

**HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
ADULT CARE SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY 17 JANUARY 2002 AT 10.30 A.M.**

Agenda Item No:

3

**ESTABLISHMENT OF CABINET PANELS AND
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE TOPIC GROUPS**

Report of the County Secretary

Author: Peter Hull, Committee Administrator (tel: 01992 555565)
Executive Member: Jane Pitman.

1. Purpose of the Report

To note the Cabinet decision of 17 December 2001 to establish Cabinet Panels.

2. Summary

2.1 The Cabinet on 17 December 2001 established the following two Cabinet Panels which were formerly a Adult Care Services Select Committee Panel and a Topic Group respectively:-

- (a) Eligibility Panel
- (b) Health Panel

These will now assist the Executive in developing policy and may request Scrutiny Committees to comment on new policy.

2.2. The Cabinet also on 17 December,2001 re-established the following Best Value Review Groups (formerly within the Select Committee's purview) as reporting to the Cabinet:

- (a) Sensory/Physical Disabilities (recommendations from this Group were reported to the Cabinet on 17 December)
- (b) Services for the Elderly with Mental Health Problems

2.3. The Gypsy Topic Group, the Learning Disability Residential Accommodation Review Topic Group, and the Carers Topic Group were not reconstituted by the Cabinet as Cabinet Panels.

Background

- 3.1** The County Council on 27 November adopted a new Constitution with immediate effect. Within the Constitution the Executive (Cabinet) was given jurisdiction to establish Cabinet Panels. This they did on 17 December 2001.
- 3.2** The Constitution also gives Scrutiny Committees authority to establish time limited Topic Groups for particular purposes to assist them to scrutinise particular issues within their remit. These bodies may be established by a scrutiny committee or by the County Secretary after consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.
- 3.3** Topic Groups may include, or consist of, Members who are not Members of the Parent Scrutiny Committee and also non-members in a non-voting capacity.
- 3.4** Members may be appointed by the Scrutiny Committee or by the County Secretary after consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman. The rules of political proportionality shall apply to their membership. Executive Members may not serve on Scrutiny Committee Topic Groups
- 3.5** This report requests the Committee to note the current position.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

No additional financial implications are envisaged.

Background Information used by the Author in Compiling this Report

Constitution of County Council adopted by the Council at its meeting on 27 November.

Report of Cabinet 17 December 2001.