

MEMBERS POLICY SEMINAR PROGRAMME

SUMMARY

This report provides Council with an overview of content from the Members Policy Seminars held in March and April 2012 which gave an update of the service provided by the Fire Brigade in Stockton, progress of the transfer of Public Health to the Local Authority in March 2013 and the development of the Clinical Commissioning Groups, changes to the provision of the North East Ambulance Services following a review, the details of the Stockton Care Fees model and the impacts on provision in the area and a round up of Regeneration and Economic Development projects across the borough. Supporting material from the seminar programme can be found on the member pages of the intranet.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Council are recommended to:

1. 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 July 2012.

SUMMARY OF SEMINARS HELD SINCE LAST COUNCIL MARCH 2012.

4. There has been two Member Seminars since the last report to Full Council. The March seminar included two items:- an opportunity to receive an update of the service provided

by the Fire Brigade in Stockton. This highlighted the Brigades priorities, details on achievements/ improvement outcomes, current work on risk analysis to allow further targeted work. The presentation identified changes to the service which included annualised hours, a new shift pattern and closer working with the community. The Service is also part of a national pilot on Young Peoples Engagement. This presentation ended the theme of this year's seminars which had a focus on our Public Service Partners in Stockton.

5. The second item was an update on the Public Health Transition and progress towards the development of Clinical Commissioning Groups. This highlighted the current position with regards to progress being made on transition arrangements, set out the Local Authority responsibilities, detailing the 5 mandatory areas and the key outcomes the government expects us to achieve from the service. Progress on the formation and development of a clear and credible plan that will deliver on the identified priorities of the Clinical Commissioning Groups was highlighted listing the initiatives that will deliver on these priorities. Progress is being made across both areas of the transition arrangements. There are detailed programmes of activity and milestones to be achieved over the next 10 months to be ready for the April 2013 deadline.
6. The April seminar included 3 items the first of which was the outcome of the North East Ambulance Service Review of provision across the region. Mark Cotton NEAS presented details of the current service standards, targets achieved, rationale behind the proposed changes, the implications for Stockton, changes to the levels of provision across the region and in Stockton and some background to how the wider service is managed across the North East. The review outcomes are still the subject of discussion and consultation with the final changes being implemented from April 2013.
7. An item on the Care Homes, Fee Model used in Stockton was included following receipt of a number of queries received by members over recent weeks. Officers detailed the component parts of the model, discussed some of the issues experienced by the sector at the present time, highlighted arrangements of the ongoing discussions and dialogue with providers. The presentation and discussion identified that there are variances from Borough to Borough because the provision and requirements vary significantly too. In summary, currently Stockton area has a surplus of beds compared to the demand requirements from the Borough of Stockton, this is set against national policies to keep people in their own homes for longer, the promotion of independent living through independent living support and various other accommodation options. The outcome of a potential legal challenge was awaited and dialogue is set to continue with providers.
8. The final presentation provided an update on Regeneration and Economic Development activity and projects across the Borough of Stockton on Tees. This highlighted the breadth of completed and ongoing projects, success stories and the work still required to fulfil the regeneration programme for the Borough. Significant investments both financial and in officer time has been and continues to be a focus to deliver on this important agenda. A repeat of this presentation is being delivered on 11th May. Details are available through the Democratic Diary.
9. All slides, agenda and supporting material from the seminars can be accessed at <http://kyit.stockton.gov.uk/members/policyupdatesessions>
10. 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
Slides/ Presentation from the member seminar programmes.

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.