

AGENDA ITEM

**REPORT TO EXECUTIVE
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

20 FEBRUARY 2007

**REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF
LAW AND DEMOCRACY**

FORMAT OF ANNUAL SCRUTINY REPORT 2006/07

SUMMARY

To seek comments from Executive Scrutiny on the format for the Council's first Annual Scrutiny Report which will cover work undertaken during 2006/07.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Executive Scrutiny are asked to approve the proposed format for the Annual Report 2006/07.

DETAIL

1. It is intended to produce a report which is mainly for external consumption i.e. interested members of the public, witnesses, partner agencies, voluntary and community groups, inspectors, external enquiries as well as the Council itself. The Annual Report will highlight:

- scrutiny contributes to policy development
- scrutiny enables the Council to engage with stakeholders and the public
- key scrutiny successes

2. It is intended to adopt a clear and concise format for the report to include:

- An introduction explaining the role of scrutiny and Stockton's arrangements
- A page on the work of the Executive Scrutiny Committee including key scrutiny developments
- A page on the work of each Select Committee during the year 2006/07 highlighting the key successes
- A page on the 2007/08 year ahead
- A list of contacts for anyone wanting more information
- A sheet for suggesting topics for scrutiny investigation
- Committee Memberships

3. One of the key issues identified during the recent review of the Council's scrutiny arrangements was the need to raise the profile of scrutiny. Recent scrutiny developments are also placing an increasing emphasis on external scrutiny and public involvement in the scrutiny process. In order to raise awareness about the role of scrutiny within the Council, it is intended to produce an eye-catching colour brochure format for external consumption as well as publicising the report on the Council's scrutiny website. The report could be displayed in libraries and community offices as well as being circulated to key partners, voluntary and community groups and interested members of the public.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

4. The estimated cost of producing a 12 page colour version of the Annual Report is £550.00 for 250 copies.

RISK ASSESSMENT

5. Publication of an Annual Scrutiny Report may raise unrealistic community expectations; if an Annual Scrutiny Report is not produced, the Council will be missing an opportunity to raise the profile of scrutiny within the Borough and develop links with partners and the community.

COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

6. Service Delivery (Enhance Local Democracy).

Director of Law and Democracy

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<u>Background Papers:</u>	None
<u>Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:</u>	Not Ward Specific
<u>Property Implications:</u>	None