

Executive Scrutiny Committee

A meeting of the Executive Scrutiny Committee was held on Tuesday 1st August, 2006.

Present: Councillor Lupton (Chairman), Councillors Beaumont, Dalgarno, Fletcher, Frankland, Noble, Rix, Mrs Womphrey, Woodhead, Woodhouse (vice Councillor Cains), Mr A Maxwell (Diocesan Representative).

Officers: D E Bond, P Mennear, Miss F C Shayler, Mrs J Trainer (LD); Ms J Haworth (PP); B Simpson (R).

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors .Cains, Jones, Lynch, Narroway, Mrs Nelson, Mrs Nesbitt, Mrs Rigg, Mrs Trainer; Mrs Mustafa, I Bartle (Parent Governor Representatives).

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 4th July 2006 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Performance Report 2005/06

Members were provided with a report that outlined the Council's performance during 2005/06, providing details of performance against targets and improvement trends. Included within the report was performance against the Corporate basket of key performance indicators, the Council Plan 2005-2008, financial year end update, Gershon efficiency savings and research and consultation undertaken during 2005/06.

Members held discussion on the key achievements and areas for improvement which could be passed to appropriate Select Committees for consideration as part of their Work Programmes. Themes that were drawn out of the discussion were Sickness Absence, residential care for the elderly, violent crime and recycling.

RESOLVED that the report and themes identified be noted.

Financial Position Update 2005/06

Members were provided with information on final outturn, the medium term financial position (MTFP), developments in Local Government Finance which may impact on the 2007/08 Revenue Support Grant (RSG) settlement and the Treasury Management Annual Report.

RESOLVED that the Update be noted.

Review of Implementation of Scrutiny Recommendations Previously approved by Cabinet

Members were provided with an approach to review the implementation of agreed recommendations arising from Scrutiny Reviews. The aim of formalising a format was to ensure that there was a consistent approach and to ensure that all relevant parties were involved at the appropriate stage.

RESOLVED that the format for reviewing the implementation of agreed recommendations arising from Scrutiny reviews be approved.

Draft Protocol for Member/Officer Involvement in Reviews

The Council had approved new scrutiny co-ordination arrangements on the basis of a more inclusive approach to policy development, which developed links between the work of the Select Committee and the Cabinet decision making role.

Members were presented with a draft protocol in the form of a flow chart, the purpose of which was to clarify the involvement of Members and Officers throughout the review process under the Council's new arrangements.

Comments from members had been sought and the draft protocol had been amended to take into account these comments. Members felt that the review process needed to begin as early as possible and reviews overlap to ensure that there were no gaps from one review to the next.

A further amendment to the chart was requested for the final review to go to Executive Scrutiny and Cabinet at the same time.

A review of the new Scrutiny arrangements would be taking place in the Autumn and the protocol would be included within this review. Members requested that the protocol be reviewed again prior to May 2007.

RESOLVED that the Draft Protocol for Member/Officer involvement in Scrutiny Reviews be approved subject to the above amendments and be included in the Review of Scrutiny arrangements in the Autumn and then reviewed again prior to May 2007.

Report of Select Committee Chairs on Proposed Scrutiny Review Topics

The Chairman provided an update to Members on the Review of Preston Hall and Park, the review remained on target.

An update was provided on the Review of Teenage Pregnancy, the timescale for the review remained unchanged at present but there was a possibility it may need to be extended for further information gathering.

The Chairman provided an update on progress made on the Review of Corporate Consultation, the timescale remained unchanged.

An update was provided to Members on the progress on the Review of Street Lighting.

The Chairman provided an update on the review of NHS Dentistry Provision which remained on target, with the Committee soon to determine its recommendations. An update was also provided on the Acute Service provision. The Committee had also been considering the possibility of a Health Scrutiny Support Programme following an offer from the Center for Public Scrutiny for 5 days support/training.

An update on the Review of Tristar Homes was provided, the Select Committee had finalised their comments on progress against the review recommendations and agreed that the Committee's comments be forwarded to Tristar and Cabinet.

RESOLVED that the updates be noted.