

**SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2007/08
SUGGESTED REVIEW – PRO FORMA**

What is your proposal for scrutiny review?

River Based Leisure Facilities

What are the issues/concerns?

Maximising potential of the barrage and river

Are there barriers preventing/ deterring greater use? (eg rateable values for moorings, access/stop offs)

Identify what and how may be done to generate more use and encourage growth for businesses, leisure and tourism

What are the existing uses and who are the users?

What growth has there been over the last 5 years (pace and potential)?

Comparison with others.

Is there a clear objective/outcome for scrutinising this topic?

To maximise the potential of the barrage and the river for residents and visitors.

Signed: N Schneider

Date: Jan 07

Please return to:

Judy Trainer
Scrutiny Section
Democratic Services
Municipal Buildings
Church Road
Stockton on Tees
TS18 1LD

Email: Judith.trainer@stockton.gov.uk

Tel: 01642 528158

**SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2007/08
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What is your proposal for scrutiny review?

A review of the Stockton Voluntary Development Agency and associated community sector.

What are the issues/concerns?

The voluntary sector in Stockton is proposing significant restructuring and staffing reorganisation. Stockton Borough Council is a significant contributor to the financial base for these organisations in the sum of approximately £545,000. The robust governance of these third sector organisations is essential and a study of their proposals is necessary.

Is there a clear objective/outcome for scrutinising this topic?

To ensure that good governance procedures and robust management processes are established to enable current financial support to be justified.

Signed: K Lupton

Date: 05.01.07

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What is your proposal for scrutiny review?

Theatre Subsidy.

What are the issues/concerns?

Is a £240,000 pa subsidy to Billingham Forum Theatre good value?

Is there a clear objective/outcome for scrutinising this topic?

To assess/compare subsidy level and form a view re: the above.

Signed: N Schneider

Date: 27/12/06

**SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2007/08
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What is your proposal for scrutiny review?

Corporate Parenting

What are the issues/concerns?

- What are the issues for children in care?
- Are they achieving our aspirations for their health/education/future prospects?

Is there a clear objective/outcome for scrutinising this topic?

Signed: A Baxter

Date:

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What is your proposal for scrutiny review?

School Organisation Plan

What are the issues/concerns?

Planning for continuing demographic decline

The decline in pupil numbers has continued. More than 1000 primary school places in Stockton Borough have been removed in the last two years, and further action is planned to avoid an excess of surplus places. The rate of decline in the primary school population is now beginning to slow, and the fall is starting to affect secondary schools.

Building Schools for the Future

The need to remove up to 1400 secondary places will be addressed in the local strategy for *Building Schools for the Future*, the Government funding programme that promises to rebuild or refurbish all secondary school buildings across England.

Policies and principles relevant to the provision of school places

Integrated service delivery is only one example of developments in national policy that will change the ways in which schools work. Extended school opening, a new 14-19 curriculum and school workforce reform will also influence the planning of school provision.

Is there a clear objective/outcome for scrutinising this topic?

To assist the allocation / location of long-term school provision in Stockton Borough's primary and secondary schools.

Signed: Scrutiny Liaison Forum

Date: 12/01/07

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What is your proposal for scrutiny review?

Cemeteries and Memorials (Phase 2) – The Management of Memorials

What are the issues/concerns?

Health and Safety in Cemeteries and Closed Churchyards
Legal considerations
Operation of existing policy on memorials and enforcement issues

Is there a clear objective/outcome for scrutinising this topic?

To establish appropriate guidelines on the erection of memorials
To ensure that cemeteries and closed churchyards meet health and safety guidelines

Signed: Environment and Regeneration Select Committee

Date: Jan 07

Please return to:

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Scrutiny Section
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What is your proposal for scrutiny review?

Waste Collection Services.

What are the issues/concerns?

Increasing cost.

Need to investigate the 'carbon footprint' – effect of a large fleet driving round, then the transportation of waste to onward markets – what is the net effect upon the environment.

The impact upon residents:

- Separate collections now for

waste	
green waste	
paper	
glass/tins	
plastic)
cardboard)

 review of the pilot scheme
- Alternate weekly collections?

Is there a clear objective/outcome for scrutinising this topic?

An assessment of cost/benefit options

Signed: N Schneider

Date: 27/12/06

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What is your proposal for scrutiny review?

Vermin Control (Rat / Pigeon Infestation)

What are the issues/concerns?

- Increase of rats/pigeons into towns
- Diseases spread by rats/pigeons

Is there a clear objective/outcome for scrutinising this topic?

- Introduce control measures
- Public Health

Signed: W Woodhead

Date:

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What is your proposal for scrutiny review?

