

### Policy and Resources Response to Shoreham Airport Landraise Joint Scrutiny Panel

Key theme (and related recommendation no.*)	Suggested Executive Response
Partnership governance (general)	<p>Agree to review and update the existing register of corporate partnerships, to provide a reliable source of information about the objectives of each partnership and the identity of the lead officer.</p> <p>Each service director to take a lead role on those partnerships touching their area of responsibility</p>
Periodic reviews of governance arrangements for partnerships and semi-autonomous bodies (1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 12, 14, 15, 16)	<p>An Internal Audit Report of partnership governance was done in March 2007 covering the Local Strategic Partnership and the 10 key partnerships that link to it.</p> <p>The report concluded that effective governance arrangements are in place over the Authority's key partnership arrangements, although recommendations as to further enhancements were provided.</p> <p>A follow-up to that report will be carried out in 2007/08 to ensure that those further recommendations have been implemented.</p> <p>The following governance issues identified by the Scrutiny Panel will be brought within the scope of the follow-up audit report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- existence of clear constitutions for partnerships and semi-autonomous bodies (1)</li> <li>- mechanisms for reviewing such constitutions (2)</li> <li>- information flows and channels of communication between governing bodies and those managing day to day operations (3, 6)</li> <li>- officer line management (performance monitoring and target setting) (7)</li> <li>- internal audit of governance arrangements (12)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- corporate risk assessment (14)</li> <li>- active involvement in partnerships (15, 16)</li> </ul>
Training for Chairs (4)	<p>In December 2006 a new section on the role and powers of Committee and Sub-Committee Chairs was added to the Constitution (Article 14). This covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- appointment and general role</li> <li>- fulfilling the role of chair</li> <li>- legal powers and duties</li> <li>- powers and duties under the Council's constitution</li> </ul> <p>Training will be arranged for Chairs, as part of the general Member Development Framework, to enable them to fulfil their role properly – including those duties relevant to partnership committees.</p>
Officer delegations – general (5, 10)	<p>Existing schemes of delegation in connection with partnerships and semi-autonomous bodies to be checked for accuracy and relevance every time the Constitution is reviewed. This will be done at least twice a year. Any proposed changes to be incorporated in the report on review of the constitution.</p>
Officer delegations – land management (17)	<p>Head of Law be authorised to effect the recommended change (detailed in section 10.2 of the Scrutiny Panel report) to the Scheme of Delegation to officers in respect of land management, set out in Part A, section 3 of the Constitution. This would require officers to consult the Council's valuer (the professional surveyor appointed or approved by the Director of Finance and Resources) before approving a change of land use, granting consent for improvements or alterations to land, or granting wayleaves, easements or licences.</p> <p>Within two months of the amendment coming into effect, the Assistant Director of Property &amp; Design, to send an advice note to Directors and Assistant Directors, informing them of the need to refer to the scheme of delegation in question, in respect of any property transactions under consideration</p>
Powers to enter into	<p>The Council's existing Quality procedures require the lawyer drafting the relevant documentation to provide details of</p>

land transactions (19)	<p>the committee resolution or officer delegation that entitles them to authorise the transaction.</p> <p>As an added safeguard, any high value property transaction (such as the sale of the airport) or one involving complex issues will be checked by the senior lawyer in the Property team.</p>
Officer and member training (8)	Review the guidance on Members and Officers serving on outside bodies and take appropriate steps to raise Member and Officer awareness (see also response to recommendation 4).
Advice from professionals (9, 11)	The Council's project initiation practice and procedure to incorporate a requirement for obtaining professional advice at the appropriate stage.
Potential legal action against other parties (20, 21)	<p>Counsel's opinion will be sought on the chances of recovering any monies from parties involved in the landraising operation, based on the information contained in the confidential annex to the Scrutiny Panel report.</p> <p>In light of counsel's opinion, the Chief Executive will consider whether any legal or disciplinary action might be taken.</p>

\* Recommendations 13 and 18 relate solely to Worthing Borough Council and are therefore not relevant for the purposes of Brighton & Hove's executive response.

*Note*

*In addition to the 21 official recommendations, a local resident – Mr Scott – put forward one of his own at OSOC on 2 April 2007, and the Committee resolved that the Executive should consider it when formulating their response. Mr Scott's recommendation was as follows:*

*"That the Council convene a specialist consultative group formed of suitably qualified solicitors and surveyors to oversee and provide advice and guidance on proposed land transactions."*

*It is considered that the Executive's combined response to recommendations 17 and 19 would, in effect, satisfy Mr Scott's proposal, and on that basis no further response is needed.*

