

THE CABINET reports as follows:-

1. Terms of Reference of Overview and Scrutiny Committees

That they have given consideration to a joint report of the Chief Executive (Acting) and the City Solicitor (copy attached) on changes to the Terms of Reference of Overview and Scrutiny Committees to provide a more strategic focus and enhance their impact as part of the improvement plan for scrutiny, to consider proposals for the future role and operation of the Review Committees, to better reflect the priorities of the Council and partners and to prepare for the changes and demands of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act.

The Cabinet recommended to Council to approve the proposed changes to the Terms of Reference to the Review Committees and for the Constitution to be revised accordingly.

They also referred the report to all of the Review Committees for further advice and consideration. The Children's Services and Health and Well Being Review Committees welcomed the proposals set out in the report and agreed that it be received and noted. The comments of the remaining Review Committees will be reported to the meeting.

2. Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS): Further Proposed Changes – Response of the City Council

That they have given consideration to a report of the Director of Development and Regeneration (copy attached) on specific issues resulting from the modifications which are of significance to the future development and land use within the City.

The Cabinet recommended the Council to endorse the response to the further proposed changes to the RSS, as attached in the report appendices, which had been forwarded to the Government Office North East (GO-NE) to meet the consultation deadline of 2nd April, 2008.

They also referred the report to the Environmental and Planning Review Committee and the Planning and Highways Committee for further advice and consideration. The comments of the Committees will be reported to the meeting.