
**PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A CHARTER BETWEEN
CARDIFF COUNCIL AND LOCAL COMMUNITY COUNCILS**

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

AGENDA ITEM: 5

Reason for this Report

1. To enable the Standards & Ethics Committee to consider the proposed development of a charter between Cardiff Council and local Community Councils that can assist in formalising relationships between the two tiers of local government.

Background

2. The Welsh Assembly Government is currently consulting on guidance and best practice relating to the development of proposed charters between unitary authorities and town and community councils in Wales. This is aimed at formalising and building relationships between the two tiers of local government.
3. The consultation document is based on joint working, which has been undertaken since May 2006, between the Welsh Assembly Government, the Welsh Local Government Association, One Voice Wales, Society of Local Council Clerks, the Wales Audit Office and individual representatives from local government.
4. The consultation document contains a draft charter (Appendix A) as an example that may be adapted to suit individual circumstances. It is not prescriptive and it will be for Councils and Community Councils to either adapt the document or formulate a different type of agreement that better suits individual needs.

Issues

5. The Council's Executive considered this matter at the Executive Business Meeting on 8 November 2007 and agreed to explore the development of a charter with local community councils that could assist in formalising relationships with the Council. The report is attached as Appendix B.

6. It is likely that the development of a charter will be explored over the coming months with a view to possible approval of a charter after the local government elections in May 2008.
7. The Standards & Ethics Committee will have the opportunity to inform the development of the draft charter and will be informed of progress at key stages.

Reasons for Recommendations

8. To enable the Standards & Ethics Committee to consider the Council's proposal for exploring the development of a charter with Community Councils in Cardiff that can assist in formalising relationships with the Council.

Legal Implications

11. No direct legal implications arise from the proposals in this report.

Financial Implications

12. This report has no direct financial implications.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Standards & Ethics Committee is requested to:

1. Note the attached draft charter and related Executive Report.
2. Provide any comments which can be taken into account during the subsequent development of a charter

Kate Berry

Monitoring Officer and City and County Solicitor

21 November 2007

The following background papers have been taken into account;

WAG Consultation document: A Shared Community – Relationship building and charters for unitary authorities and community and town councils (August 2007).