

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO COUNCIL

18 JANUARY 2012

**REPORT CORPORATE
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

MEMBERS POLICY SEMINARS 2011 / 2012

SUMMARY

This report provides Council with an overview of content from the Members Policy Seminars held in December 2011 which comprised of a Focus on Policing in Stockton and the Police and Crime Commissioners and Police and Crime Panels presentations. Supporting material from the seminar programme can be found on the member pages of the intranet.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Council is recommended to receive this report and note its contents

BACKGROUND

1. Members Policy Seminars are an important vehicle for both informing and consulting with Members on a variety of topics from Policy and Legislative changes, contributions to Government consultations, and providing an update on local service provision from partner organisations. They are particularly useful for those issues which are of importance to the Council or partners but are in the early stages of development, or those which will be of interest to Members, out with the usual reporting arrangements.
2. A programme of seminars is set annually with events planned on a monthly basis. Topics are reviewed monthly by the Corporate Management Team to ensure issues are current and discussions and information provision is timely. Special, additional seminars are arranged as required.
3. The Policy Seminar programme has been in place since January 2009 and was evaluated in January 2010. The evaluation showed that there was overall a positive response from members who felt that they provided an opportunity for in depth discussion on a wide range of topics. Feedback was received on the format, acoustics and some of the venue choices. Where possible these issues have been addressed in the current programme. A further review is scheduled for 2012.

SUMMARY OF SEMINARS HELD SINCE LAST COUNCIL.

4. There has been one Member Seminar since the last report to Full Council. The December seminar included two items, a focus on Policing in Stockton and an update on the legislation regarding Police and Crime Commissioners and Police and Crime Panels. Nineteen members attended. An update on Policing in Stockton was provided by Darren Best, the District Commander for Stockton Borough. His presentation covered the Police Profile, People, Performance, Finance and Future challenges. Members raised issues of communication regarding local policing issues in one particular locality and there was a commitment to address this. A number of questions were raised and answered in relation to the detail of specific crimes, detection rates and operational infrastructure.

5. The second presentation provided details of the new legislative requirements around Police and Crime Commissioners, details of the election, which will now take place in November 2012. Stockton Council will take the lead on these elections.
6. All slides , agenda and supporting material from the seminars can be accessed at <http://kyit.stockton.gov.uk/members/policyupdatesessions>
7. A regular update report on members seminar events held will be provided to Council at each meeting going forward.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial

11. There are no financial implications arising as a direct result of this report.

Legal

12. There are no legal implications arising as a direct result from this report.

RISK ASSESSMENT

13. This report is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

14. This report is not subject to Equality Impact Assessment as it makes no proposals for service development or policy change.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

15. Members Policy Seminars help the Council achieve all its objectives as outlined in the Sustainable Community Strategy.

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

16. No external consultation has taken place on this report.

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Background Papers

None

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:

Members Policy Seminars affect all wards in the Borough.

Property

This report has no implications for the Council's Capital Programme and Asset Management Plan.