
REPORT TO:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	AGENDA ITEM: 6
DATE OF MEETING:	29th October 2008	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	Director of Corporate Services	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	M. Guest Ext.8705	DOC:
SUBJECT:	Improving local accountability – Consultation on the White Paper: Communities in Control	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	All	TERMS OF REFERENCE:

1.0 Recommendations

Members are requested to:

- 1.1 Note the briefing and consider the implications for the Council.
- 1.2 That the Committee responds to the 13 consultation questions highlighted in the appended report to the Finance and Management Committee and considers the views expressed by Members at the Policy Committee.
- 1.3 That the Director of Corporate Services in consultation with Chairman of Finance and Management Committee, the Leader of the Opposition and the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny be authorised to finalise the consultation response.
- 1.4 Note and comment on the draft responses to the questions for Member consideration.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To develop a response from the Council in relation to the government consultation paper on 'Improving Local Accountability – Communities in Control'.

3.0 Executive Summary

- 3.1 This is the first in a series of Communities in Control (Real people, real power) consultations flowing from the recent white paper (July 2008). The consultation also covers implementation of the overview and scrutiny provisions in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. It seeks views on how to develop overview and scrutiny powers to hold local officers to account and how to facilitate the work of councillors.

4.0 Detail

- 4.1 Members are referred to the detail of the appended report to Finance and Management Committee. A verbal update will be provided on the views and comments made at that meeting.

5.0 Financial Implications

5.1 None arising directly from this report.

6.0 Corporate Implications

6.1 As detailed in the report.

7.0 Background Papers

7.1 Report to the Finance and Management Committee at its Meeting on 23rd October 2008.