

CABINET

20 MAY 2003

Reference from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 1 April 2003:
Take a Chance on 'e'

1. At its meeting on 1 April 2003, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the report of the Scrutiny Review Group on e-Government. An addendum setting out an estimate of the officer time spent supporting the review was also tabled at the meeting.
2. Members made a number of comments on the report. In particular, they were pleased to note that the report highlighted that e-Government was not only an IT issue. The Review Group's recommendations in relation to training were welcomed, and the importance of the findings relating to communications was also highlighted. There was some discussion about the length of the Executive Summary and the repetition of certain themes in several sections of the report, including the appendices. It was advised that the structure of the report had been recommended by the IDeA consultant who had provided consultancy support for the review. It had been considered necessary to include the information set out in the appendices in order to make available the evidence to support the Review Group's findings. It was suggested that it would be useful for the Executive Summary to be circulated to all Members of Council, and this was agreed.
3. There was some concern about the timing of Review Group meetings, and it was highlighted that most Members in full-time employment were unable to participate in daytime meetings. It was suggested that there was a need for greater clarity at the start of a review about the way in which the review would be conducted. The involvement of Reserve Members in the review was welcomed, as it was considered this would enable them to gain experience of carrying out reviews while also relieving some of the burden of scrutiny work on Committee Members.
4. The Committee agreed that the report be endorsed and referred to the Cabinet, with a request that the Cabinet provide a written response to the Committee outlining how it would respond to the report's recommendations.
5. The Committee **RESOLVED:** That (1) the report of the Review Group be endorsed;
(2) the Executive Summary be circulated to all Members of Council; and
(3) Cabinet be requested to consider the report of the Review Group and to provide a written response to the Committee outlining how it would respond to the report's recommendations.

(Note: the associated appendices to the report of the Scrutiny Review Group are available for viewing on the Council's website – www.Harrow.gov.uk - A hard copy of these documents is available on request).