

Corporate, Adult Services & Social Inclusion Select Committee

A meeting of Corporate, Adult Services & Social Inclusion Select Committee was held on Tuesday, 15th March, 2011.

Present: Cllr Mick Stoker (Chairman); Cllr Mrs Lynne Apedaile, Cllr Aidan Cockerill, Cllr Mrs Suzanne Fletcher, Cllr Bill Noble, Cllr Roy Rix

Officers: Mrs D Hurwood, Mrs J Spittle (R); Mrs A Brown (DNS); T Beckwith (CESC); G Birtle, Miss M Jones, J Trainer, Mrs T Harrison (LD)

Also in attendance: No other persons were present

Apologies: Cllr Mick Womphrey

1 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2 Minutes to be signed by the Chairman - 14th September 2010, 26th October 2010 and 7th December 2010

The minutes of the 14th September, 26th October and 7th December 2010 would be signed by the Chair at the office of Democratic Services after the meeting.

3 Minutes of the meeting held on 18th January 2011.

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 18th January 2011.

CONCLUDED that the minutes of the meeting held on 18th January 2011 be agreed as a correct record.

4 Action Plans for Year 2 EIT Reviews

Members considered the action plans which set out how the agreed recommendations from the year 2 Efficiency Improvement and Transformation (EIT) Review of School Catering and the officer led EIT Task and Finish Reviews of Human Resources and Customer Services and Taxation would be implemented and the target dates for completion.

Members were advised that the officer led EIT Task and Finish final reports were considered by Cabinet in December 2010, and the EIT review of School Catering was considered by Cabinet in February 2011. Cabinet had accepted the recommendations.

REVIEW OF SCHOOL CATERING

Members were advised that the increase in the price of school meals had been highlighted in the local press and the service had not received any adverse feedback from this. Members were further advised that Trade Unions had been consulted regarding the reductions in staffing guidelines and kitchen allowances and was to be implemented

In addition, negotiations had taken place with four secondary schools regarding the provision of their school meals.

Members acknowledged the progress achieved so far and the effectiveness of staff consultations.

REVIEW OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Members were advised that the health and well being team had been reorganised and the back care programme would still be provided but on a more limited basis. There was an expectation that employees with less severe problems would visit their G.P or pay for the service themselves. However, if the health problem significantly impacted on the employees work the Council would continue to pay for the service.

Members were advised that discussions had taken place regarding Human Resources providing a health and safety service for schools and partnering opportunities with Darlington Council to raise additional income or make savings by sharing costs.

Members acknowledged the progress achieved so far to identify efficiency savings through the EIT Task and Finish Review.

REVIEW OF CUSTOMER SERVICES AND TAXATION

Members received an update on the progress of the action plan and were advised that the target savings had been achieved. Officers noted that the revision of the discretionary rate relief policy had been implemented and monitoring was taking place. A second Bailiff company had been appointed and the Corporate Management Team had approved the access channel strategy.

Members were advised that Customer Services and Taxation were also looking at partnering opportunities as a way of making savings whilst still providing a good service.

Members acknowledged the progress achieved so far to identify efficiency savings through the EIT Task and Finish Review.

CONCLUDED that the reports be noted.

5 EIT Review of Commissioned Carers and Independent Living Services

Members discussed the scope and requirements of the EIT Review of Commissioned Carers and Independent Living Services with officers.

The officer advised that consultation would be carried out with service providers and Members noted that consultation should also be carried out with user groups of the service as part of the review. Members also noted that other EIT reviews impacted on the services outlined within the scope and should be taken into account during the review process.

CONCLUDED that the scope be agreed.

6 Review of Work May 2007 - May 2011

Members were provided with a report which presented a summary of the reviews that had been carried out in the Municipal Years 2007/8 - 2010/11 and which highlighted the key outcomes and impacts of the reviews.

CONCLUDED that the report be noted.