

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

What is your proposal for scrutiny review?

Review of Aids and Adaptations

What are the issues/concerns?

Monitoring of previous review of Aids and Adaptations.
Concerns that situation has worsened.

(A BVPI measures the % of items of equipment and minor adaptations delivered within 7 working days. In 05/06 our performance was 75% which represents 'good' 4 band performance in the 5 band national performance framework, although is relatively low for our comparator group of similar authorities. Performance in 06/07 at the end of October was 77.4%, representing some improvement on the previous year towards an ambitious target of 85%.

The length of time waiting for major adaptations is also measured, although this is not a BVPI. Performance had deteriorated from 35 to 39 weeks in 05/06 (35.8 weeks national average) but at the end of September 2006 had improved to 30.6 weeks.)

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

Signed: A Cains

Date:

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

Welfare Benefits

What are the issues/concerns?

- Is the service effective and efficient
- Is it in correct place in Council's structure
- Subsidy to Stockton District Advice and Information Service.

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

Signed: ALCS Select Committee

Date:

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

Adult Education

What are the issues/concerns?

Details to follow

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

Signed:

Date:

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

Disabled people into employment

What are the issues/concerns?

- Council as employer; Councillor as enabler; Council as community leader
- Are policies up to date (HR and Social Services)

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

Meaningful employment for people with disabilities.

Signed: ALCS Select Committee

Date:

**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

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

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
SUGGESTED REVIEW – PRO FORMA**

What is your proposal for scrutiny review?

The establishment of a Leisure management Trust (Tees Active).

What are the issues/concerns?

To review performance against the objectives set for the Leisure Trust prior to its conception.

To review performance against the business plan.

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

As 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?

Support for community centres – particularly those owned by, but not run by, Stockton Council

What are the issues/concerns?

Support appears to be very patchy, according to which community centre it is. Also it is not co-ordinated across the Council, with different advice from different departments at time.

My fear is that if some of these problems are not sorted out soon there will be media headlines about something going wrong.

What would happen if we were “inspected” by an outside organisation? I doubt if we would be awarded “excellent” status.

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

A better and more effective service to the community.

A more corporate and co-ordinated approach in line with Council objectives and policies.

Avoidance of adverse publicity.

Signed: S Fletcher

Date: 20/11/06

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

What is your proposal for scrutiny review?

Community development, especially support for community centres throughout the Borough.

What are the issues/concerns?

Locations and constitutions of SBC-owned community centres are a historical accident of the concurrent functions of the former Cleveland CC and SBC.

Occupiers of most community centres are voluntary associations whose instruments of government should ensure charity registration. This is fiscally efficient, but is there sufficient support for the volunteers to run these centres? Especially in view of recent Licensing, Health and Safety and Employment legislation?

More generally, is there sufficient support for community development in non-NRF areas which do not have many professional residents used to running things?

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

To minimise risks to SBC, Councillors and Volunteers.

To ensure that SBC's assets are properly utilised.

To have the means in place to try to ensure that SBC's objectives do not fail through lack of volunteers and/or their lack of competences.

To support Councillors as SBC representatives and/or in their community leadership function.

Signed: J A Fletcher

Date: 30/11/06

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

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

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

A review of the structure and operation of the Local Strategic Partnership.

What are the issues/concerns?

The Local Strategic Partnership, introduced in recent years, requires a review to identify performance and establish clear criteria for responsibility and decision-making. Members are unclear as to the role and responsibilities due to their lack of involvement.

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

To improve Members' understanding of the role and responsibility of the LSPs and to ensure the performance of these organisations is challenged.

Signed: K Lupton

Date: 05.01.07

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

Building Schools For the Future (BSF)

What are the issues/concerns?

The major concern of residents within Ingleby Barwick (IB), is currently the lack of adequate provision of secondary school places within the new community of IB. Parents had to carry out an eight year campaign to eventually get a secondary school in 2000, which has 600 places. This opened in 2003. We all knew at the time that this was totally inadequate.

IB currently has 1,400 children of secondary school age, yet only one secondary school of 600 places. 800 children attend schools elsewhere within the borough, a minimum of 4 miles away and with no safe walking route to school. As the construction of the remaining 1,500 houses and with the existing primary school children already living in IB growing up, the number of secondary school children will increase by at least 100 per year. By 2010, over 1,200 out of the 1,800 secondary school children will be bussed off to schools elsewhere in the Borough.

I have asked the Council's Cabinet Member responsible for Education at least six times what the Council proposes to do about bussing off over 800 children to schools elsewhere in the Borough. Each time, I have been advised that there will be no new secondary school and no extension to the 600 place school until 2013 and that will only be about 200 places. That will still leave over 1,100 children being bussed off to school everyday - 22 full bus loads.

The above does not just affect the school education of our children, but also the community spirit of IB. Children make friends with school mates at the other schools and as a result there is an endless taxi run by parents each evening and a lack of friendship within IB. The admission zones are extremely strict with no choice at all. Parents are advised by the admissions section to put their first preference as their in zone school, which for 800 children is at least 4 miles away. If they do not and are unsuccessful in obtaining entry into the 600 place school on IB, they run the 100% risk that their child will be left to attend a school up to 12 miles away in the Borough as the in zone schools are all full. This means that the children and parents of IB have effectively NO CHOICE whatsoever.

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

The people of IB believed that **Building Schools For the Future (BSF)** initiative could help solve the problems above. Stockton Council signed up for BSF in October 2006. The principles include, a. schools big enough for the needs of their communities and b. parents are offered choices as to where they can send their children to school. When asked at Council on 18.10.06 the Cabinet Member for Education advised that these two criteria are merely for an ideal world and that the Council would not be increasing secondary school provision within Ingleby Barwick.

