

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

13 NOVEMBER 2007

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF LAW AND DEMOCRACY

SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2007/08

SUMMARY

The report reminds the Committee of the review topics for 2007/08 proposed by the Scrutiny Liaison Committee, advises of recent development affecting the work programme and seeks confirmation of the second review topics for 2007/08.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To confirm the second reviews for 2007/08 for scoping by Select Committees.

PROPOSED TOPICS

1. Prior to the Local Government elections, the Scrutiny Liaison Forum on 12 January 2007 and subsequently, the Executive Scrutiny Committee, approved a draft Scrutiny Work Programme 2007/08. The "long list" of suggestions and supporting papers considered by the Scrutiny Liaison Forum are attached at Appendix 1.
2. The Executive Scrutiny Committee on 30 May 2007, confirmed the first review topics for 2007/08 and these are set out below together with the other topics put forward by the Scrutiny Liaison Forum as priorities for review.

Arts, Leisure and Culture

- River Based Leisure Facilities (first review). Following the scoping of this review, it was agreed that this should be a year long review.

Corporate Policy and Social Inclusion

- Theatre Subsidy (first review)

(Stockton/Darlington Partnership – Joint Scrutiny with Darlington Borough Council by Sub Group) (in tandem with first review)
- Stockton Voluntary and Community Sector

Children and Young People

- Corporate Parenting (first review)

- School Organisation Plan (it is proposed that this review should commence in January 2008 following the consultation on Building Schools for the Future)

Environment

- Cemeteries and Memorials Phase 2 – The Management of Memorials (first review)
- Waste Collection Service – Comprehensive Review of Recycling
(Vermin Control – by Task and Finish Group)

Regeneration and Transport

- Employability (first review)

Adults and Health

- Alcoholism (first review)
- Hearing Aids Waiting Lists/ Delays in Referrals to Audiology
- Services for Young People in between Childhood and Adulthood

Housing and Community Safety

- Neighbourhood Enforcement Service (first review)
- Homelessness for Young People (incorporating accommodation for care leavers)

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE PROGRAMME

3. Since the draft programme was considered by the Scrutiny Liaison Forum, there have been a number of developments which should be taken into account:

- Regeneration and Transport Select Committee – The Executive Scrutiny Committee has already agreed that the second review topic for this newly established Committee should be a review of the School Travel Plan following its referral from Cabinet
- Homelessness for Young People - Since the review was first agreed as a priority for the Housing and Community Safety Select Committee by the Scrutiny Liaison Forum, the service have undertaken a considerable amount of work in this area and the Council has been identified as a Regional Centre of Excellence by the DCLG and will be hosting a national conference in December. As a result of the improvements, the value that scrutiny can add is questionable.

In the meantime, Cabinet have asked that Executive Scrutiny Committee incorporate a piece of scrutiny work within the current year's work programme in relation to the site selection of a travellers transit site. This review would need to be completed by February 2007. It is proposed that this topic replace the review of homelessness as the second review for the Housing and Community Safety Select Committee.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

4. There are no direct financial or legal implications identified at this stage.

RISK ASSESSMENT

5. This report is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

6. Service Delivery (Enhance Local 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