



DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT

10th May 2005

DCS7	FINANCIAL WARRANT
FILE: *	APC

SUMMARY:

Reporting on the financial warrant provided to Councillors.



A report in respect of the Financial Warrant was presented to Council at its meeting of the 9 January 2001 [\(Appendix D\)](#).

The report noted that the requirement to include the cheque warrant within the business paper was removed following a review of the Local Government Act 1993, further that the provisions contained within the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 meant that cheque warrants could no longer be included within Council's business paper.

Council resolved that Financial Warrants from December 2000 be made available to Councillors upon request. The current practice has been to provide all councillors with a copy of the financial warrant in conjunction with the business paper.

A further circular, number 04/51 confirming the Department of Local Government earlier advice was issued in October 2004 [\(Appendix E\)](#). The final paragraph of the Circular states:

"Council's may make other arrangements by which councillors may be given access to the cheque warrant or other documents containing personal information, provided there are legitimate reasons to do so related to the performance of council's function."

A number of recent requests for additional information in respect of Council's Financial Warrant including questions without notice within open Council, have raised concerns over Council's current financial warrant procedures.

Council has written to the Department requesting confirmation that Council's current practice in providing a Financial Warrant satisfies Departmental guidelines as well as seeking clarification in respect of the matters raised in the final paragraph of the Departments Circular 04/51,

ie. the interpretation of what are "legitimate reasons" for seeking access to warrants, and the process for seeking such information.

No Financial Warrant has been prepared for the month of April, a further report will be provided to Council when the Department's reply is received.

REPORT IMPLICATIONS:

- ***Environmental***

Nil.

- ***Social***

Nil.

- ***Economic (Financial)***

Nil.

- ***Policy or Statutory***

Advice has been sought from the Department of Local Government so as to ensure Council's current procedures comply with Departmental guidelines.

- ***Director's Review***

Current requests from Councillors for further information in relation to details of expenditures contained in the Warrant will be deferred pending the receipt of the Department's guidelines.

RECOMMENDATION:

For the information of Council.

.....
G B Snape
DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES