

CABINET

7 JUNE 2011

CABINET ADVISORY GROUPS

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Rodney Chambers, Leader

Report from: Neil Davies, Chief Executive

Author: Julie Keith, Head of Democratic Services

Summary

The Cabinet is asked to agree to the establishment of the Cabinet Advisory Groups for 2011/2012.

1. Budget and Policy Framework

1.1 The establishment and appointment to Cabinet Advisory Groups is a matter for Cabinet.

2. Background

2.1 The Cabinet has established a number of Advisory Groups to assist in the key areas of corporate parenting, the local development framework, the local transport plan, regeneration and the Council's procurement arrangements. Details of these and a number of proposed revisions to the arrangements are set out below.

2.2 These groups have no decision-making powers and consist of both executive and non-executive Councillors. In some instances they also include external representatives.

2.3 In 2009 the Cabinet agreed to delegate authority to the Chief Executive to make any in-year changes to the membership of the Cabinet Advisory Groups as necessary, in consultation with the Group Whips. This report requests that Cabinet agree to the establishment, size and nominations to these groups for 2011/2012.

3. Corporate Parenting Group

3.1 Medway Council is the corporate parent of the children in its care, wherever the children are placed. All councillors have a responsibility in fulfilling this role. Medway has decided to exercise the function of corporate parenting through a Corporate Parenting Group.

- 3.2 The Cabinet in 2003 agreed to the establishment of a corporate parenting steering group, to advise officers on policy relating to looked after children, monitor performance and celebrate achievement. Following the Joint Area Review the group was reconfigured and has now become an advisory group chaired by the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services. The group examines how Medway Council is meeting its obligations to Looked after Children under the five outcomes described under 'every child matters': being healthy, staying safe, enjoying and achieving, making a positive contribution and achieving economic well being.
- 3.3 Reflecting the responsibility for all councillors in this area it is proposed that the group comprises representatives from all the political groups on the council. The officers who usually attend meetings are the Director of Children and Adults Services, the Assistant Director for Children's Care, the Virtual Head teacher as well as senior representatives from the Police, PCT and Connexions.
- 3.4 It is recommended that the Cabinet approve the reestablishment of the Corporate Parenting Group, as set out in appendix 1 to the report.

4. Local Development Framework Advisory Group

- 4.1 In May 2004 the Cabinet agreed to the establishment of a Local Development Framework Advisory Group comprising of two Cabinet Members and three Members of the then Environment and Front Line Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 4.2 Consisting of officers and Council Members the group was established to report on day-to-day details and also local development documents and public participation before reports were presented to Cabinet or Overview and Scrutiny.
- 4.3 The group previously comprised five members reflecting the political balance of the Council. Therefore, following the local elections, the group would consist of three Conservative Members and two Labour Members.
- 4.4 It is recommended that the Cabinet approve the reestablishment of the Local Development Framework Advisory Group, as set out in appendix 1 to the report.

5. Strategic Procurement Board

- 5.1 The Procurement Board was originally established in 2006 when the Council replaced its value based procurement process with a new risk based gateway process.
- 5.2 In October 2010 the Council agreed changes to the Contract Procedure Rules and the Council's procurement framework to ensure that the processes were more streamlined, whilst remaining robust. These took effect from 1 January 2011. This process includes the Strategic Procurement Board that reviews, analyses and scrutinises

procurement activity across the Council with a view to ensuring the provision of best value goods, services and works.

- 5.3 The Strategic Procurement Board consists of two Portfolio Holders, together with the Monitoring Officer, Chief Finance Officer, Assistant Director Organisational Services, Strategic Procurement and Energy and other key representatives from each of the council's respective directorates.
- 5.4 It is recommended that the Cabinet approve the reestablishment of the Strategic Procurement Board and the continuation of the Board being chaired by the Portfolio Holder for Finance, together with the Portfolio Holder for Adult Services, as set out in appendix 1 to the report.

