

MEMBERS POLICY SEMINAR PROGRAMME

SUMMARY

This report provides Council with an overview of content from the Members Policy Seminar in September 2013, that provided an update on the work of Tees Valley Unlimited and the current position in respect of the recent changes to the NHS structures and current ways of working.

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 have been in place since January 2009 and 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.

SUMMARY OF THE TOPICS COVERED IN SEPTEMBER 2013

3. A series of updates have been provided to members over the last 2 years regarding the changes to the National Health Service, the dissolving of the PCT's, the forming of the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG's) and the transition of Public Health into the Local Authority. This seminar provided an update on the progress and challenges facing NHS England, the Local Area Teams and the CCG's. Areas covered included:
 - NHS England Role
 - Commissioning Structures
 - Area Teams - roles and responsibilities
 - Challenges ahead – Finances, Welfare Reform, service reconfiguration, provider stability.
 - Enablers - Engagement & Education, working together, Health and Wellbeing board.
 - CCG Architecture
 - Roles and Responsibilities of CCG's

- Changes from previous regimes
- Stakeholder operations
- Governance arrangements
- Challenges ahead.

4. The second presentation provided an update on the work of Tees Valley Unlimited. This set out the ambitions, current perceptions of the area, challenged these perceptions through the provision of examples of current activity and successes across the Tees Valley. The presentation emphasised importance of this area to the national economy, provided evidence to support the skills and training , detailed achievements to date in investments, enterprise, private sector support and investment. An update was also provided on the current City Deal bid.
5. The next two member's seminars are scheduled for the 14th November 2013 on Adults Safeguarding and Street lighting, Transport and Flooding and on the 12th December on Children's Safeguarding. Sessions are held in the Jim Cooke suite between 4.00 – 6.00 p.m
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.

Julie Danks
Corporate director of Resources
Julie.danks@stockton.gov.uk
Tel number 01642 527007

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.