

COPY OF AGENDA ITEM No. 9 - COUNTY COUNCIL 10TH JULY 2002

SUBJECT : ESTABLISHMENT OF A SHADOW EXECUTIVE BOARD
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Executive Board / Officers' recommendation(s) : That a Shadow Executive Board (SEB) be established comprising members of the principal opposition party on the County Council and that the attendance of those members at meetings of the SEB be recognized as an approved duty for the payment of expenses. The proceedings of the SEB will be conducted in accordance with the process identified in the attached summary report.
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Reasons for recommendation(s) : To enable efficient briefing of and provision of information to the principal opposition party on the County Council by way of a structured process which is recognised as being appropriate to the democratic decision making arrangements adopted by the County Council.

Local Government Act 1972 – Access to Information	
Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:	None identified

1. POLICY / LEGAL IMPLICATIONS :

The proposal conforms to the principles of transparency and openness which the Council and the administration have committed themselves to in terms of the way that the council will conduct its business and which are formally recognised in the Constitution.

RP/LT

2.RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS :
2.1 FINANCIAL : The attendance of members of the opposition at meetings of the Shadow Executive Board is likely to have a marginal impact on the democratic budget by way of claims for travelling and subsistence allowances. CM
2.2 HUMAN RESOURCES : There are none. MJ
2.3 PHYSICAL ASSETS : There are none MPJ

3. CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN :
3.1 LOCAL MEMBER (s) : Consultations with local members are not appropriate in this instance but there have been consultations with the officers of the Labour Group and they support the proposal.
3.2 COMMUNITY / TOWN COUNCIL : None in this instance
3.3 RELEVANT PARTNERS : None in this instance
3.4 STAFF SIDE REPS. & OTHER ORGANISATIONS: None in this instance

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File Reference	AD021-001

County Council 10th July 2002

Establishment of a Shadow Executive Board

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY :

At a recent meeting between the Chief Executive and officers of the Labour Group, a request was made for the establishment of a Shadow Executive Board (SEB).

The request was placed before the Leader and the Executive Board who are supportive of the proposal as a formal means for the Chief Executive and Directors to inform/consult the Opposition Group on matters of policy/executive action.

To provide a recognized format to be included in the Constitution in due course for meetings of the SEB it is suggested that the following arrangements should apply:-

- that the SEB meetings be formally scheduled into the Council diary and that a formal agenda be drawn up in consultation with the Chief Executive or his nominated representative.
- that the agenda will include topical items on which the Executive Board is to receive/ or has received reports and would not be used as another Scrutiny Committee.
- Officers (Directors or Heads of Service on certain occasions) would present factual reports and be able to provide background information for members. Clearly officers would not be in a position to explain why the EB had taken a particular course of action, as this would quite properly be a matter for the Leader or other Executive Board member.
- that the system operate from September 2002 and that monthly meetings be held

Detailed explanatory report also attached

NO