

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting11th February 2016

1. Title of Item/Report

Scrutiny Review of Freedom of Information Requests

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report that presented the context, findings and recommendations following the officer led review of practice with respect to Freedom of Information requests. The review reported into Executive Scrutiny Committee, details of their scrutiny, challenge and comments were detailed within the report.

The scoping document for the Freedom of Information (FOI) Review was attached to the report. The report highlighted the key lines of enquiry.

The report detailed the context and findings from the review.

The Executive Scrutiny Committee considered the scope of the review on 15th September 2015, the baseline challenge and option appraisal was considered on the 24th November and the 16th December 2015 respectively. An outline of the information received and discussion was detailed within the report. Members considered the recommendations detailed above and requested that they be presented to Cabinet for approval.

Following the approval of the recommendations, an action plan would be developed to progress the recommendations, with reports on progress referred back to Executive Scrutiny committee as appropriate.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The detail of the report be noted.
2. The opportunities presented through recent restructures be maximised to provide an effective gatekeeping and signposting function.
3. A case management tool be used wider, maximising any automated functionality.

4. Key officers be trained on the use and interpretation of the Freedom of Information legislation including practice and procedures adopted by the council.
5. The Councils Publication Scheme be reviewed and refreshed linking the publication of information to frequently requested data sets.
6. Good practice continues to be shared with local and regional benchmarking groups.
7. Opportunities be maximised resulting from the Parliamentary review of the Freedom of Information Act, once published.

3. Reasons for the Decision

To inform Members of the findings from the Scrutiny Review of Freedom of Information Requests.

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, 19 February 2016.

Proper Officer
15 February 2016