

Executive Scrutiny Committee

A meeting of Executive Scrutiny Committee was held on Tuesday, 19th December, 2006.

Present: Cllr Lupton (Chairman), Cllr Mrs J Beaumont, Cllr D Cains, Cllr J A Fletcher, Cllr M Frankland, Cllr J M Lynch, Cllr W Noble, Cllr Mrs M Rigg, Cllr R Rix, Cllr Mrs M B Womphrey, Cllr B Woodhead.

Officers: H Dean (CE); P K Bell, S Connolly, J Trainer, M Waggott (LD) G Cummings, P Saunders (R).

Also in attendance:

Apologies: Cllr I Dalgarno, Cllr B Jones, Cllr Mrs K F Nelson, Cllr L Narroway, Cllr E Nesbitt and Cllr Mrs A Trainer.

814 Minutes of the Meeting held on 24th October 2006 - Chairman to Sign

The minutes of the meeting held on 24th October 2006 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

815 Minutes of Meeting held on 21st November 2006 - For Information

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st November 2006 were noted for information.

816 Performance Report - Quarter 2

Consideration was given to a report which outlined the Council's performance during the second quarter of 2006/7, providing detail of performance against targets and improvement trends. It included progress against the Council Plan, Service Improvement Plans, Corporate Basket Measures, Financial Information, Gershon and the Local Public Service Agreement. It also detailed consultation activity undertaken in the second quarter and complaints and commendations received.

Supplementary information was distributed at the meeting which detailed themed areas from the Corporate Basket that were maintaining or not improving. It was hoped that this information would provide more of an improvement focus for Members.

Members asked what was behind the decline in the number of prosecutions of offenders for dumping, littering or dog fouling. Officers did not have any further information and it was therefore agreed that the relevant information would be forwarded to Members.

Members also asked questions on Corporate Health Information Governance issues and the reasons behind the slippage. It was reported that the slippage had mainly occurred because the Head of Service had retired and the work had recently been re-allocated.

Members requested that the appendices be made available to them on the e-genda system so that they can access it prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

817 Financial Position Update

Consideration was given to a report which provided Members with information on the projected outturn position based on information to the end of September 2006, the medium term financial position (MTFP) and the 2007/08 financial settlement.

The position for 2006/07 were structured around three "ring-fenced" financial areas:

- a. General Fund
- b. Housing Revenue Account
- c. Capital

The summary projected outturn information for each service grouping was attached to the report, including a detailed variance analysis.

The projected position on the service element of the General Fund was given. It could be seen that the Council would be carrying forward a Managed Surplus of £2.5 million into 2007/08 compared to a £1.873million Managed Surplus reported to Cabinet in September 2006.

It was also reported that a seminar for all Members on the Financial Position would be held on 23rd January 2007.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

818 Presentation - Gershon

Members received a presentation from the Head of Finance on Gershon. The presentation focused around the following key areas:-

1. What is Gershon
2. What counts/does not count as an efficiency gain
3. The two gain categories
4. Quality cross checks
5. Stockton's target
6. The timetable
7. Linked to CPA use of resources

Members were given the opportunity to ask the Head of Finance questions on Gershon.

Members thanked the Head of Finance for his presentation.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

819 Environment and Regeneration - Street Lighting Services

Members received a copy of the Environment and Regeneration Select Committee report on Street Lighting Services.

The Chairman of the Environment and Regeneration Select Committee outlined that it had been a very technical review and that the review had given Officers a chance to hone their ideas. Members congratulated the Committee and the Officers that had been involved in the review.

RESOLVED that the Environment and Regeneration Select Committee report on Street Lighting Services be forwarded to Cabinet.

820 Corporate Policy - Corporate Consultation

Members received a copy of the Corporate Policy Select Committee report on Corporate Consultation.

RESOLVED that the Corporate Policy Select Committee report on Corporate Consultation be forwarded to Cabinet.

821 Report of Select Committee Chairs on Progress of Scrutiny Reviews

Members were presented with updates from the following Select Committees:-

1. Adults, Leisure and Culture Select Committee - Review of Major Festivals (SIRF/BIFF).
2. Children and Young People Select Committee - Review of Teenage Pregnancy.
3. Corporate Policy Review Select Committee - Corporate Consultation
4. Environment and Regeneration Select Committee - Review of Street Lighting
5. Health Select Committee - Review of NHS Dentistry Provision
6. Housing and Community Safety Select Committee - Review of the Development of Choice Based Lettings

RESOLVED that the updates be noted.

822 Future Topics for Scrutiny Work Programme 2007/08

Members were requested to forward any suggested future scrutiny work programme topics to the Scrutiny Team Leader.

