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Report to the Policy and Finance Committee
from E J Allard, Corporate Policy Manager

Dissolution of the RISC Working Group

1. Purpose

To recommend that the RISC Working Group be dissolved and that the Policy and Finance Sub-committee should take responsibility for strategic communications matters.

2. Background

The RISC Working Group was set up in December 1998 to provide a catalyst for the Council's lifting of its profile. When set up it was on the basis of a review of its future after the first year.

3. Comment

During the currency of the RISC group the Council has acted in a number of ways to lift its profile – most notably with the introduction of the Elements newspaper. However, as a working group it was not able to make decisions – even in terms of a recommendation to this Committee – its parent body.

Whilst the communications function in the Council is now operating in a different way, there are still opportunities to go further in lifting the Council's profile. Most of these are likely to be related to activities of the operating divisions. It would therefore be useful to have a forum which had responsibility for communications which included the committee chairs.

The existing Policy and Finance sub-committee provides that opportunity, although its Terms of Reference would require a small amendment. I

therefore suggest that the RISC Group be dissolved and that the Terms of Reference of the Policy and Finance Sub-committee be amended appropriately. The sub-committee should normally meet for communications purposes following full Council.

A general review of the Terms of Reference of Council and its committees, including the Policy and Finance Sub-Committee, is to be submitted to an April meeting of the Policy and Finance Committee. If this proposal is agreed to, the appropriate clauses will be included in the Terms of Reference for the Policy and Finance Sub-committee.

4. Recommendation

- (1) *That the Policy and Finance Committee recommends to Council that the RISC Group be dissolved with immediate effect.*
- (ii) *That the Policy and Finance Sub-committee be the Council's formal body for considering strategic communications matters.*

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E P MAGUIRE
Council Secretary