

## Item 17

### Members Meetings – April to July 2006

Under our new arrangements, the overall concept of ‘workshop’ has been replaced by either Members Briefings (which are designed principally to inform members of new developments or issues) or ‘Members Seminars’ (where the purpose is principally to allow members to consider and express a view on policy matters to guide officers at an early stage). We also agreed that the programme of briefings and seminars for the forthcoming period would be agreed at each council meeting.

In that context, members are asked to note and agree that the following have been programmed:

#### ***2 May 2006: Area Panels – a Members Seminar***

By the time of this meeting, two full cycles of Area Panels will have been completed. This seminar will offer members a chance to reflect on the experience and how it can be improved. External speakers have been invited to share the experience of other councils and to provide an insight into how the operation of area panels could be improved.

#### ***10 July 2006: Equality Issues – a Members Briefing***

The workshop will provide an introduction to Members on the Equality Standard for Local Government and outline the five main areas of the standard:

1. Commitment
2. Assessment and Consultation
3. Setting targets and objectives
4. Information
5. Achieving and reviewing

The standard is a toolkit designed for local government use to ensure that gender, race, disability and age issues are dealt with at all levels of policy, procedure, practice and involvement.

There will also be feedback on the work underway within UDC.