

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

13th March 2017



Report of: Shahzia Daya, Service Director, Legal and Democratic Services

Title: The New Decision Pathway

Ward: City Wide

Officer Presenting Report: Kevin Slocombe, Head of Mayor's Office and Andrea Dell, Service Manager, Democratic Engagement

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Recommendation

That Members consider and comment on the revised Decision Pathway.

Summary

The Decision Pathway has been designed to help determine the route of ideas/proposals/reports to ensure they are shared across the organisation with the Mayor, Councillors and officers prior to decision or approval to proceed.



Context

The Decision Pathway has recently been revised following a request from Mayor Rees that the role of elected Members be strengthened in decision-making processes.

The pathway is based on the following principles;

- Members are at the heart of decision making
- The Mayor is the owner of when/where decisions are taken
- There is early engagement
- The focus is on citizens and the city not just the council
- Information is accessible
- There is an options appraisal
- Unless business-as-usual, a statutory requirement, urgent or already in train with the Mayor and Cabinet, all work going forward is considered as a new idea

Key Stages

The key stages of the pathway can be summarised as follows;

- Option Generation – where ideas/proposals are received from officers, Councillors etc.
- Debate & Development – where options are developed via consultation with relevant stakeholders
- Officer Assessment – where officers technically assess options (e.g. detailed costs, legal, deliverability etc.) and make recommendations to members
- Briefing & Evaluation – where Members & officers finalise their recommendations to the Mayor
- Public notification & decision – where the Mayor approves the recommendation and it is placed upon the Forward Plan for decision making & implementation

Role of Scrutiny

The role of Members has been strengthened in the new Decision Pathway as there is now an expectation that Scrutiny be involved very early on in the process both through generating and submitting ideas, but also by getting the opportunity to have early sight of decisions when they are in their formative stages. As per previous iterations of the Decision Pathway, Members are also able to consider and comment on ideas or decisions when they have been fully formed and are nearing the end of the process. The opportunities for Scrutiny to engage with the decision pathway are shown on the diagram at appendix A. Also attached, for information purposes, is the previous iteration of the Pathway (please see appendix B)

Appendix A – New Decision Pathway

Appendix B – Former Decision Pathway (for information purposes)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers: None.