

Executive Scrutiny Committee

A meeting of Executive Scrutiny Committee was held on Tuesday, 20th February, 2007.

Present: Cllr K Lupton (Chairman), Cllr Mrs J Beaumont, Cllr D Cains, Cllr J A Fletcher, Cllr M Frankland, , Cllr J M Lynch, Cllr L Narroway, Cllr W Noble, Cllr Mrs M Rigg, Cllr R Rix, Cllr J M Roberts (vice Councillor Mrs Trainer), Cllr B Woodhead

Officers: Miss F Shayler, Mrs J Trainer, Mrs M Waggott (LD).

Also in attendance: None

Apologies: were submitted on behalf of Councillors Dalgarno, Jones, Mrs Nelson, Mrs Nesbitt, Mrs Trainer, Mrs Womphrey, Mr A Maxwell (Diocesan Representative), Mr I Bartle, Mrs S Mustafa (Parent Governor Representatives).

1 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Fletcher declared a personal/non prejudicial interest in relation to Agenda Item No. 7 - Report of Select Committee Chairs on Progress of Scrutiny Reviews further to being a friend of Billingham International Folklore Festival.

Councillor Woodhead declared a personal/non prejudicial interest in relation to Agenda Item No. 7 - Report of Select Committee Chairs on Progress of Scrutiny Reviews further to being a Tristar Member.

Councillor Frankland declared a personal/non prejudicial interest in relation to Agenda Item No. 7 - Report of Select Committee Chairs on Progress of Scrutiny Reviews further to a family member being employed by Tristar Homes Ltd.

2 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd January 2007 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3 Format of Annual Scrutiny Report 2006/07

Members were requested to consider the format for the Council's first Annual Scrutiny Report which would cover work undertaken during 2006/07.

It was intended to produce a report which was mainly for external consumption such as interested members of the public, witnesses, partner agencies, voluntary and community groups, inspectors, external enquiries as well as the Council itself.

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 were 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 was 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.

RESOLVED that the proposed format as suggested for the Annual Report 2006/07 be approved.

4 Final Report on Teenage Pregnancy

Members were presented with the final report for the Teenage Pregnancy Review undertaken by

the Children and Young People Select Committee.

The Chairman wished to thank Graham Birtle, Scrutiny Officer, for his hard work during the review.

The report would be considered by Cabinet on 15th March 2007.

Resolved that the report be forwarded to Cabinet on 15th March 2007 for consideration.

5 Forward Plan

Members had agreed that the Statutory Forward Plan be a standing item on each Executive Scrutiny Committee agenda to enable Members to highlight topics for possible future reviews.

It was felt that consideration needed to be given to all appropriate Councillors being involved as a matter of course in the consultation process for some of the items listed within the forward plan and that consideration should be given to making forward planning information more widely available to all Members of the Council.

RESOLVED that the comments be noted.

6 Report of Select Committee Chairs on Progress of Scrutiny Reviews

Adults, Leisure and Culture Select Committee

Members had been gathering evidence for the Review of Festivals and were due to have a tripartite meeting towards the end of February. It was anticipated that a final report would be agreed in March with final consideration by Cabinet on 12th April 2007.

Children and Young People Select Committee

The Committee had finalised their report on Teenage Pregnancy which would be considered by Cabinet on 15th March 2007.

A Tripartite meeting had been held on 16th February to discuss the scope and project plan for the Review of Bullying.

A full day seminar in which the Committee would consider evidence for the review of Bullying would take place on 9th March. It was anticipated that the final report would be considered by Cabinet on 12th April, 2007.

Corporate Policy Select Committee

Members had received a progress report on their review of Sickness Absence.

The Committee had also commenced its review of meeting venues and had received evidence and information. The Committee would be undertaking some site visits of meeting venues and would be involving members of the Stockton Disability Advisory Group. The review was due to conclude by April 2007.

Environment and Regeneration Select Committee

The Committee had commenced its review of Cemeteries and Memorials. The first phase was to examine the future development of cemeteries. The Committee had received evidence from appropriate parties and was due to receive a presentation, hold viewpoint focus groups and visit faith groups. It was anticipated that the review would conclude in April 2007.

Health Select Committee

The Committee were not undertaking a scrutiny review but had been undertaking alternative work including visiting University Hospital North Tees (UHNT) and planning a future visit to University Hospital Hartlepool (UHH).

The Select Committee had received a presentation from UHNT with regard to the trust's consultation process to apply for Foundation Trust Status.

The Select Committee was due to meet with representatives from the Primary Care and Hospital Trusts to discuss the Annual Health Check.

Housing and Community Safety

The Committee had made a decision on how they would like to see the future Choice Based Lettings policy for Stockton on Tees. The Committee would now be considering options for delivering the policy and whether it should be implemented as part of the sub-regional scheme. The review remains on schedule with a view to a report being presented to Cabinet on 15th March, 2007.

RESOLVED that the updates be noted.