

BRIEFING NOTE

PERFORMANCE AND CAPACITY ADVISORY PANEL 17 SEPTEMBER 2008

GOVERNANCE UPDATE

Development of the Constitution

1 The Governance and Constitution Committee has agreed to deal with the development of the Constitution in stages through its work plan. A Working Group of Members has been appointed jointly with officers. The next stage will be consideration in detail of Schemes of Delegation for:

- The Nine Portfolio Holders in the Cabinet
- The Regulatory Committees
- Officers

Scrutiny

2 Scrutiny Committee has proposed the establishment of a second Scrutiny body, namely the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee. Subject to approval by Council this Committee will need to be constituted and to begin to develop its working arrangements with a range of outside bodies.

The Scrutiny Committee has commissioned a series of 4 training events through CWIEP to be conducted during the Autumn, dealing with various aspects of scrutiny and the skills required.

The Committee has also agreed to consider and respond to the Government's consultation on Improving Local Accountability.

Code of Corporate Governance

3 Work has commenced on developing an appropriate Code of Corporate Governance for the Council, including the required range of associated policies and protocols. The first of these will be the whistle-blowing policy. The Code is important in the context of the Comprehensive Area Assessment and the Council's Annual Governance Statement.

Independent Remuneration Panel

4 Members of the County and District Councils Independent Panels have been approached to see whether they would wish to join the new Cheshire East Panel which will be required to make recommendations on an Allowances Scheme by the end of March 2009.

Appointments to Outside Bodies

5 A Members' Working Group has been set up to look in detail at the criteria for making appointments to outside bodies, and the processes required. It will be necessary for the Cabinet to be consulted on this process, and whether they wish to reserve any appointments to themselves.

In addition, a paper has been produced on the School Governor Appointments process which will be considered by Governance and Constitution Committee on 6 October.

The Committee has agreed the appointment of eight Members to the Cheshire Fire Authority (6:1:1:0 basis) and Members' names are awaited from Party Groups.

The invitation has been received for the Council to appoint three members to the Joint Committee which makes appointments to the Cheshire Police Authority. The Joint Committee will have the task of settling how the nine Local Authority places on the Police Authority are filled by the two Cheshire Unitary Councils, Warrington and Halton.

Civic and Ceremonial Matters

6 Work is well advanced on the proposals concerning Borough status; the retention of Mayors; support to the Cheshire Lieutenancy; Honorary Aldermen and other related civic and ceremonial business. This is to enable the DCLG to consider proposals and make Regulations and Orders in the Autumn as required to reflect local intentions.

Mike Flynn
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