6 Medway Regeneration, Community and Culture Advisory Group

- 6.1 The Cabinet has previously established a number of advisory groups to oversee regeneration across Medway. This included the Chatham Board, Medway Regeneration Advisory Group and Strood Regeneration Cabinet Advisory Group.
- 6.2 It is now proposed that these three groups are merged to create the Medway Regeneration, Community and Culture Advisory Group.
- 6.3 As with the previous bodies this advisory group would be cross party and consider regeneration issues, whether promoted:
- directly by Medway Council (such as the Civic Centre redevelopment site);
 - jointly promoted (such as Temple Waterfront - a partnership regeneration project between the Council, Lafarge and Morgan Timber); or
 - private sector promoted (such as Victory Pier).
- It would have an overview of regeneration issues in Strood, Chatham, Gillingham and elsewhere, such as the Peninsula.
- 6.4 It is recommended that the Cabinet approve the establishment of the Medway Regeneration, Community and Culture Advisory Group, as set out in appendix 1 to the report. The Leader is recommending that the group consist of 16 members reflecting political balance, which will achieve the inclusion of representatives from each political group represented on the council.
- 6.5 Members are advised that the Rochester Riverside Board is not a Cabinet Advisory Group. This continues to meet as it is constituted under a collaboration agreement with SEEDA.

7. Local Transport Plan Advisory Group

- 7.1 In November 2009 the Cabinet agreed to the establishment of a Cabinet Advisory Group to assist with the development of the Local Transport Plan.

- 7.2 On the 3 March 2011 Full Council approved the Local Transport Plan (LTP) 3, which set out Medway's Transport Strategy for the next 15 years. This followed consideration at Cabinet on 15 February 2011.
- 7.3 At the Cabinet meeting on 15 February 2011 the work of the group to help steer the development of the LTP3 Transport Strategy was reported. The Cabinet also agreed that the LTP Advisory Group should continue to meet during the early stages of LTP3 (decision number 27/2011). This would be to oversee the implementation of the strategy.
- 7.4 The group previously comprised five members reflecting the political balance of the Council. Therefore, following the local elections, the group would consist of three Conservative Members and two Labour Members.
- 7.5 It is recommended that the Cabinet approve the reestablishment of the Local Transport Plan Advisory Group, as set out in appendix 1 to the report.

8. Children and Adults Capital Programme Cabinet Advisory Group

- 8.1 It is now proposed that a new Children and Adults Capital Programme Cabinet Advisory Group be established to review, analyse and scrutinise progress on the Children and Adults capital programme.
- 8.2 The Board would be chaired by the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services and consist of the Portfolio Holders for Adult Services, Children's Services, Children's Social Care and Finance, together with the Director of Children and Adults and senior council officers including representatives of finance, legal and procurement services.
- 8.3 It is recommended that the Cabinet approve the establishment of the Children and Adults Capital Programme Cabinet Advisory Group, as set out in appendix 1 to the report.

9. Financial and legal implications

- 9.1 There are no direct financial implications. Requirements under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 concerning political proportionality do not apply to these advisory groups. It is a matter for Cabinet to establish and/or remove such groups as appropriate, as well as determine their size and composition.

10. Risk management

- 10.1 There are no risk management implications arising from this report.

11. Recommendations

- 11.1 The Cabinet is asked to agree the establishment of the Cabinet Advisory Groups with the terms of reference set out in this report and appointment of members to these bodies, as set out in appendix 1 to the report, for 2011/2012.

12. Suggested reasons for decisions

12.1 The establishment of these groups will support the Cabinet in decision-making and the development of policies.

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Background papers

None.

Appendix 1

Bodies established by Cabinet (Appointments to these bodies must be approved by Cabinet)

Title	No and ratio	Names of nominated representatives		Term of office
Corporate Parenting Group	9 (5:2:1:1) plus named substitutes	Member Cllr Etheridge Cllr Gilry Cllr P Gulvin Cllr Price Cllr Royle Cllr Wicks Cllr Wildey Cllr Smith Cllr Cooper	Substitute Cllr Iles Cllr Shaw Cllr Brake Cllr Maple Cllr Avey Cllr Baker Cllr A Gulvin Cllr Kearney Cllr Stamp	Municipal year
Local Development Framework Advisory Group	5 (3:2)	Cllrs Bowler, Bright, Mrs Diane Chambers, Chitty and Griffiths		Municipal year
Local Transport Plan Advisory Group	5 (3:2)	Cllrs Bowler, Bright, Filmer, Griffiths and Hicks		Municipal year
Medway Regeneration, Community and Culture Advisory Group	16 (10,4,1,1)	Cllrs Baker, Bright, Rodney Chambers, Chitty, Doe, Paul Godwin, Griffiths, Hicks, Hubbard, Jarrett, Juby, Maple, Stamp, Wicks, Mackinlay and Mason		Municipal year
Strategic Procurement Board	2 (2 Portfolio Holders)	Cllrs Brake and Jarrett		Municipal year
Children and Adults Capital Programme Cabinet Advisory Group	4 (4 Portfolio Holders)	Cllrs Brake, Jarrett, Wicks and Wildey		Municipal year