

COMMITTEE: SCRUTINY BOARD

DATE: 26TH OCTOBER 2004

SUBJECT: RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN EXECUTIVE AND
SCRUTINY

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF SCRUTINY

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IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL	COMMUNITY SAFETY
EQUALITIES	ENVIRONMENT
FINANCIAL	CONSULTATIONS
STAFFING	OTHER

WARDS AFFECTED: NONE

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this report is to inform the Board about the outcome of a recent meeting the Chair and Vice Chair had with the Executive Leader.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. Scrutiny Board is recommended to note the report and indicate whether they support the approach suggested.

BACKGROUND

3. At the meeting of the Board on 30th June I reported orally on concerns that had been raised with me by the Chair of one of the scrutiny committees about an apparent lack of consideration by the Executive of references and recommendations from scrutiny committees.
4. The Board decided that I should arrange a meeting of the Chair and Vice Chair with the Executive Leader 'to discuss how the protocol for scrutiny could be used more effectively' (see minute 27)

REPORT

5. The meeting took place on 10th September and was attended by Councillors Franks, Mead and Roden. I was also present.
6. The concerns expressed at the previous meeting of the Board were outlined and examples were given of recommendations from scrutiny committees that appeared to have been rejected without adequate or even any consideration by the Executive.
7. Reference was made to the protocol and what it says about the relationship between the Executive and Scrutiny and particularly the way in which the Executive should deal with recommendations from scrutiny.
8. The discussion then moved from the specific examples to the generality of relations between Executive and Scrutiny.
9. The Executive Leader reaffirmed his support for the principle of effective scrutiny but regretted the politicisation of scrutiny as he saw it.

PROPOSAL/OPTION

10. The conclusion of the discussion was a view that there could be some benefit from one to one meetings between Chairs of Scrutiny committees and the corresponding Portfolio Holders. I intend to broker such meetings but it is unlikely that any will have taken place by the time the Board meets.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, SECTION 100D

11. Notes of the informal meeting on 10th September referred to in this report.