

Corporate Policy Select Committee

A meeting of the Corporate Policy Select Committee was held on Tuesday, 7th March 2006.

Present: Councillor Woodhead (Chairman); Councillors Brown, Mrs Fletcher, Frankland, Lupton, Noble, Patterson, Mrs Rigg and Mrs Robinson.

Officers: Ms H Dean (CE); Miss S Connolly and Mrs T Harrison (LD)

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Larkin, Lynch, Mrs Norton and Mrs Womphrey.

1142 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th January 2006 were signed by the Chairman.

1143 Possible Areas for Future Review

The following reviews were identified to be forwarded to the Executive Scrutiny Committee for consideration:

Consultation

Members agreed to examine the effectiveness of all Council consultations and to assess its impact on Council Services

Recruitment and Retention

The Head of Policy and Performance advised the committee that due to the current Council assessment and job evaluation process, the committee should delay this review at present but recommended that the committee examined workforce planning issues and staffing needs for the next 5-10 years.

Meeting Venues

The Committee agreed to undertake a short review of the appropriateness of current Council meeting venues.

The following topics were identified by members of the Council further to correspondence from the Chair of Executive Scrutiny:

Council Postal

The Committee agreed to forward this issue to the audit committee for further analysis.

Fees and Charges

The committee noted the suggestion to scrutinise fees and charges but decided not to include it in the annual work programme.

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council relationships with Parish and Town Councils

The committee discussed the current relationships between the Council and the Parish and Town Councils. The Head of Policy and Performance suggested incorporating the topic into a wider and fazed review of partnership working in general.

Advertising and Marketing

The Head of Policy and Performance advised the committee that work was currently on going and that the communications strategy would be reported back to Corporate Policy Select Committee for Member consultation.

CONCLUDED that:

1. Consultation would be given top priority.
2. Recruitment and Retention would be noted for a future review.
3. A scrutiny of Meeting Venues would be undertaken upon completion of the review relating to Consultation.
4. The topic of Council Post would be forwarded to the Audit Committee for further analysis.
5. Fees and Charges would not be included in the annual work programme.
6. The topic of Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council's relationship with Parish and Town Council's was noted for future review.
7. The committee noted that a report would come back to Corporate Policy regarding the findings of the work undertaken on communications strategy in relation to Advertising and Marketing.

1144 Sickness Absence

The Committee noted current performance issues and agreed to incorporate monitoring procedures into the 2006-07, work programme.

CONCLUDED that the Committee noted the information.