

**STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS**

**PROFORMA**

Cabinet Meeting .....13th February 2014

1. Title of Item/Report

Scrutiny Review of Demographic Information

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report that presented the Regeneration and Transport Select Committee findings following the Scrutiny Review of Use of Demographic Information.

Demographic information was deemed to be the statistical characteristics of the population. Its availability, quality, and use was key to the Council's strategic planning, decision making, and for targeted initiatives and interventions. Using information that was held more effectively could ensure that greater intelligence and customer insight was gained allowing targeted resources to those that would gain the most benefit, thereby ensuring the best value for money.

RESOLVED that:-

1. Work be undertaken on data sharing protocols to ensure the effective sharing of data across the Council and also possibly with partners.
2. Further consideration be given to joining LG Inform Plus when cost and regional interest levels show it to be of potential benefit to Stockton Council
3. A toolkit be developed (in line with the introduction of the new Council Plan structure) for use throughout the Council by officers to determine information use and sharing of said information.
4. Understanding demographic information is an element with the Council's Member Development programme.

3. Reasons for the Decision

1. A series of case studies was used to gain an understanding as to

how data and intelligence was being used in policy setting and decision making which suggested that information is held in departments but is not always fully available across the authority nor fully utilised when policies are being formulated.

2. The Committee learnt of LG Inform which provides, in a single place, up to date published data about local authority areas and the performance of councils. Early discussions are taking place at regional level suggested that the 12 North East local authorities would join LG Inform Plus, a subscription service that allows the data in LG Inform to be drilled down to small area information and therefore have the benefit of improved data sharing and awareness amongst its neighbours.

3. The development of a toolkit, was considered by the Committee as a not too onerous way of ensuring ease of the use of and sharing of information throughout the Council which could then be developed further to become an electronic document for use throughout the Council. The toolkit is expected to contain the following:

- Purpose of the toolkit
- Data sources
- Checklist
- Data Quality
- Data Sharing Protocols
- Other Help and support

4. On 27 November 2013 Cabinet agreed changes to the Cabinet report template so that reports are required to indicate which of the Council Plan themes and priority areas they support. Strengthening the toolkit of policy aims, the Committee believe, could ensure it is mainstreamed into the decision-making process.

5. It must also be ensured that councillors can recognise the demographic information being presented and its use for possible decisions being taken.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

None

6. Details of any Dispensations

N/A

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Midnight on Friday, 21st February 2014

Proper Officer  
17 February 2014