

## Response from the meeting of the Executive on Overview and Scrutiny Committee Comments – 9 June 2009

Item no.	Title	Requested by	Reason	Comment to Executive	Executive Response
7	Council Meeting Agenda Format	Labour Group  Liberal Democrat Group	<p>There is concern that the proposal would unduly restrict members' debate on controversial items (under item 20 there was also a proposal to have a standing item on the Council agenda for Youth Forums).</p> <p>The change proposed by the Leader of the Council would appear to stifle essential debate.</p>	<p>The Overview and Scrutiny Committee had strong concerns about the amendments to the Council Procedure Rules with regard to the Council meeting agenda, as it was felt that the amended agenda did not give the opportunity to non-Executive members from all parties to debate the resolved Executive decisions. This stifling of the debate may result in more decisions being 'called-in' so that those non-Executive members are given an opportunity to voice their comments and concerns.</p> <p>However, the Committee were pleased at the suggestion of supplementary questions to the Portfolio Holders.</p> <p>The Committee would also like to see the inclusion of a standing item on the Council Agenda of 'Youth Forum' as recommended by the Engaging Young People Task and Finish Group (page 569 of the Executive agenda). The Committee felt strongly that young people should be engaged as fully as possible with the democratic process.</p> <p>The Committee also suggested that a meeting of the four Group Leaders be arranged so that this issue can be moved forward taking into account the views of all the parties.</p>	<p>The Executive noted the comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, however, Members were against this becoming a standing item on the Council agenda because it would set a precedent for other groups to approach the Council for the same action.</p>

18	Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Waste Collection/Disposal	Labour Group  Liberal Democrat Group	<p>There is concern that the District should not be rushed into a PFI contract whose provisions for incineration may go against the District's targets and priority for reducing the volume of residual waste produced and not be the best solution.</p> <p>The proposals might undermine the recycling.</p>	<p>The Overview and Scrutiny Committee had serious concerns about the MOU and felt that a presentation or seminar to all members would be useful. The Committee also felt that whatever the decision, members needed more information on the disposal of residual waste.</p>	No comments were minuted.
22	Members Allowances 2009/2010	Liberal Democrat Group	The Group felt the members car allowance should be cut to 40p a mile.	<p>The Overview and Scrutiny Committee supported that recommendations in the report, and also suggested that the Inland Revenue rates on mileage should be applied to all Councillors, whatever the type and engine size of the vehicle. This would mean a rate of 40p per mile. This could be implemented straight away as Trade Unions would not need to be involved, as it would only involve members.</p>	It was noted that the discretionary terms and conditions were to be reviewed for all Councillors and staff and that the comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be noted.