

84/08 - COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION - SUGGESTED COUNCIL

PROCEDURES: The Scrutiny Officer submitted a written report detailing the procedures that had been agreed by CMT and the General Purposes Committee with regard to Councillor Calls for Action. He explained the report had been produced following receipt of Government guidance on the issue in February 2009, which unfortunately had not left time for the Councillor Call for Action Working Group to comment on the proposals. However, the report had been based upon the previous discussions of the Working Group together with the national guidance. Appendix 1 to the report outlined the proposed mechanisms to deal with Councillor Calls for Action and the Scrutiny Officer explained that the process wouldn't detract from the way in which Councillors currently dealt with complaints from constituents but would add to this process. The Scrutiny Officer explained that Councillor Calls for Action were intended to be introduced in tandem with additional powers for Scrutiny Commissions to call partner organisations to attend meetings in order to help resolve issues, although these powers were still to be introduced.

Councillor Willis referred to paragraph 4.23 of the report and expressed concern that the involvement of outside bodies would leave timescales for dealing with issues outside the direct control of the Council, with undue delay leading to maladministration but the Scrutiny Officer explained that the potential for formal consideration at overview and scrutiny would hopefully resolve issues quicker and, as noted in paragraph 4.23, the decision not to impose targets on timelines was a Government decision but would be kept under review. The Commission **agreed** to accept the report.

(7.00 pm - 7.12 pm)