

GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON 27 FEBRUARY 2015

Shadow Committee System - Response from Governance and Audit and Standards Committee

The Committee's response to the Council's request to report back on a shadow system for 2015/16 is as follows -

That the outline report from the City Solicitor produces a proposal which is ineffective and fundamentally unworkable and requires substantial further development, research and analysis from him and the S151 Officer.

It is also premature and inappropriate to be considered by this Council until a report dealing with these concerns has first been presented to the new Committee and to the new Council to be elected in May rather by this Council in its final days. Otherwise it would be an undemocratic step to make any change which would impact upon the newly elected representatives of the City.

Further having regard to the S151 Officer's comments presented at the Committee Meeting the Committee considers that it is actually un-implementable and not maintainable on a cost neutral basis, bearing in mind cost neutral is defined as something that is measured in money, time and energy and the report has not taken account of the latter two measurements.

Consequently the matter will be considered by the new Members of Governance Audit and Standards Committee in the new municipal year to allow the City Solicitor together with the S151 Officer the time essential to establish whether it is actually feasible to run a shadow committee system on a true cost neutral basis and enable the Councillors affected by the decision to be able to take that decision.