How can Stockton Council sign up for BSF and have no intention in addressing the problems of Ingleby Barwick? Yet other areas have schools that far exceed the needs of their community and are being 'propped up' by children from Ingleby Barwick.

Signed: R Patterson

Date: 30/11/06

**SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2007/08
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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:

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

Regeneration/Reducing Unemployment/Support for New Businesses/Town Centre Regeneration

What are the issues/concerns?

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

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

To see if there is anything more which either our officers or partners could be doing to reverse the situation. We would look at their achievements to date and their “modus operandi”.

Signed: R Cains

Date:

**SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2007/08
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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:															
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separate collections now for <table border="0" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr><td>waste</td><td>)</td><td rowspan="5" style="padding-left: 20px;">review of the</td></tr> <tr><td>green waste</td><td>)</td><td rowspan="5" style="padding-left: 20px;">pilot scheme</td></tr> <tr><td>paper</td><td>)</td></tr> <tr><td>glass/tins</td><td>)</td></tr> <tr><td>plastic</td><td>)</td></tr> <tr><td>cardboard</td><td>)</td></tr> </table> • Alternate weekly collections? 	waste)	review of the	green waste)	pilot scheme	paper)	glass/tins)	plastic)	cardboard)	
waste)	review of the													
green waste)			pilot scheme											
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Is there a clear objective/outcome for scrutinising this topic?															
An assessment of cost/benefit options															
Signed:	Date: 27/12/06														
N Schneider															

**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?

Hospital Parking

What are the issues/concerns?

Councillors are aware of public dissatisfaction regarding the car parking charges levied at the University Hospital of North Tees. The Department of Health has provided income generating powers to enable NHS bodies to raise additional income for health services. It has also provided advice on issues regarding setting up a car parking scheme, reviewing existing schemes including what charges to impose and what concessions to consider.

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

To examine the effect of car parking charges at the University Hospital of North Tees.

To determine the adoption of Parliament, Health Select Committee recommendations published in July 2006:-

- Issue regular patients or visitors reduced price or free parking via a season ticket.
- Introduce a weekly cap on parking charges for patients.
- Provide free parking for patients attending daily treatment.
- Inform patients before treatment of car parking charges.

Signed: A Cains

Date:

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

Lack of employment for Newly Qualified Health Professionals

What are the issues/concerns?

Query based on “comments” from several members of the public.

Investigation i.e requests to Colleges/Universities for information on destination of leavers (degree holders) would establish if this is a real problem.

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

Signed: J Beaumont

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?

Huntercombe House – not sure if this falls within health scrutiny remit but the recent article in Evening Gazette does raise questions.

What are the issues/concerns?

Huntercombe House is a privately run, 14-bed residential home providing long term and respite care for children and young people with a wide range of learning disabilities, such as autism, Aspergers Syndrome, ADHD. It is located on Norton Road in Stockton.

A recent article in the Evening Gazette highlighted that the facility is being underused, and that families have to travel outside the region for respite care. Staff at Huntercombe House believe that this is because people do not know it exists.

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

Increasing public awareness of the services provided at Huntercombe House, and ways in which to achieve this.

Increased use of these services.

This could be done as a short review or as part of a wider review of respite care in the Borough.

Signed: J Roberts

Date: 22/12/06

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

Direct Payments

What are the issues/concerns?

Direct payments are a key driver for increasing service user choice and control by making payment directly to the client so they can purchase their own care arrangements. Progress in developing use of DPs is measured by a BVPI and through the national Performance Assessment Framework for Adult Social Care. There is an expectation that local authorities will extend the take-up of DPs. Progress has been made in Stockton but priority is given in service plans to further improvement. In 05/06 the proportion of DPs in Stockton (using BVPI data) was 89 adults and older people per 100,000 population aged 18+, lower than the average of 96 for similar LAs (although the national average was 81). Issues in developing use of DPs include: the need to encourage clients to accept the benefits of this approach; providing support to enable clients to make effective use of a payment; commissioning a range of services for clients to access; and managing the financial implications for the Council of increasing access to services in this way whilst sustaining some directly provided services.

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

The objective of a review would be to make recommendations about strategy for developing use of direct payments, with the aim of improving performance against our comparator groups. The outcome for service users would be to promote their independence through greater choice and control.

Signed:

S Willson

Date:

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

Enforcement/Agencies, Policies.

What are the issues/concerns?

Effective enforcement and related issues Police/Housing/Tristar etc.

What do the different agencies do?

What statutory guidelines do they operate by?

How far can they go before police need to intervene?

How much do the public know about the different agencies and what they do?

In particular a look at the effectiveness of the Neighbourhood Enforcement Service.

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

Sustainability – tackling AS culture.

A clear picture of the different responsibilities.

Signed: A Trainer

Date: 22/12/06

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

What is your proposal for scrutiny review?

Review of Decent Homes work.

What are the issues/concerns?

There has been increased consultation with residents over works to be done to their homes, but how much say do residents really have on works carried out?

Is the work being carried out to strict Tristar/Government criteria or do customers have a say on internal works.

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

Improved customer satisfaction with Decent Homes work.

Increased resident involvement with work on their homes.

Signed: A Trainer

Date: 22/12/06

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

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

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

Access to Affordable Housing

What are the issues/concerns?

- Contribution to Stockton Sub-Regional Housing Policies.
- Links to Local Development Framework.

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

Signed: N Schneider

Date:

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

Homelessness for Young People

What are the issues/concerns?

- Annual Performance Assessment highlighted need to do more for young people

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

Signed: A Baxter

Date: