COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITY FOR IT (Min 92 - CCT Panel)

1   SUMMARY

1.1   This report invites Members to consider which Committee should assume responsibility for operational IT issues.

1.2   There are no statutory issues arising although the delegation of decision making responsibility is covered within the Council's scheme of delegated powers to Committees (a copy of which can be found in the Members' Handbook).

2   INTRODUCTION

2.1   At its meeting on 6 April 2000, the CCT Panel considered the recommendations of the Vantagepoint report on the future of the IT Client Side. One of those recommendations was that the Corporate Resources Sub-Committee should be delegated power to determine all operational IT matters. The power to consider and make recommendations to the Finance and General Purposes Committee on IS/IT strategy was not affected by the proposal.

2.2   After consideration of the Vantagepoint recommendation it was recommended to, and subsequently adopted by, the Finance and General Purposes Committee:

> "that the proposal for Corporate Resources Sub-Committee to be delegated authority to determine all operational IT matters, and to make recommendations on issues affecting IT strategy and policy, be considered by Council in the next municipal year.

3   RECOMMENDATION OF VANTAGEPOINT

3.1   Under the current scheme of delegated powers, operational IT matters can be considered by all Service Committees as well as the Corporate Resources Sub-Committee (although in the case of the latter it must make recommendations to the Finance and General Purposes Committee). For example, it is often the case that a Service Committee will authorise the acquisition of IT hardware and software where required in support of a particular service delivery project. Vantagepoint suggest that the effect of this arrangement is that corporate IT and other resource issues may not be fully considered before decisions are taken to proceed with IT projects. To overcome this situation, Vantagepoint recommended that in future Service Committees should have power to consider IT implications arising from the development of services but not to determine these. Instead a

recommendation should be made to the Corporate Resources Sub-Committee. Such a step would ensure that the full resource implications are taken into account and that decisions are taken with reference to the IS/IT strategy that is currently being prepared.

3.2   Vantagepoint went on to recommend that whilst strategic issues should continue to be determined by the Finance and General Purposes Committee on the recommendation of the Corporate Resources Sub-Committee, operational IT should be determined by the Sub-Committee alone. If adopted, this change would help speed decision making and avoid the duplication of debate that may need to take place at the parent Committee.

3.3   Both of Vantagepoint's recommendations require clarification and amendment of the scheme of delegated powers to committees if Members agree they should be implemented.

4   RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

4.1   Vantagepoint has indicated that resource issues will be better considered under its proposals.

5   RECOMMENDATION

5.1   It is proposed that the Sub-Committee **RECOMMENDS** whether to accept the proposed changes to the scheme of delegated powers to committees as proposed by Vantagepoint. (HAMS)

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Background Papers:

None

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