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EXECUTIVE

26 November 2001

EX.078/01 REVIEW OF MEMBER SUPPORT NEEDS (Key Decision)

Portfolio Corporate Resources

Subject Matter

To consider a report from the Town Clerk and Chief Executive (TC.221/01) providing Members with detailed information on the outcome of a review of Member support needs, including the role of the Political Assistants.

Summary of options rejected

The following options in respect of the Political Assistants were considered:-

- Option 1 – make no change;
- Option 2 – move to part time Political Assistants;
- Option 3 – abolish the posts;
- Option 4 – provide some level of additional research for all Members on a non-political basis as an alternative to these political posts.

DECISION

1. That the current arrangements for Member support, ie secretarial/administrative support from the Town Clerk and Chief Executive's Department, IT support through the City Treasurer's IT Section and Members' personal training budgets, be agreed and the City Solicitor and Secretary be requested to remind Councillors of these arrangements.
2. That the arrangements to provide two separate budgets, one for Members' surgeries and stationery administered by the Head of Committee Services and one for Members' Personal Training administered by the Head of Personnel Training be agreed, it being noted that the Members' personal training budget would be set at £210 per Member.

3. That the Town Clerk and Chief Executive be requested to submit a report to the next meeting of the City Council containing options for the future role of Political Assistants within the Authority and on the implications of making these posts part time with hours on a sliding scale based upon the respective Groups' representation on the City Council.

(Note – This decision was called in for scrutiny at the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 6 December 2001)

Reasons for Decision

To consider and make decisions having regard to the outcome of the review of Member support needs, including the role of the Political Assistants.