



**Resource and legal considerations:**

In accordance with the constitution the panel may ask persons to attend to address them on matters under consideration and may pay to any advisors, assessors and other persons a reasonable fee and expenses for doing so.

**Citizen impact:**

All Citizens with a relevant interest in a matter will have the ability to contribute to the deliberations of a Scrutiny and Performance Panel.

**Environmental impact:**

Successful scrutiny can assist in shaping policy to make environmental improvements.

**Performance management:**

Scrutiny is an important and integral part of the council's performance management framework and can challenge, review and advise on service delivery, council activity and policy in order to improve performance.

**Equality Implications:**

All Citizens with a relevant interest in a matter will have the ability to contribute to the deliberations of a Scrutiny and Performance Panel.

**Consultation:**

Consultation with panel members will be required regarding their views on specific issues to be considered for scrutiny.

**Vision 2008:**

The work to be undertaken by the work groups will aim to achieve the Council's vision.

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## 1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide members with background information to enable them to make a decision as to whether the working groups previously established should be re-established. The panel may also wish to establish additional working groups.

## 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Panel established 3 working groups during the last municipal year:

- 2.2 Disability Strategic Review Working Group  
Community Association Working Group  
Green Spaces Working Group

- 2.3 The disability strategic review working group and the community association working group both concluded their reviews and have been disbanded.

The green spaces working group was unable to conclude its business because the information required was not available to them. At the last meeting of the panel in April, members had been advised that the consultant appointed to prepare the strategy document would be in a position to present the summary recommendations to the first meeting of this panel in the municipal year. This item is on the agenda under separate cover. Members may after receiving this information wish to decide whether there is a further role for this working group. The previous membership of the working group is set out in **appendix 1**.

- 2.4 The panel considered the Walsall illuminations at a series of special meetings and had agreed that a working group would be established to include stakeholders during this municipal year. The aim of the working group would be to review the process being followed by the consultants appointed to prepare a 5 year development plan and undertake a situational analysis and to comment on the recommendations prior to submission to cabinet.

- 2.5 The panel will need to consider and decide whether this working group should be established and if so: appoint representatives; confirm its terms of reference; identify a commencement date for the group; appoint a lead member and lead officer.

## 3. Conclusion

- 3.1 The panel may need to consider re-establishing the green spaces working group to enable the completion of the tasks set. It may also wish to consider establishing a Walsall Illuminations working group as referred to in 2.4 and 2.5 above.

- 3.2 The panel may also wish to consider re-establishing the membership of the green spaces working group agreed during the last municipal year to enable

continuity of the work not yet completed. (**Appendix 1** sets out membership during 2005/06)

- 3.3 Consideration may also be given to establishing additional working groups in accordance with the work programme for the 2006/07 municipal year.

**Green Spaces Working Group 2005/6**

**Councillors**

L. Beeley,  
J. Beilby,  
P Bott,  
K. Phillips, ( lead member)  
C. Towe

**Officers**

Andy Mills - youth and community services,  
Tim Challans - youth and community services,