

EXECUTIVE ADVISORY BOARDS**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Council shall appoint two Executive Advisory Boards as follows:

- Community Executive Advisory Board
- Resources Executive Advisory Board

Remits:

The remits of the Executive Advisory Boards will be aligned with the Joint Management Team structure and cover the service areas indicated below.

Community Executive Advisory Board

- Communications and Customer Services
- Community Services
- Environmental Services
- Housing Services
- Regulatory Services
- Commercial Services

Resources Executive Advisory Board

- Planning Development
- Regeneration and Planning Policy
- Assets
- Finance
- Legal & Democratic Services
- Organisational Development

Each Executive Advisory Board will consider reports on matters relating to the functions of the Executive that fall within its remit. The remits of each Executive Advisory Board are shown below and are aligned to themes in the Corporate Plan; they will be reviewed and approved at the Council's Selection meeting each year. The Executive Advisory Boards will meet in public, be webcast, and be subject to Part C of the Council Procedure Rules, Public Speaking Procedure Rules and Access to Information Procedure Rules in Part 4 of the Constitution.

Membership:

- (a) Each Executive Advisory Board shall comprise 12 non-executive councillors, one of whom shall be appointed by the Council as chairman, with normal voting rights.
- (b) The Council shall appoint a vice-chairman for each Executive Advisory Board.
- (c) Proportionality rules will apply.
- (d) Substitutes will be allowed in accordance with the rules and procedures of this Constitution, and in respect of each Executive Advisory Board, the Council may appoint up to seven substitute members for each political group.

Meetings:

- (a) Each Executive Advisory Board shall normally meet on alternate months with the flexibility to have a balanced inter-changeable remit as appropriate to the agenda items, without the risk of losing topic continuity and expertise, and possibly ahead of Executive meetings to offer a pre-decision opportunity to make recommendations.
- (b) The relevant Lead Councillor (or other Executive members in the absence of the relevant Lead Councillor) will be expected to proactively attend Executive Advisory Board meetings and should normally present matters (with officer support) for discussion at meetings and engage actively in a dialogue with the Executive Advisory Boards regarding those matters.
- (c) The quorum of each Executive Advisory Board will be 4.

Responsibilities:

Each Executive Advisory Board will have free range to select their own review topics on which to advise the Executive in addition to the following general responsibilities within its remit:

- (a) To consider and (where necessary) make recommendations on all Key (or other significant) Decisions, prior to the formal consideration of all such decisions by the Executive.
- (b) To assist and advise the Executive in the development of Policy Framework issues.
- (c) To undertake research and reviews for the purpose of advising the Executive on the delivery of Corporate Plan Priorities.
- (d) To advise the Executive at an early stage in respect of the formulation and development of policies and projects that will help to deliver Corporate Plan Priorities
- (e) To assist in the development of Executive Decisions
- (f) To assist and advise the Executive as regards budget preparation.
- (g) To develop and maintain a work programme ensuring that there is efficient use of its time

Powers:

Each Executive Advisory Board will have the power:

- (a) To require the Leader and/or lead councillors and officers to attend before it to answer questions
- (b) To question and gather evidence from any person (with their consent)
- (c) To co-opt expert individuals on a non-voting basis to assist their work.
- (d) To set up, subject to available resources, panels, task groups or breakout groups to look at specific issues relating to the delivery of the Corporate Plan (or other significant priorities) in order to inform decision making by the Executive. For the avoidance of doubt, the membership of such panels and groups shall be open to all councillors.

Protocol for their operation:

- (1) EABS are advisory in nature and do not have any substantive decision-making powers delegated to them. EABs are to act as a source of advice to the Executive.
- (2) EABs will enable greater involvement and engagement of councillors and the public in significant Executive decisions.
- (3) EABS will advise the Executive at an early stage about the formulation and development of policies and projects that will help deliver Corporate Plan priorities.

The EABs are intended to enable backbench councillors to be more closely involved with issues of greatest importance to the Council.

- (4) The chairmen and vice-chairmen of the EABs will meet regularly to identify priorities and prepare draft work programmes for consideration and approval by the EABs and, as part of this process, will take into account the forthcoming key or significant Executive decisions set out in the Forward Plan. Subject to paragraph (5) below, those matters identified in the agreed work programmes will be considered by the EABs in detail.
- (5) When considering an Executive decision, the EABs will aim to do so at a time when it is still open to influence, that is to say, when there is an expectation that advice from the EAB or any recommendation or suggestion for improvement could realistically lead to change. EAB agendas will list all forthcoming key or significant Executive decisions set out in the Forward Plan, except those that are urgent.
- (6) EABs will determine their final recommendations to the Executive by consensus if at all possible.
- (7) The advice of EABs to the Executive, including explanation for any recommendations, will be contained within a report considered by the Executive. The justification for not accepting advice from an EAB is to be made clear in the options considered by the Executive.
- (8) EAB Chairmen and / or Vice-Chairmen shall attend Executive meetings to elaborate on advice given by their respective EABs, and shall receive feedback from the Executive.
- (9) Membership of both an EAB and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee does not inevitably create a conflict of interest. As a rule, councillors should not be involved in scrutinising a decision in which they have been involved directly; yet, EABs are advisory and it remains the responsibility of the Executive to formally take and implement the decision.