Employability (Worklessness) in Stockton Borough

What are the issues/concerns?

Stockton has lower than national average employment rates and low rates of new business start ups.

The Employability Strategic Direction Group, consisting of ONE NorthEast, the Learning and Skills Council, Jobcentre Plus, Government Office for the North East and the North East Employer Coalition wants organisations and agencies to get smarter and better at getting people in to employment.

To meet the needs of local people and specifically those furthest from the labour market effectively, there is a need for greater collaboration across a number of the themes to develop a holistic approach to ensure joined up delivery.

The Public Sector is the biggest employment sector (25%) in the Borough with the Local Authority and NHS as two of the largest employers in Stockton. The Public Sector should be seen as exemplar employers and be an employer of choice for local people.

Funding is available from NRF and more recently the Deprived Areas Fund (DAF) a new funding stream, available until March 2008, is primarily aimed at adding value to current mainstream services offered by Jobcentre Plus.

It is the intention to develop an employability strategy for the Borough in line with the Regional Employability Framework and the four key areas of Engagement, Employability, Job Placement and Aftercare and Retention.

Based on previous mapping work carried out for NRF purposes and taking into account current activity, the priority gaps in provision are around engagement and retention.

Is there a clear objective/outcome for scrutinising this topic?

To assist the development of an Employability Strategy

To help determine the Local Authority's employment role as an employer and as a service provider.

Signed: R Cains / Scrutiny Liaison Forum

Date: 12/01/07

**SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2007/08
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What is your proposal for scrutiny review?

Alcoholism

What are the issues/concerns?

Alcohol is a major cause of chronic liver disease and cirrhosis. These diseases contribute to the greatest level of average years of life lost for both men and women in Stockton. The North Tees PCT highlighted Alcohol Related Harm as a main concern in 2005 following the launch of the National Alcohol Strategy which focused on Binge and Chronic drinking.

Is there a clear objective/outcome for scrutinising this topic?

To examine and, where appropriate, identify improvements to the cohesive approach being taken by the North Tees PCT, the Drugs Action Team, SBC, Cleveland Police, businesses and residents groups.

To provide a publicity outlet for drink reduction strategies.

Signed: Select Committee

Date:

**SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2007/08
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What is your proposal for scrutiny review?

Delays in obtaining NHS hearing aids – this has been left out of the Government's 18 week waiting time targets.

What are the issues/concerns?

There is an issue around commissioning and the PPP initiative is not used here. I have various emails from the Audiology Department at James Cook Hospital regarding this. I have a constituent who waited 39 weeks for an assessment for a hearing aid and was then told she would have a further 40 week wait to get the aid. Had it been known that she was a primary carer of a terminally ill husband then apparently she would have been given higher priority but her husband died at Easter.

Is there a clear objective/outcome for scrutinising this topic?

Signed: J Roberts

Date: 24/11/06

**SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2007/08
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What is your proposal for scrutiny review?

Investigate the delay being experienced by Patients for Referral to Audiology.

What are the issues/concerns?

GPs tell me that it can be 18 months to 2 years before a patient with a hearing problem can be seen by an Audiologist and then another delay before provision of a hearing aid.

Digital Hearing Aids delay when moving from analogue.

Is there a clear objective/outcome for scrutinising this topic?

Draw attention of the public to this delay and encourage Health Partners to speed up the process.

Deaf patients will experience isolation while waiting.

Signed: A Cains

Date: 30/11/06

**SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2007/08
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What is your proposal for scrutiny review?

Audit of Services to Young People in “Transition” eg between Childhood and Adulthood.

What are the issues/concerns?

Parents of children with physical or learning disabilities report a reduction in services once the child moves into Adult Services.

Is there a clear objective/outcome for scrutinising this topic?

- Point out the facts to Health Partners and Social Care.
- Encourage improvement in services for service users in “transition”.

Signed: A Cains

Date: 30/11/06

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What is your proposal for scrutiny review?

Neighbourhood Enforcement Service.

What are the issues/concerns?

This Service was newly established in April 2006, and a first annual report will be prepared by the end of May 2007, covering the 2005/06 financial year. The Service is currently funded until the end of March 2008, so a decision will need to be made by Cabinet in late 2007 on the future of the Service. Consideration of this report will provide an opportunity for challenge and added value.

Is there a clear objective/outcome for scrutinising this topic?

Any views expressed by the Select Committee will inform the decision to be made by Cabinet later in the year. This approach to involving non-Cabinet Members in the decision-making process is likely to generate a more considered set of views than, for example, relying on an email survey.

Signed: M Batty

Date: 22/12/06

