

Meeting: COUNCIL

Date: 6TH APRIL 2005

HOUSING OPTIONS APPRAISAL – TIMETABLE FOR DECISION MAKING
(Constitutional Services Division)

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1 PURPOSE

To seek a waiver from the Budget and Policy Framework Rules as set out in the Council's Constitution in relation to the consultation period following the publishing, by the Executive of initial policy framework proposals.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Budget and Policy Framework Rules as set out in the Council's Constitution be waived to allow the timetable for formal decision making on the Housing Options Appraisal, detailed in paragraph 3.2 below, to be implemented

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 The Council is required to submit its report on Housing Options Appraisal to the Government Office (GO-East) by the end of June this year. Officers have been in regular consultation with Members and Tenants representatives through an informal working group and the recommendations will be finalised at the end of May/early June with an officer report then submitted to the Executive.

3.2 It is proposed that the meeting of the Executive to give initial consideration to this report be held on 8th June, with a Special Scrutiny Overview Committee on 9th June. The recommendations to Council may then be finalised by a further Special Executive meeting on 21st June. The final decision to be taken by Council on 29th June, with this matter being the subject of the Main Debate.

4 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED COURSE OF ACTION AND OTHER OPTIONS

4.1 A decision in relation to the Housing Options Appraisal is considered to be a Policy Framework matter. In the Council's Constitution the rules relating to Policy Framework proposals require a three-week consultation period following the Executive publishing those initial proposals. The timetable for decision-making on this matter will not allow this provision to be met.

- 4.2 It is not possible for the Officers to finalise the report on this matter until 3rd June 2005 and therefore Executive will not be “publishing” its proposals until after its Special meeting on 8th June with a further Special meeting 8 working days later to finalise the recommendations to Council on 29th June. A special Scrutiny Overview Committee meeting has been timetabled for the 9th June.
- 4.3 There is no provision in the Constitution for urgent Budget & Policy Framework decision-making and therefore it is necessary to request Council to waive the three week consultation period in this instance.

5 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendation for Council to waive the three-week consultation period in this instance.

5.2 Legal Implications

None

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- Housing Options Appraisal Working Timetable

APPENDICES

- None