

Central
Bedfordshire
Council
Priory House
Monks Walk
Chicksands,
Shefford SG17 5TQ



CONSTITUTION ADVISORY GROUP
DATE: 25 January 2010

TITLE	CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL - TERMS OF REFERENCE	ITEM NO.
REPORT OF	Head of Democratic Services	10

PURPOSE	To consider a recommendation to the Executive from the Corporate Parenting Panel to revise its Terms of Reference.
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ORIGIN OF PROPOSAL	Review of Terms of Reference by the Panel
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RECOMMENDATION:	That the views of Constitution Advisory Group be sought on the recommendation of the Panel to revise its Terms of Reference.
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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1. The Terms of Reference of the Corporate Parenting Panel (CPP) were approved by the Shadow Executive on 17 March 2009 (Appendix A). This was before Central Bedfordshire Council came into existence and therefore prior to the committee and staffing structures now in force.
2. The CPP has reviewed the Terms of Reference being particularly mindful of the current Directorate Structures and post titles. It also considered the level of officer support required at meetings and the number of Elected Members on the Panel and revisited the number of voting and non-voting members on the Panel.
3. The following changes are proposed by the CPP:
 - an increase in the number of Elected Members from 8 to 9 to accommodate the Assistant Portfolio Holder for Children, Families and Learning;
 - the only voting members of the Panel should be the 9 Elected Members, the Director of Children, Families and Learning and the Director of Social Care, Health and Housing;
 - an increase in the number of Foster Carer co-opted representatives from 2 to 4;
 - officer support to the Panel should be determined by the relevant Director on a meeting by meeting basis;
 - a minor adjustment to the scoping of the Panel to clarify outcomes.
4. Subsequent to the CPP meeting the Director of Children, Families and Learning is suggesting voting members would need to include the Foster Carer representatives if a vote was taken. She has however raised the question of the need for voting at all by the Panel commenting that there should be a consensus on recommendations and, if not, the issue should be referred for further discussion at the next CPP meeting.
5. The revised Terms of Reference proposed by the CPP are set out in Appendix B. However Members are now asked to consider these in the context of the further comments of the Director of Children, Families and Learning as outlined in paragraph 4 above.

Appendices –

Appendix A – Original Terms of Reference Approved by the Shadow Executive

Appendix B – Revised Terms of Reference Proposed by the Corporate Parenting Panel

Contact Officer Details:
Kathrin John

Key Background Papers:
Report to Corporate Parenting Panel of 4.1.10 (Agenda Item 3) Shadow Executive Minutes 17.3.09