

EXECUTIVE WORKING GROUP PROTOCOL

1. Executive Working Groups are intended to assist the Executive, through the appropriate Portfolio Holder, to:
 - (a) develop policy;
 - (b) examine specific service proposals in depth; and
 - (c) progress major projects.
2. Executive Working Groups have an advisory role only and cannot themselves take decisions.
3. Any Executive member can propose to the Executive that an Executive Working Group should be established, and when making a proposal should:
 - (a) propose terms of reference and the scope of the task; and
 - (b) set out a timescale for the duration of the EWG.
4. The decision to establish an Executive Working Group is for the Executive. All Executive Working Groups must be reviewed by the Executive to confirm that they are still needed before being reappointed at the start of a Council year.
5. Membership of Executive Working Groups will be based on enabling those with the best skills and knowledge of the matter to contribute and will be appointed by the Executive based on recommendations by the appropriate Portfolio Holder. The appropriate Portfolio Holder will convene and chair an Executive Working Group unless they choose to delegate the chairmanship. Substitutes are not permitted.
6. Executive Working Groups may include non-councillors or members from other Councils as non-voting members.
7. Within the overall framework of Waverley's Procedure Rules, Executive Working Groups will be able to develop flexible working arrangements best suited to their task.
8. Executive Working Groups will normally meet in the absence of the press and public.

9. Executive Working Groups will be serviced by officers and Democratic Services will record their meetings in report form and these reports will form background papers to the eventual reports to the Executive on matters they have discussed.
10. Reports to Executive Working Group meetings will not normally be published, and both reports and discussion at meetings will be treated as exempt. They can, however, be requested by Overview and Scrutiny Committees as part of their work, at which time the Monitoring Officer will decide whether any of the reports should be defined as exempt under access to information legislation.
11. Other members of the Council may attend as observers.
12. If a member has taken part in policy development as part of an Executive Working Group, and subsequently is involved in an Overview and Scrutiny Committee review of this policy, they may have a conflict of interest. In this case they should seek the advice of the Monitoring Officer.