
EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE HELD ON 30 JULY 2007

EX.184/07 REFERENCE FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE - CIRCULATION OF PAPERS TO SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES (Non-Key Decision)

Portfolio – Environment and Infrastructure

Subject Matter - There was submitted a Minute Excerpt from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on 5 July 2007 regarding the circulation of Committee papers to substitute members of Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee attended the meeting and commented that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee had agreed that full sets of Committee papers should no longer be circulated to substitute members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees unless the substitute members ask to receive papers. The Committee had also asked the Executive to consider ways in which the environmental impact of all City Council Committees could be reduced. The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee recognised that Committees such as Development Control, Licensing, Regulatory Panel and Appeals Panels may have legal requirements to send papers to members and substitutes.

The Leader recognised the decision of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee in relation to sending papers to substitute Members of Overview and Scrutiny Committees, but suggested that the Executive should not interfere with the business of other Committees, and it should be up to each Committee to decide whether papers should be sent to substitute Members.

The Environment and Infrastructure Portfolio Holder recognised the need for Members to have access to information and suggested that Members should access agendas and reports electronically by computer. He recognised the need to keep Members informed and suggested that the issue could be investigated by the Group looking at the environmental impact of the Council.

Summary of options rejected - None

DECISION

1. That the Executive recognises the decision by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee that full sets of Committee papers should no longer be circulated to substitute members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees unless the substitute members ask to receive papers.

2. That in relation to other Committees, the Executive should not interfere with the business of these Committees, but rather suggests that each Committee should consider the issue of circulation of Committee papers to substitute members, taking legal advice as necessary.

Reasons for Decision - To consider the reference from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee.