

Executive Scrutiny Committee

A meeting of Executive Scrutiny Committee was held on Tuesday, 26th June, 2007.

Present: Cllr Robert Gibson (Chairman), Cllr Mrs Ann Cains, Cllr Dick Cains, Cllr Mick Eddy, Cllr Mrs Suzanne Fletcher, Cllr Mrs Liz Nesbitt, Cllr Mrs Jean O'Donnell, Cllr Maurice Perry, Cllr Mrs Maureen Rigg, Cllr Mick Womphrey, Cllr William Woodhead

Officers: J Trainer, M Waggott, M. Henderson (LD). H. Dean (PP).

Also in attendance:

Apologies: were submitted on behalf of Councillors Coleman, Harrington, Narroway, Mrs Nesbitt, Sherris, Smith, Trainer.

EXC **Declarations of Interest**

6/07

None

EXC **Minutes of the Meeting**

7/07

The minutes of the meeting held on 30th May 2007 were agreed as a correct record.

EXC **Chairs Updates on the Scoping of Forthcoming Reviews**

8/07

Members were provided with draft scopes and project plans associated with select committee reviews, together with details of progress made:-

Corporate and Social Inclusion – Theatre Subsidy

It was anticipated that this would be a short, paper based, review, with the final report going to Cabinet in October.

Arts, Leisure and Culture – River Based Leisure Facilities

Members noted that there was a significant amount of evidence associated with this review that the Select Committee would have to collect and consider. The project plan indicated that the review would last the remainder of 07/08, with a report to Cabinet early 08/09 The Scrutiny Officer was working closely with Press and Public Relations regarding any necessary press releases.

Housing and Community Safety – Neighbourhood Enforcement Service

It was explained that timescales on this review were crucial because of funding issues relating to the future of the service. Any relevant recommendations would need to be considered during the budget setting process and, in view of this, the Select Committee was aiming to report to Cabinet in October.

Environment – Cemeteries and Memorials Phase II – The Management of Memorials

Members agreed that this was a sensitive issue and links with the Press were important. A press briefing had been arranged to explain the aims of the

review. The Select Committee's final report would be presented to Cabinet in November 2007.

Adult Services and Health – Alcohol Services

It was explained that the project plan for this review had been delayed pending a meeting with the Director for Public Health for Teesside, whose input was considered to be essential.

It was explained that the Committee had been busy and had received a presentation from North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trusts on the 'Pathways to Health' Programme. The main aim of the programme was to ensure that services were patient centred, clinically driven and provided locally.

Members noted that a public consultation process would take place with regard to the Pathways programme and it was anticipated that the Trust would continue to consult with the Select Committee, on this issue, when appropriate.

It was noted that, generally, Trusts were 'on board' with Scrutiny at sub regional and Borough levels, via the Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee and Council Health Selects.

Regeneration and Transport - Employability

Members received the scope and project plan for this review and noted that the Select Committee would report to Cabinet in December.

It was agreed that there were potentially many strands to this review and the Select Committee would need to remain focused on the specifics of the scope.

Members discussed receipt of evidence from the disabled and BME communities and noted that potential sources of useful evidence had been identified in the scope. The Committee was informed of information, coming from work the Equality and Diversity Team had undertaken in this area that might also prove useful. It was noted that this information would be made available to the Select Committee.

Children and Young People – Corporate Parenting

It was noted that this review would be paper based and it was anticipated that the Select Committee would report to Cabinet in August. Reference was made to the draft Corporate Parenting Strategy, which the Committee had commented on and supported.

RESOLVED that the Select Committees' draft scopes, project plans and updates be noted.

**EXC
9/07**

Arrangements for Resourcing Scrutiny Reviews

Resourcing of Scrutiny Reviews Members noted that the scoping stage for most reviews had been completed and it was considered that each scope was focused. It was agreed that Select Committees had to maintain this focus, in order to maximise officer support, across all reviews, and to ensure reports

produced were of a high quality.

Members briefly discussed member training and resources available to Select Committees. Details of Scrutiny Team staffing arrangements were provided.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

**EXC
10/07** **Forward Plan**

Members were provided with a copy of the Council's Forward Plan for the period 1st July 2007 to 31st October 2007.

RESOLVED that the plan be noted.

**EXC
11/07** **Executive Scrutiny Away Day**

RESOLVED that members of the Committee, and Select Committee Vice Chairmen, meet on Wednesday 11th July 2007 at 10.00am.