

LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT**MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE**

13 December 2004

Report from the Overview Task Group

For action

Wards affected:

All

Report Title: Access to information: from need to know to right to know

Forward Plan Ref: PRU-04/05-9

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This is a report by the Overview Task Group set up by the Overview Committee to look at the council's implementation of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (Fol Act) and related environmental legislation.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Executive agree that this report be passed onto the officer information implementation group for its consideration when it oversees the implementation of the Fol Act.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 The report concentrates on key areas of implementation of the Fol Act. In particular it examines the council's publication scheme; charging for complex requests for information; records management; the use of certain exemptions to prevent disclosure of information; the public interest test; internal review of decisions not to disclose information; and members' rights and responsibilities under the access to information regime.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 No immediate financial implications were identified in the report; however, future financial implications will need to be evaluated.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 The council as a public authority has to comply with the FoI Act and related environmental legislation from January 2005. Future case law will also influence compliance.

6.0 Diversity Implications

- 6.1 No immediate diversity implications were identified in the report, but they might become more apparent as the legislation beds in.

7.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications (if appropriate)

- 7.1 No staffing/accommodation implications were identified in the report.

Background Papers

Access to information: from need to know to right to know [attached report].

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