

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE SCRUTINY

4 JULY 2006

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF LAW AND DEMOCRACY

PROPOSALS FOR REVIEW OF PREVIOUSLY APPROVED SCRUTINY REVIEWS

SUMMARY

This report sets out a proposed approach to reviewing the implementation of agreed recommendations arising from scrutiny reviews

RECOMMENDATIONS

The proposed approach to reviewing scrutiny recommendations be endorsed.

DETAIL

1. To date there has been no agreed format for Select Committees to review the implementation of scrutiny recommendations.
2. In order to ensure a consistent approach, a proposal for the future review of scrutiny recommendations has been drafted and is attached at Appendix 1. Some work has taken place and the position in respect of reviews from 2004/05 is set out at Appendix 2.

The draft proposal is based on the following principles:

- All agreed scrutiny recommendations will be reviewed by the appropriate Select Committee in respect of implementation and impact
- Following approval of recommendations, an Action Plan will be drawn up and a date identified for a review report to be submitted to the Select Committee
- Select Committees cannot change or add to recommendations agreed by Cabinet. Further issues arising from review will be referred to the Executive Scrutiny Committee who will decide whether they warrant further review work
- Review reports will be presented to the Select Committees in the agreed format and include an assessment of where progress currently lies
- The relevant Cabinet Member and responsible officers will be involved throughout the review process, as indicated at Appendix 1, and report on progress to the Select Committee in relation to the recommendations
- The Executive Scrutiny Committee will also receive a report on progress in implementing recommendations across the scrutiny function
- It is proposed that the report on progress will be presented by the relevant Link Officer in liaison with the relevant Cabinet Member
- The final arbiter as to the status of a recommendation where there is disagreement between the Select Committee and Cabinet/ Officers view on progress will be Executive Scrutiny Committee/ Council (ultimately)
- It is not proposed to undertake reviews of implementation of recommendations in respect of reviews prior to 2005. This will mean that those reports at Appendix 2 will not be reviewed.

3. The Executive Scrutiny Committee is asked to comment on the proposed approach.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial or legal implications arising from the report.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The proposal is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

Enhanced service delivery through the development of improved scrutiny arrangements.

Judy Trainer
Scrutiny Team Leader
Telephone No. 01642 528158
Email Address: Judith.trainer@stockton.gov.uk

Background Papers

Examples of other Councils' monitoring arrangements

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:

Not Ward Specific