

8 : REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

- 1 At its meeting on 23 April, the Cabinet received for comment a number of Select Committee reports. The Cabinet's observations on these will have been reported orally to the Council earlier in this meeting.
- 2 For understandable reasons to do with timing, these Select Committee reports were not (with the exception of the Environment Select Committee's report on Local Committees) available for consideration by the Cabinet in time for a written response to Council to be prepared.
- 3 One consequence of this has been that the Council will have had to deal with a considerable amount of paper and a series of recommendations, in a relatively short time. The Council may well feel that the way in which we deal with these reports could be made more effective in the future.
- 4 In particular, it might be helpful in the new Council if a convention was adopted whereby Select Committee reports and any recommendations were made initially to the Cabinet. This would give an opportunity of engaging in a discussion to filter out the issues where the Cabinet and the Select Committee were already in agreement or where an accommodation could be found. Select Committees would then be in a position to decide whether there were still outstanding scrutiny issues that they wished to report to full Council for consideration. This should lead to better use of the Council's time and a more economical and focused debate rather than having to consider every report in its entirety at every meeting.
- 5 **I would be grateful for the Council's guidance on this matter.**

**DAVID SHAKESPEARE
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**