

ITEM 8

Minute Extract from Scrutiny Management Commission – 7 June 2005

12/05 Council Cabinet Forward Plan

The Commission considered the Council Cabinet Forward Plan for June 2005.

Resolved to ask Council Cabinet to look at the format of the forward plan and in particular:

- a) Make sure officers did not put items on the Forward Plan 'just in case'.**
- b) Items should only go on the Forward Plan when issues were well thought through.**
- c) To recognise that items may need to go on later and that there may be cases where urgent approval was required from the Overview and Scrutiny Chairs**

Response from the Director of Corporate Services

Forward Plans cover a period of four months. The Constitution requires matters are included in the Forward Plan where, there is a reason to believe a key decision will be taken in that period. The 'reason to believe' test is considered appropriate. Any strengthening of that test, and indeed any requirement to have issues 'well thought through' would lead to many more matters appearing on Cabinet agenda without appearing on the Forward Plan. If Overview and Scrutiny members are happy for this to happen then we would need to consider changing the Access to Information Procedure Rules of the Constitution.

The Leader is prepared to discuss this issue more fully at his meetings with the Scrutiny Management Commission Chair.

Giving more information in the Forward Plan as to the areas reports are likely to cover would be helpful. The Leader has asked for this to be introduced starting with the September edition of the Forward Plan which is published on 18 August 2005.