

*PART A

Report to: Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting: 20 June 2012
Report of: Committee and Scrutiny Officer
Title: Outsourced Services Scrutiny Panel

1.0 **SUMMARY**

1.1 The Outsourced Services Scrutiny Panel is to be established following the recommendations from The Way Ahead for Council Services – Task Group and consideration by Cabinet.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 that Overview and Scrutiny Committee agrees the number of Councillors to make-up the Scrutiny Panel, on a politically proportional basis.

2.2 that Overview and Scrutiny Committee agrees the membership of the Outsourced Services Scrutiny Panel.

2.3 That Overview and Scrutiny Committee agree the terms of reference for the Panel as shown at Appendix 1.

Contact Officer:

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Report approved by: Jason McKenzie, Legal and Democratic Section Head

3.0 **DETAILED PROPOSAL**

3.1 The Task Group, The Way Ahead for Council Services, was established following a scrutiny suggestion put forward by the Managing Director, which was considered by Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 24 November 2011.

3.2 The Task Group met on five occasions through January and February 2012. The final report was presented to Overview and Scrutiny Committee for formal approval on 7 March before its presentation to Cabinet on 20 March 2012.

- 3.3 At the meeting on 20 March, Cabinet considered the Task Group's recommendations and agreed to endorse them.
- 3.4 One of the recommendations was to establish a politically balanced panel to scrutinise all outsourced services on a regular basis. The proposed terms of reference are attached as Appendix 1 to this report.
- 3.5 The Committee and Scrutiny Officer emailed all Councillors on 22 May 2012 and invited non-executive Members to express an interest if they wished to participate in the new Scrutiny Panel.
- 3.6 As at 7 June the following non-executive Councillors have expressed an interest in being Members of the Outsourced Services Scrutiny Panel. The names are listed in order of response.
- Councillor Malcolm Meerabux
 - Councillor George Derbyshire
 - Councillor Sue Greenslade
 - Councillor Shirena Counter
 - Councillor Jackie Connal
 - Councillor Anne Joynes
- 3.7 Overview and Scrutiny Committee will need to decide on the number of Councillors to make up the Scrutiny Panel. If it is agreed that the Scrutiny Panel should comprise 5 Councillors, it would need to be on the basis of 3 Liberal Democrats, 1 Labour and 1 other. If it is agreed that the Panel should comprise 7 Councillors, it would need to be on the basis of 4 Liberal Democrats, 2 Labour and 1 other.
- 3.8 Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to agree the number of Councillors involved in the Outsourced Services Scrutiny Panel and the membership for 2012/13.
- 3.9 The Chair of the Scrutiny Panel will be elected at the first meeting.

4.0 **IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 **Financial**

- 4.1.1 The Head of Strategic Finance comments that any costs arising from this work can be accommodated within existing budgets.

4.2 **Legal Issues** (Monitoring Officer)

- 4.2.1 The Legal and Democratic Section Head comments that there are no legal implications in this report.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Outsourced Services Scrutiny Panel Terms of Reference

Background Papers

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report. If you wish to inspect or take copies of the background papers, please contact the officer named on the front page of the report.

- Overview and Scrutiny Committee minutes 24 November 2011
- The Way Ahead for Council Services – Task Group's final report
- Cabinet minutes 20 March 2012

File Reference

None