

Executive Scrutiny Committee

A meeting of the Executive Scrutiny Committee was held on Friday 7th April, 2006.

Present:- Councillor Lupton (Chairman), Councillors Cains, Dalgarno, Fletcher, Jones, Mrs Nelson, Noble, Mrs Rigg, Rix, Mrs Trainer and Woodhead (Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council); Mr A Maxwell (Diocesan Representative).

Officers:- Ms H Dean (CE); Miss S Connolly, N Hart, Mrs M Waggott (LD).

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs Beaumont, Frankland, Lynch, Narroway, Mrs Nesbitt, Mrs Womphrey (Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council); Mr I Bartle, Mrs Mustafa (Parent Governor Representatives).

20 Timing of Meetings

It was noted that draft dates and times for meetings of this Committee had been scheduled into the Democracy Diary for 2006/2007. In the absence of any consensus with regard to a preferred time for meetings, the Chairman would determine future times of meetings in accordance with other known diary commitments.

21 Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 1st February 2006 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

22 Matters Arising

- i) Regard was made to the agreed terms of reference of the Committee; and in particular the ability for employees to identify suggested areas for scrutiny work. It was proposed that, in addition to the issue being raised at future Setting the Standard sessions; and the inclusion of an appropriate article in the Keeping You in Touch employee newsletter; the Team Leader for Democratic & Development Services contact all Heads of Service to illicit from them their preferred mechanism for alerting their employees to this facility. An update report on this issue would be reported to the next meeting of the Committee.
- ii) Copies of the Scrutiny Guidance Toolkit, incorporating all recent changes, would be sent to all members of the Council for comment. The content of the Guidance would thereafter be reviewed after a period of six months.

23 Terms of Reference

At the previous meeting of this Committee members considered the Terms of Reference following approval of them at Council on 25th January 2006 and made an amendment to include the ability for employees to identify suggested areas for scrutiny work; and from quasi judicial committees/appeals panels within the Council. The amended Terms of Reference were submitted for members consideration.

RESOLVED that the amended terms of reference be agreed.

24 Scrutiny Liaison Forum Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Scrutiny Liaison Forum held on Wednesday 8th March 2006 be approved subject to the following correction:-

Declarations of Interest-with regard to the interests expressed by Councillor Mr and Mrs Fletcher; delete 'friendship with one of the organisers' and insert 'their membership of Friends of the Festival'.

25 Report of Select Committee Chairs on Proposed Review Topics

The following proposed scrutiny reviews were considered by Members:-

Adults, Leisure and Culture	Preston Hall & Park/Museum Strategy
Children and Young People	Reducing Teenage conception rate in

	Stockton Borough
Corporate Policy	Consultation
Environment and Regeneration	Street Lighting
Health	NHS Dentistry Provision in Stockton Borough
Housing and Community Safety	Access to Tristar Services/ Pre Inspection monitoring

RESOLVED that the proposed reviews be adopted by the above Select Committees.

26 Select Committee Work Programme 2006/2007

It was noted that each Select Committee, under the direction of the Chairman as Project Manager, would now undertake a full project planning exercise for each review. It would be the responsibility of this Committee to ensure that each Select Committee was able to achieve the aims of their intended review.

To assist in the above process, consideration was presently being given to the future training needs of Chairman and Vice Chairman with regards to chairmanship skills, project management, interview questions/analysis etc..