

## **Executive Scrutiny Committee**

A meeting of the Executive Scrutiny Committee was held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June, 2006.

**Present:** Councillor Lupton (Chairman), Councillors Mrs Beaumont, Cains, Fletcher, Frankland, Nesbitt, Noble, Mrs Rigg, Rix, Roberts, Woodhead, Mr T Maxwell (Diocesan Representative).

**Officers:** Ms J Haworth (CE); P Mennear, Miss F C Shayler, Mrs Judith Trainer, Mrs M Waggott (LD); M Robinson (EDR); Ms J Povall (ELC).

**Apologies for absence** were submitted on behalf of Councillors Jones, Dalgarno, Lynch, Narroway, Mrs Nelson, Mrs Trainer, Mrs Womphrey. Mr Bartle, Mrs Mustafa (Parent Governor Representatives).

### **234 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2006 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

### **235 Matters Arising**

#### Scrutiny Training Event

Members were reminded of the Scrutiny Training Event to be held on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2006 and were requested to submit names if there was any further interest.

### **236 Work Programme 2006/07**

The Work Programme for the Executive Scrutiny Committee for 2006/07 was submitted for Members consideration.

There was no business for the meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2006 so it was suggested that this meeting be cancelled.

RESOLVED that the Work Programme for 2006/07 be agreed with the amendment of the meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> August being cancelled.

### **237 Bus Network Review**

Members were updated on the situation with regard to the withdrawal of some bus routes within the borough. Bus Operators were only providing commercially viable routes rather than meeting customer needs and there had been many complaints by residents.

The Tees Valley Network review was currently being undertaken and would be looking at maximising the passenger base and creating a commuter network.

Real time systems would be put into place later this year which should help customers by ensuring that they know when buses are on time, late or cancelled etc.

Discussion was held on the Borough Bus Service and Community Transport that was provided by the authority and how the two teams were working together to provide a fill in service for routes that were not being provided by the private companies. A bid

was currently being put together to strengthen the Service and a report would be submitted to Cabinet in August/September.

Members expressed concern regarding the lack of powers of Councils to influence commercially operated bus services and suggested that representations be made to the LGA.

Members were concerned about the less able and elderly being able to get to Health Appointments following the withdrawal of routes. The Community Transport Team was trying to help with this where possible, but bookings for transport needed to be made at least 24 hours beforehand.

The Chairman requested that newsletter be sent to all members updating them of the current situation and what measures are being taken, to enable them to deal with ward complaints more effectively.

RESOLVED that a Newsletter be sent to all Members updating them on the current situation to enable them to deal with ward issues

### **238 Report of Select Committee Chairs on Proposed Scrutiny Topics**

The Chairman of Adults, Leisure and Culture gave an update on their review of Preston Hall and Park. A Site visit was due to take place on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2006.

The Chairman of Children and Young People updated Members on their review of Teenage Pregnancy. Discussion was held on 'Evaluate' a programme that had been provided to Schools and further information would be requested on this.

The Chairman of Corporate Policy provided an update on their review of Corporate Consultation.

The Chairman of Environment and Regeneration provided an update on their review of Street Lighting.

The Scrutiny Officer, in the Chair's absence, gave an update on the review of NHS Dentistry Provision. It was suggested that some work had been undertaken by the Western Area Board and this may be useful to the Committee in their evidence gathering.

The Chairman of Housing and Community Safety gave an update on their review of Tristar. Mystery Shopping visits were to be undertaken by the Committee.

RESOLVED that the updates be noted.