

Agenda item:

[No.]

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

On 20 October 2010

Report Title: **Support Functions Review (SFR) – Policy and Performance Functions**

Report of: **Stuart Young, Assistant Chief Executive People and Organisational Development**

Signed :

Contact Officer : Eve Pelekanos, Corporate Head of Policy and Performance

Wards(s) affected: **All**

Report for: **[Key / Non-Key Decision]**

1. Purpose of the report (That is, the decision required)

- 1.1. This report seeks the views of Overview & Scrutiny about the proposals to review the Council's Policy & Performance functions. It is recognised that staffing reorganisation reports are not ordinarily considered by O&S Committee. However in this instance the functions under review include those that provide support to the Committee. In particular therefore Members of O&S are asked for their views so that these may be included when the matter is considered at General Purposes Committee on 28th October 2010. General Purposes Committee is the appropriate body for determining staffing matters.
- 1.2. In February 2010 as part of the Support Functions Review (SFR), Chief Executive's Management Board (CEMB) agreed to review the organisation of the policy and performance functions within the Council. Cabinet Members endorsed proposals to create a council wide centralised shared service for the policy and performance functions.
- 1.3. The attached report is based on that agreement and sets out a proposed model for streamlining these functions. Cabinet Members gave a clear indication that a 50% saving is sought from this review.

2. State link(s) with Council Plan Priorities and actions and /or other Strategies:

- 2.1. The SFR of Policy and Performance contributes to the Council Plan priority of **'Delivering high quality, efficient services'** by ensuring that these functions are

provided in the most cost effective way.

3. Recommendations

That Members of O&S Committee:

- 4.1 Provide comments on the proposed centralised model for the policy and performance and the associated efficiencies.
- 4.2 Bring to the attention of officers any matters that they wish to be considered by the meeting of General Purposes Committee scheduled for 28th October 2010, at which time officers will recommend adoption of the revised staffing and service arrangements.
- 4.3 Note the timetable for delivery.

4. Reason for recommendation(s)

- 4.1. The new Strategic Planning and Support Unit will be key in ensuring that the council has a policy framework which meets statutory requirements and enables effective service delivery.

5. Other options considered

- 5.1. A range of alternate models of delivery were considered.

6. Summary

- 6.1. The attached report was approved by General Purposes Committee subject to a final report back to their meeting on 28th October 2010. General Purposes Committee is the appropriate body to determine staffing matters.
- 6.2. A formal period of consultation runs until 14th October 2010 and officers are compiling responses to the matters raised. It is anticipated that a revised set of proposals will be dispatched for the meeting of General Purposes Committee scheduled for 28th October. At the time of this cover report those revised proposals are not known, as the consultation period has yet to close.
- 6.3. Officers will report verbally to O&S Committee on 20th October 2010 any variations proposed to the attached report.

7. Chief Financial Officer Comments

- 7.1. As reported on the attached paper

8. Head of Legal Services Comments

- 8.1. As set out on the attached paper.

9. Head of Procurement Comments

9.1. Not applicable
10. Equalities & Community Cohesion Comments 10.1. As set out on the attached paper.
11. Consultation 11.1. As set out on the attached paper.
12. Service Financial Comments 12.1. not applicable
13. Use of appendices /Tables and photographs Appendix 1: The proposed model for Policy and Performance
14. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 14.1. Not applicable