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**EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE  
CORPORATE RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
HELD ON 16 JANUARY 2003**

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**CROS.24/03    AREA WORKING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REVIEW**

Pursuant to Minute CROS.150/02, the Chairman reported the outcome of his discussions with the relevant Portfolio Holder and Officers on the issues involved in area working.

There were a number of concerns as regards area working and disagreement on how to progress the matter further. The Executive did not favour the County Council Neighbourhood Forum model and the Portfolio Holder had agreed to consult with his colleagues and give feedback.

A Member questioned whether the objections related to the County Council's Neighbourhood Forum model or to participating in that system.

The Chairman advised that that had not been made clear. The Overview and Scrutiny Manager commented that at the time when this Committee's views had been reported to the Executive there appeared to be strategic objections.

A Member expressed his deep concern that this Council, or indeed any Council, was prepared to sit back because there may at some time in the future be a move towards Regional Government. A Member also noted that the existing County Council Neighbourhood Forums and the areas they presently covered may not match exactly the City Council's Wards which may prove to be an issue.

A Member added that the original proposal put forward by this Committee had been unanimous and was a good idea which was seen to be working. It involved a successful operation which the City Council could either adopt or participate in by way of a partnership. The Executive's decision to wait and see was not acceptable.

A Member stated that the matter clearly affected the community and should therefore be referred to the Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee for their view.

The Chairman instructed that representatives of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee be invited to attend a future meeting of this Committee when the matter was discussed further.

There then followed detailed discussion of the way forward, at the conclusion of which it was agreed that this Committee did not feel that sufficient explanation had been given as to the Executive's reasons for rejecting Area Working. It was the unanimous wish of this Committee that the Executive reconsider that issue.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY - (1) That the Executive be advised that this Committee did not feel that sufficient explanation had been given as to the Executive's reasons for rejecting Area Working, and it was the wish of this Committee that the Executive reconsider that issue and, if they were not willing to support the proposal, then they should put forward a workable plan in line with the Leader's statement in the 2002/03 budget debate for the introduction of Area Working.

(2) That representatives of the Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee be invited to attend a future meeting of this Committee when the issue of Area Working was considered further.