

## AGENDA ITEM

### REPORT TO COUNCIL

1 DECEMBER 2011

### REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF LAW AND DEMOCRACY

## PROPOSED CHANGE TO THE NAME AND REMITS OF THE CORPORATE, ADULT SERVICES AND SOCIAL INCLUSION (CASSI) AND HEALTH SELECT COMMITTEES

### SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to consider a proposal from the Executive Scrutiny Committee to realign the remit of Select Committees with that of Cabinet Portfolios by moving the “Adult Services” element of the CASSI Select Committee into the terms of reference of the Health Select Committee. This would allow a newly formed Adult Services and Health Select Committee.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

That the proposal to realign the remit of Select Committees with that of Cabinet Portfolios by moving the “Adult Services” element of the CASSI Select Committee into the terms of reference of the Health Select Committee to create both a new Adult Services and Health Select Committee and a Corporate Social Inclusion Select Committee, be approved.

### DETAIL

1. Executive Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2011, considered an overview report regarding the Council's scrutiny arrangements to form part of discussions regarding the future of scrutiny against the backdrop of national developments and public sector reform (for a copy of the report see <http://www.egenda.stockton.gov.uk/aksstockton/images/att15995.doc> ). The relevant minute is attached as an **Appendix**.
2. The Committee was advised that in 2008, Adult Services was moved from the Health Select Committee's terms of reference to allow the Select Committee to concentrate on health issues at that time. The Cabinet Portfolio for both Adult Services and Health however remained within the remit of the Cabinet Member for Adult Services & Health.
3. However, given the health reforms included within the Health & Social Care Bill 2011 which includes the local authority having a statutory responsibility to establish a Health & Wellbeing Board, it is now considered timely to realign Select Committee remits with Cabinet portfolios by moving the “adults” element from Corporate, Adult Services and Social Inclusion Select Committee back into the Health Select Committee to create an Adult Services and Health Select. As well as returning to a structure which fully aligns Select Committees with Cabinet portfolios this would allow the Adult Services and Health Select Committee to fulfil its overview role by covering the full remit of the Health and Wellbeing Board for example. This in turn will mean that the CASSI Select Committee will now become the Corporate Social Inclusion Select Committee (CSI).

4. In the event that Adult Services and Health Committee would potentially be overloaded in terms of undertaking in-depth reviews, the facility now exists within the Constitution for issues that are a corporate priority to be examined by other Select Committees.

## **FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

### **Financial**

5. There are no financial or legal implications arising directly from this report.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

6. The report is considered to be a low risk category report.

## **SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS**

7. Enhancing democratic representation and local democracy is a key feature of the Council Plan.

## **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

8. An assessment has not been considered necessary for the purpose of this report.

## **CONSULTATION**

9. The matter has been considered by the Executive Scrutiny Committee at its meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2011.

### **Director of Law & Democracy**

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<u>Background Papers:</u>	Not applicable
<u>Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:</u>	The report affects all wards
<u>Property Implications:</u>	Not applicable

**Executive Scrutiny Minute Number:- EXC 29/11**

**Title:- Future Role of Scrutiny**

**Minute Details:-**

Members were provided with an overview of the Council's scrutiny arrangements and discussed the future of scrutiny against the backdrop of national developments and public sector reform.

Members held discussion on the impact of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill 2010.

Select Committees were currently working to complete Year 3 EIT reviews, with several reviews reporting to Cabinet in November/ December. It was therefore proposed to hold a Scrutiny Liaison Forum in December 2011 to consider future work for the Select Committees. It was suggested that future work should consist of a combination of the following elements:

- Appropriate support for the Value for Money Programme following completion of the EIT reviews. This could include new reviews of any outstanding service areas or follow up work emanating from earlier EIT reviews which were identified for further investigation. Experience from earlier EIT reviews has confirmed that Select Committees were able to add most value to the process where there was a public facing dimension to the work undertaken.
- A robust framework for local and self regulation. Select Committees were ideally placed to play a role in self regulation following the abolition of external inspection regimes. It was proposed that the Select Committee receive half yearly performance information relating to the portfolio areas within the remit of the Committee. The framework would ensure that important issues of local concern such as dignity in health and social care were addressed, utilising enhanced scrutiny powers to scrutinise all commissioners and providers.
- In depth topic based reviews – it was proposed to invite topics from Members, CMT/ Heads of Service and key partners. As in previous years, topics would be invited on a pro forma and prioritised for consideration by Scrutiny Liaison Forum.
- Health Scrutiny – Potential in depth topic based reviews on health issues. Overview of local NHS transitional arrangements, continued updates on Momentum and other issues (e.g. statutory consultations, Quality Accounts etc.)
- Realign Select Committee remits with Cabinet Portfolios by moving the “Adult Services” element of CASSI Select Committee back into the terms of reference of Health Select Committee to allow the Adult Services and Health Select Committee to scrutinise the increasing linkages between health and social care, including the remit of the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- Continued development of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny role with reference to the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill.

AGREED that the report be noted and the above proposals be approved.