

Report to Overview & Scrutiny Committee



Date of meeting: 5 October 2006

Portfolio: Customer Services, Media, Communications and ICT

Subject: Re-Use of Public Sector Information Regulations

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Recommendations:

That Cabinet be recommended:

- (a) That requests for public sector information in which the Council holds the copyright be considered and made available for re-use in accordance with the adopted policy and**
- (b) That the attached draft policy based on a case by case review of requests be approved with a view to implementation on 1 January 2007; and**
- (c) That the Head of Research and Democratic Services be authorised to include appropriate scales of fees and charges in the policy.**

Report:

1. This report sets out a draft policy for the re-use of public sector information held by the Council in which the Authority holds the copyright. Such a policy is not obligatory. However, the Council needs to determine how it will respond to any request and this would be difficult without a policy. We have reached the view that arrangements to allow re-use should be established by means of the policy which reflects the requirements of the regulations.
2. The Panel will appreciate that these regulations, through the charging regime, allow opportunities for income generation. By the same token, the regulations envisage that persons who receive the information will make a conscious decision to apply to the Council for permission to re-use it.
3. In respect of the charges, we recommend that the task of setting the various scales be delegated to the Head of Research and Democratic Services for inclusion in the report to the Cabinet.
4. We recommend as set out at the commencement of this report.