voting Co-opted:	(Voluntary Aided) † Mrs J Rammelt Reverend P Reece	(Parent Governors) * Mr R Chauhan Mrs D Speel

* Denotes Member present
(2), (3), (4) and (7) Denote category of Reserve Members
† Denotes apologies received

PART I - RECOMMENDATIONS - NIL
PART II - MINUTES
325. Attendance by Reserve Members:

RESOLVED: To note the attendance at this meeting of the following duly appointed Reserve Members:-

Ordinary Member

Councillor Brian Gate
Councillor Mitzi Green
Councillor Janet Mote
Councillor Anthony Seymour

Reserve Member

Councillor Mrs Rekha Shah
Councillor Nana Asante
Councillor Jeremy Zeid
Councillor Ashok Kulkarni

326. Declarations of Interest:

RESOLVED: To note that there were no declarations of interests made by Members in relation to the business transacted at this meeting.

327. Arrangement of Agenda:

RESOLVED: That (1) in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, the following item be admitted late to the agenda by virtue of the special circumstances and grounds for urgency detailed below:-

Agenda item

6. Corporate Improvement Programme Challenge Panel

Special Circumstances / Grounds for Urgency

This report was not available at the time the agenda was printed and circulated, as it was being consulted on and because the request for the piece of work to be undertaken came after the deadline for submission of reports. Members were requested to consider this item, as a matter of urgency, as the work which was being undertaken to a very tight timescale, needed to commence as soon as possible.

(2) all items be considered with the press and public present.

328. Minutes:

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Committee's ordinary meeting held on 22 April 2008 and the earlier special meeting held on 12 May 2008 be deferred until the next ordinary meeting of the Committee.

329. **Deputations:**

RESOLVED: To note that no deputations were received at the meeting under the provisions of Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 10.

330. **Corporate Improvement Programme Challenge Panel:**

The Scrutiny Manager introduced the report, which outlined proposals to hold a Challenge Panel to support the development of the Council's Corporate Improvement Programme. In response to questions from a Member, she stated that the request for convening a Challenge Panel had come from the Interim Divisional Director of Strategy and Improvement. A robust challenge would be expected in relation to the content and focus of the Improvement Programme.

The key objectives of the Challenge Panel would be to:-

- challenge the assumptions upon which the revised corporate improvement programme will be based;
- challenge the focus of the action proposed;
- consider the appropriateness of the action proposed;
- challenge the effectiveness of the action proposed.

The Committee was also informed that the Corporate Improvement Programme would be considered by Cabinet on 19 June 2008 and there was a need to feed into the report before 7 June. It was therefore intended to hold the Challenge Panel, subject to the Committee's agreement on its establishment, between 21 May and 7 June 2008. It was noted that the Liberal Democrat Group had also been contacted with a view to one of their Members serving on this Panel. The Scrutiny Manager confirmed that the Directors had indicated their availability for a round table discussion to investigate four areas of the scope.

RESOLVED: That (1) Challenge Panel be held to support the development of the Council's Corporate Improvement Programme;

(2) in addition to the two Members from each of the Conservative and Labour Groups, a Member from the Liberal Democrat Group be invited to serve on the Challenge Panel;

(3) the scope set out at appendix 1 to the officer report be agreed.

(Note: The meeting, having commenced at 6.56 pm, closed at 7.05 pm).

(Signed) COUNCILLOR STANLEY SHEINWALD
Chairman