

**ONE LEISURE FINANCE/ USE OF CONSULTANTS  
(Report by the Cabinet)**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 At its meeting on 23rd June 2011, the Cabinet considered a report by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being) on the findings of the Panel's Working Group's regarding the financial performance of One Leisure and the Council's use of consultants.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Panel established working groups to review:
- the financial performance of One Leisure and make recommendations on the services' future strategic direction; and
  - the Council's use of consultants including the criteria used in the appointment of consultants.

**3. DELIBERATIONS**

- 3.1 The Cabinet discussed the Working Group's concerns over the rising cost of IT network and helpdesk services. Executive Councillors referred to the various elements of the service provided by the IT division and its use in the day to day running of the leisure centres. The Cabinet was conscious of the need to achieve savings and have requested the Executive Councillor for Organisational Development to review the Council's IT costs, including the basis upon which the IT network service is re-charged to users.
- 3.2 With regard to the Council's use of consultants, the Cabinet began by defining the term "consultant" and agreed that a consultant is someone who brings expertise into the organisation where it is lacking. In considering the Panel's recommendations, the Cabinet acknowledges that in some service areas the use of consultants is a necessity i.e planning decision appeals. The Cabinet saw no reason why the Panel's recommendations could not form the basis to improve the Council's current arrangements. The Cabinet therefore requested the Managing Director (resources), after consultation with the Executive

Leader, Executive Deputy Leader and the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being) to oversee the recommendations' implementation where practicable and to report back thereon to future meeting of both Cabinet and the Panel.

### **3. CONCLUSIONS**

- 3.1 Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel are invited to note the contents of this report.

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