

Executive Scrutiny Committee

A meeting of Executive Scrutiny Committee was held on Wednesday, 21st March, 2007.

Present: Cllr K Lupton (Chairman), Cllr D Cains, Cllr J A Fletcher, Cllr M Frankland, Cllr R Rix, Cllr J M Roberts (vice Councillor Mrs Trainer), Cllr Mrs M B Womphrey and Cllr B Woodhead.

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

Also in attendance: None.

Apologies: were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs Beaumont, Jones, Dalgarno, Lynch, Narroway, Mrs Nelson, Noble, Mrs Nesbitt, Mrs Rigg, Mrs Trainer. Mr A Maxwell (Diocesan Representative), Mr Bartle, Mrs Mustafa (Parent Governor Representatives).

1148 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Woodhead declared a personal/non prejudicial interest in relation to Agenda Item No. 5 Choice Based Lettings Review – Final Report further to being a Tristar Board Member.

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.

1149 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th February, 2007 were agreed as a correct record.

1150 Matters Arising

Forward Plan

Members were informed that the statutory forward plan would be a standing item on the Executive Scrutiny Committee Agenda for future meetings.

1151 Performance Report Quarter 3 2006/07

Members were provided with an outline of the Council's performance during the third quarter of 2006/07 ending 31st December 2006. Detail of performance against targets and improvement trends were provided. Also, included was progress against the Council's Corporate Basket Measures, Gershon, and the Local Public Service Agreement. Information on the consultation activity during this period and the complaints and commendations received were highlighted.

Discussion was held on sickness absence and it was stated that Corporate Policy Review Select Committee would be revisiting this in the new municipal year.

Members discussed the figures relating to litter and dog fouling and requested further detail of these figures broken down into ward areas.

RESOLVED that the update be noted and that further figures be detailed to members of the council on litter and dog fouling.

1152 Choice Based Lettings Review

Members were provided with the Housing and Community Safety Committee's report on the Development of Choice Based Lettings. The report had been considered by Cabinet on 15th March 2007.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

1153 Meetings Venues

Members were provided with the Corporate Policy Select Committee's report on Meeting Venues. A copy of the up to date recommendations following the meeting of Corporate Policy on 15th March 2007 was distributed at the meeting. The report would be considered by Cabinet on 12th April 2007.

The Chairman wished to thank the Scrutiny Officers for their help and support with the review.

RESOLVED that the report be considered by Cabinet on 12th April, 2007.

1154 Report of Select Committee Chairs on Progress of Scrutiny Reviews

Adults Leisure and Culture

An update was provided on the Review of Festivals, the Committee had received further evidence at its meetings on 8th and 16th March, 2007. A small working group had met to consider the consultation and financial information together with a market traders questionnaire prior to determining recommendations.

The recommendations were to be considered by a Tripartite meeting on Monday 26th March prior to the final report being considered by Cabinet on 12th April, 2007.

Discussion was held on providing a guidance protocol for witnesses at Select Committee meetings and it was stated that the Head of Democratic Services would be drafting such a protocol for the new Municipal year.

Children and Young People

Members of the Select Committee had met for a one day seminar on Friday 9th March to gather evidence and make recommendations for their review of Bullying. A tripartite meeting was due to be held on Monday 26th March to discuss the Committees findings and recommendations prior to the final report being presented to Cabinet on 12th April 2007.

Corporate Policy

The review of Meeting Venues had been completed with the report due to be considered by Cabinet on 12th April 2007.

Environment and Regeneration

Members had received all of the evidence for the first phase of their review of Cemeteries and Memorials and the Committee would be considering their report at their meeting on 26th March 2007. The report was on target to be considered by Cabinet on 12th April 2007.

Health

The Committee was not undertaking a scrutiny review but was undertaking interim work and would be meeting with representatives of the Primary Care and Hospital Trusts to discuss the Annual Health Check on Monday 26th March 2007.

Housing and Community Safety

Members had completed their review of Choice Based Lettings. The report was submitted to Cabinet on 15th March 2007.

RESOLVED that the updates be noted.