

LEGAL SERVICES UPDATE

- 1.1** As advised at the meeting on 20 September 2007, consultants have now been appointed to take forward the Best Value Review of Regulatory Components of Legal and Protective Services and related management support. The purpose of this report is to update members of the Committee on the progress of the Review.
- 1.2** Brodies Consultancy have been engaged to undertake this Review and they have already spent some time reviewing a considerable volume of documentation, including service plans, quarterly reports, structure charts and so on. The next step in the process is for them to undertake an extensive consultation exercise with a range of both internal and external parties. The intention is that this will include internal customers such as other Departments and also external customers, including licensees and the owners of premises who are inspected by Environmental Health/Trading Standards. It is also intended that views will be sought from a number of Councillors, including the Chairman of the Licensing Board. I had also intended that members of this Committee would be included in the consultation process in view of your interest in the matter. In addition to the foregoing, and as equally important, there will be both individual and collective meetings with staff to obtain their views and input. This part of the exercise will take place over a couple of weeks, commencing on 14 January 2008.
- 1.3** Following completion of this part of the exercise, Brodies will draw up a series of options for consideration by the internal Project Board. It is anticipated that this will be done by the end of January 2008.
- 1.4** I would also advise members that we are in the process of implementing a case management and time recording system within Legal Services. The system has been purchased and we are currently working towards putting information onto the system. It is intended that it will be fully operational for the start of the next financial year.

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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS :