
EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE HELD ON 19 JANUARY 2011

EX.007/11 POLICY FRAMEWORK
(Key Decision)

Portfolio Cross-Cutting

Subject Matter

Pursuant to Minute EX.171/10, the Assistant Director (Governance) submitted report GD.08/11 concerning the Council's Policy Framework.

The Assistant Director (Governance) reminded Members that they had on 25 October 2010 considered Report GD.54/10 on the matter and, as a result, agreed that consideration should be given to streamlining the Council's Policy Framework as specified in its Constitution.

He then outlined the purpose of the Policy Framework, together with results of the consultation feedback, details of which were provided.

The matter had been considered by the Community; Environment and Economy; and Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panels and Minute Extracts Cosp.87/10, Eosp.88/10 and Rosp.115/10 circulated prior to the meeting.

In conclusion, the Assistant Director (Governance) recommended improvements to the Policy Framework via a reduction in the number of policies reserved to Council thus streamlining both the Framework and the Council's decision making process. If the Executive was supportive of the proposal the intention was that a report with a recommendation would be presented to the City Council at its meeting on 1 March 2011.

The Chairman of the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel stated that the cross-party workshop held on 21 December 2010 had been excellent. Members were content with the proposed reduction of the Council's Budget and Policy Framework, recognising that it would clarify decision making within the authority.

On behalf of the Executive, the Leader expressed appreciation for the work undertaken by the Assistant Director (Governance) and team, and input from Members of the Council. He therefore looked forward to cross-party support when the matter was considered by Council on 1 March 2011.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the Executive recommended to Council that it:

1. Support and approve the reduction of the Council's Budget and Policy Framework from the existing 80 plus plans, policies and strategies to the 12 as specified in Report GD.08/11;
2. Amend Article 4 of the Constitution and revise its Budget and Policy Framework as specified in Appendix 2; and
3. Authorise the Assistant Director (Governance) to amend the Council's Constitution accordingly.

Reasons for Decision

As detailed in Report GD.08/11, the proposed changes would lead to a reduced Policy Framework which would streamline the decision making process and improve the clarity of decision making and, in particular, the responsibility for decisions.