

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**MONDAY 14 APRIL 2003 AT 2.00 PM**

PRESENT: Councillor Jefferson (Chairman), Councillors Mrs Bowman, Mrs Bradley, Dodd, Guest, Knapton, Mrs Mallinson and Mrs Rutherford

OSM.21/03 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

OSM.22/03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

Councillor Mrs Bradley informed the meeting that the matter relating to the size of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees had been discussed at the Labour Group and she would report on the Labour Group's position.

OSM.23/03 PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE SIZE OF OVERVIEW AND**SCRUTINY COMMITTEES**

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services reported (LDS.21/03) on the consequences for political balance if the size of the three Overview and Scrutiny Committees (Corporate Resources, Infrastructure and Community) were increased from their present eight Members to ten and twelve Members respectively. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services set out for Members the calculations of political balance in respect of those proposals and also reported on the position with regard to the appointment of substitutes.

Members commented on the report and questioned the Head of Legal and Democratic Services on the implications of the forthcoming elections on political balance.

Members also commented that one of the reasons for considering the size of Overview and Scrutiny Committees was an attempt to involve those Members who were not currently either Members of the Executive or Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees in the Council's processes.

Members also commented on the outcome of recent training sessions which had indicated there was a general feeling that smaller Overview and Scrutiny Committees were more effective and those Overview and Scrutiny Committees could be supported by smaller Working Groups, including both Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members and other non-Executive Members to investigate/consult on different issues.

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services added that whilst any increase in the size of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees would need to be agreed by the full meeting of the City Council changes in respect of the way in which the Overview and Scrutiny Committees operated, including the delegation of consultative issues to small working groups was a matter for the Overview and Scrutiny Committees to determine.

RESOLVED – (1) That the City Council be recommended to increase the size of the three Overview and Scrutiny Committees (Corporate Resources, Community and Infrastructure) from their current eight Members to ten Members from the commencement of the Municipal Year 2003/04.

(2) That for each committee the Council appoint the same number of substitutes in respect of each political group as that group holds ordinary seats on that committee up to a maximum of three for each political group.

OSM.24/03 COMPREHENSIVE PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT –

SELF-ASSESSMENT

The Overview and Scrutiny Manager reported (SPS.03/08) on the first draft of the City Council's self-assessment as part of the Comprehensive Performance Assessment. He informed Members that the matter had been considered at a recent meeting of the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee and it had been agreed that in view of the sensitivity of the document so close to the Municipal Elections and as the work was ongoing and a more complete CPS self assessment document would be available within the near future, that consideration of the report be deferred to enable the matter to be considered at an informal workshop, to which all Overview and Scrutiny Members will be invited, which is to be held on 24 April 2003 at 10.00 am.

RESOLVED – (1) That consideration of the draft CPA self assessment document be deferred to enable it to be considered at an informal workshop for all Overview and Scrutiny Members which is to be held on 24 April 2003 at 10.00 am.

(The meeting ended at 2.45 pm)