

Service Improvement Plan (*abridged*) 2010/ 2013

Law and Democracy

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Stockton Borough – The People, The Council		
Theme: Stronger Communities, Our People, Our Organisational Efficiency		
DLD 1 Development Priority: Improving Corporate and Ethical Governance		
Key actions	By when	Outcomes and Success Criteria
Improving Standards and Probity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and refresh the provision of training and information on standards and ethics (including the proposed new Member Code of Conduct) to Town and Parish Councils 	March 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved awareness and understanding of the proposed new Member Code of Conduct Improved awareness and understanding of the ethical framework Training and guidance provided for the Standards Committee, Officers, non-Committee Members and Town/Parish Councils regarding the Committee's role Increased awareness of the Committee's role amongst Officers, Members and Town/Parish Councils Improved understanding and awareness of the Standards Committees and their individual members regarding the ethical framework and their roles within it.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide training and guidance for Members (including co-opted Members) and Officers in connection with the proposed new Member Code of Conduct 	March 2011	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to publicise the Standards Committee and its work. 	March 2011	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to provide training and guidance on the Standards Committee's role for:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standards Committee Members Officers Non-Committee Members and Town/Parish Councils 	March 2011	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to work with the other Tees Valley Local Authorities to co-ordinate and implement a development programme for the Tees Valley Standards Committees. 	March 2011	
Introduce New Executive Arrangements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce draft proposals regarding the form of executive proposed, including details of appropriate revisions/additions to the Constitution 	June 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New executive arrangements introduced in accordance with the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 requirements Members, Officers and the public made aware of the new, approved executive arrangements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit the proposals for change for consideration and approval by Cabinet and full Council 	July 2010	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the proposed proposals 	May 2011	

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Theme: Stronger Communities, Our People, Our Organisational Efficiency		
D1 Development Priority: To continue to raise awareness of the Council's scrutiny function and further develop arrangements for the scrutiny of partners in response to new legislation		
Key actions	By when	Outcomes and Success Criteria
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop working arrangements with Local Involvement Networks (LINKs) and Care Quality Commission. 	31 December 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet requirements of legislation (Police and Justice Act, LGPIH Act, LDEDC Act) Increased external scrutiny of key public bodies Improved public accountability of key public bodies Improved awareness of democracy (including scrutiny) amongst Stockton residents Better informed partner organisations about the role, work and governance of the Council Strengthened partnership working
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen links with external partners and agree arrangements to input into scrutiny topics. 	31 December 2010	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver member training on new scrutiny requirements and CFA. 	31 December 2010	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop scrutiny processes to accommodate review of LAA outcomes. 	31 December 2010	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appointment of designated scrutiny officer. 	30 April 2010	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In conjunction with other North East Councils, develop Regional Health Scrutiny arrangements. 	31 December 2010	

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Stockton Borough – The People, The Council		
Theme: Stronger Communities, Our People, Our Organisational Effectiveness, Our Value for Money/ Efficiency		
D2 Development Priority: Continue to support the Council’s drive for Efficiency, Improvement and Transformation through in-depth scrutiny reviews and challenge		
Key actions	By when	Outcomes and Success Criteria
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop working arrangements with the LINK to support work on EIT reviews. 	31 March 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprehensive series of reviews completed Increased involvement of partners, LINK and other bodies Increased awareness of the role of scrutiny amongst Council staff Improved Member engagement in the EIT reviews
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agree involvement with partners in EIT reviews, as appropriate. 	31 March 2011	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop working arrangements with other Local Authorities on Joint Scrutiny work. 	31 March 2011	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raise awareness internally of the role of scrutiny within the EIT process. 	31 March 2011	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respond to the Member survey results in relation to EIT issues. 	30 April 2010	

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Stockton Borough – The People		
Theme: Stronger Communities		
D3 Development Priority: Implement the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009		
Key actions	By when	Outcomes and Success Criteria
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop the Council's response to the duty to promote democracy 	30 April 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet the requirements of the legislation Increased awareness amongst general public of opportunities to:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> become active in their own community have access to information have an influence be able to challenge seek redress stand for office as evidence by public response to the information made available and the Authority's performance when measured against National Indicators 3 & 4 Easily understood information made readily available leading to an increased awareness and participation in democratic engagement Appropriate responses to petitions received with identifiable action carried out highlighted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement an appropriate petition scheme and associated arrangements. 	30 April 2010	

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Stockton Borough – The People, The Council		
Theme: Stronger Communities, Our Operational Effectiveness		
D4 Development Priority: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an appropriate Member Learning and Development Strategy that supports and enables Members to be effective. • Develop a Member Induction Strategy for 2011 that enables Members to become/continue to be excellent Councillors with a good understanding of their role, responsibilities and priorities for the Council. 		
Key actions	By when	Outcomes and Success Criteria
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the Council's Member Learning & Development Strategy in line with Council priorities 	31 March 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refreshed Member Learning and Development Strategy reflective of Council priorities • Achievement of the Charter Plus accreditation • Enhanced Member capacity and effectiveness • Induction programme for 2011 aligned to the Council priorities and make up of the new Council delivered in a timely manner
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compare existing Member Learning and Development arrangements against regional and national best practice 	31 March 2011	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit for assessment against the criteria for Members Charter Plus, the Council's Member Learning & Development Strategy. 	31 March 2011	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To make the necessary preparations for the delivery of a comprehensive Members Induction programme post elections 2011 	31 March 2011	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify in line with Council priorities required member learning and development requirements, and prepare appropriate Members Induction programme in readiness for post elections 2011. 	31 March 2011	

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Theme: Stronger Communities, Our Organisational Efficiency		
D5 Development Priority: Plan and deliver the Parliamentary General Election and the Local Government Elections		
Key actions	By when	Outcomes and Success Criteria
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement approved project plan for the Parliamentary General Election. 	June 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requirements of legislation will be met Declaration of the results Electors will be able to exercise their right to vote
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement approved project plan for Local Government Elections 2011. 	May 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Election will be delivered effectively and provide value for money

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Theme: Stronger Communities, Our/ Organisational Efficiency		
D6 Development Priority: Implement the measures of the Political Parties and Elections Act 2009 relating to voluntary Individual Electoral Registration		
Key actions	By when	Outcomes and Success Criteria
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop the Council's response to the Political Parties & Election Act 2009. 	2014*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requirements of legislation will be met Duty to encourage electors to provide requirements of individual registration will be met Improved accuracy and security of registration Opportunity for Parliament to consider innovative forms of voting

* The Ministry of Justice have advised the annual canvass for 2010 will proceed under the current arrangements. This decision has taken into account the requirement for an effective lead time and amongst other factors, the need to fully consider the financial implications and to ensure that the method chosen for the collection of the identifiers in year 1 of the voluntary phase is well thought out and fit for purpose. However, there is no suggestion that the overall timetable for Individual Electoral Registration will be affected and Section 32 of the Political Parties and Elections Act 2009 still requires the Electoral Commission to report in 2014 on whether the system is ready to move to the compulsory phase.