

Executive Scrutiny Committee

A meeting of Executive Scrutiny Committee was held on Wednesday, 30th May, 2007.

Present: Cllr Robert Gibson (Chairman), Cllr Mrs Ann Cains, Cllr Dick Cains, Cllr Mick Eddy, Cllr Mrs Jean O'Donnell, Cllr Maurice Perry, Cllr Andrew Sherris, Cllr Alison Trainer, Cllr Mick Womphrey, Cllr William Woodhead, Cllr Barry Woodhouse

Officers: Ms J Haworth (CE); Miss F Shayler, Mrs J Trainer, Mrs M Waggott (LD).

Also in attendance:

Apologies: were submitted on behalf of Cllrs Mrs Fletcher, Harrington, Narroway, Mrs Rigg and Smith.

EX 1/07 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Coleman declared a personal/non prejudicial interest in relation to Agenda Item No. 5 Scrutiny Update and Improvement Plan and Work Programme 2007/08 further to being the Chairman of the Stockton International Family Centre Working Party.

EX 2/07 Minutes of Meeting For Signing

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st March, 2007 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

EX 3/07 Minutes of Meeting for Information

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th April, 2007 were agreed as a correct record.

EX 4/07 Matters Arising

Litter and Dog Fouling

Members stated that the figures for Litter and Dog Fouling had yet to be received (minute nos. 1151 and 1242 refer).

The Democratic Services Officer would follow up with the appropriate Officer.

EX 5/07 Scrutiny Update and Improvement Plan and Work Programme 2007/08

Members were provided with the draft improvement plan following the review of the Council's new scrutiny co-ordination arrangements and were required to confirm the scrutiny work programme for 2007/08.

Members were provided with a copy of the Four Principles of Good Public Scrutiny and a copy of The Good Scrutiny Guide was circulated around Members present. It was requested that a copy of this guide be provided to all Scrutiny Chairman and Vice Chairman and that two further copies be placed in the Members Library for reference.

Members discussed holding an Executive Scrutiny 'Away Day' to provide an

overview of Stockton's Scrutiny arrangements and to include review of previous scrutiny reports, future work programme, forward plan, strategic partnership work etc. It was requested that a day be arranged in the near future.

A review of the operation of the new arrangements had taken place in November/December 2006 and a survey had been sent to all Members. The framework for the survey had been based on the principles set out in the 'Good Scrutiny Guide'. Members were provided with the results from the survey. An Improvement Plan had been produced following the feedback and was presented to Members for approval.

Members held discussion on the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2007/08. Some minor amendments were made with regard to the order of review topics and the content. It was requested that the Corporate Policy and Social Inclusion Select Committee consider Theatre Subsidy as their first review in tandem with the Stockton/Darlington Partnership Joint Review.

RESOLVED that:-

1. A copy of The Good Scrutiny Guide be provided to all Scrutiny Chairman and Vice Chairman and that two further copies be placed in the Members Library for reference.
2. A Scrutiny 'Away Day' be arranged.
3. The Terms of Reference for the Executive Scrutiny Committee be noted.
4. The Improvement Plan be approved.
5. The first reviews to take place as part of the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2007/08 be approved.