

AGENDA ITEM

**REPORT TO EXECUTIVE
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

1 APRIL 2008

**REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF
LAW AND DEMOCRACY**

SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME – SELECTION OF IN DEPTH SCRUTINY REVIEWS

SUMMARY

The report presents suggestions received from Members and officers for the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2008/09 together with the top 10 priorities following discussion at the Scrutiny Liaison Forum on 25th March 2008.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Executive Scrutiny Committee are invited to consider the priorities for review identified by the Scrutiny Liaison Forum and allocate initial topics to each of the Select Committees as commencement of the scrutiny work programme for 2008/09.
2. The Committee give future consideration to the comments of the Scrutiny Liaison Forum regarding the proposed changes to the process for establishing the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2009/10; as identified in paragraph 7 of the report.

WORK PROGRAMME 2007/08

1. With the exception of two small task and finish groups which are currently ongoing, the Council's Select Committees have completed a programme of in depth scrutiny reviews work during 2007/08 as follows:

Arts, Leisure & Culture Select Committee

- Review of River Based Leisure Facilities

Children & Young People Select Committee

- Corporate Parenting
- School Organisation Plan

Adults and Health Select Committee

- Alcohol Services
- Parkview Care Home

Environment Select Committee

- The Management of Memorials
- Waste Management and Recycling
- Vermin Control (Task and Finish Group)

Housing & Community Safety Select Committee

- Neighbourhood Enforcement Service
- Travellers Transit Site Selection

Corporate and Social Inclusion Select Committee

- Theatre Subsidy
- Community and Voluntary Sector (Task and Finish Group)
- Stockton/ Darlington Partnership Joint Scrutiny (Sub Group with Darlington BC)

Regeneration and Transport Select Committee

- Employability
- Sustainable School Travel Strategy

2. In addition to the in depth policy review and development work undertaken by the Select Committees, monitoring of previous reviews has also taken place. The Adults and Health Select Committee has also received presentations and updates on a range of other health developments affecting the Borough.

SUGGESTED TOPICS FOR 2008/09

PICK System

3. Topics have been sought from Members and Officers on a standard pro forma in line with previous practice. Following a suggestion from Executive Scrutiny Committee, an item has also been included on the agenda of other committees and panels and ideas have also been sought from the Local Strategic Partnership recognising the role of Select Committees in scrutinising external partners. In addition, this year, further justification for proposals has been requested based on public interest, impact, performance issues and context. This PICK system approach allows a score to be given to each suggestion to help with prioritisation of topics.
4. All of the suggestions received are summarised in the schedule set out an **Appendix 1**. Each suggestion is cross referenced with supporting information. A PICK score is included to aid with the prioritisation of topics and an explanation of the Pick scoring method is attached at **Appendix 2**. Details of each of the topics identified are included in **Appendix 3**.

Select Committee Terms of Reference and Prioritisation of Reviews

5. An Executive Scrutiny Away Day was held on 27 February 2008 where it was suggested that topics for in depth reviews should, in future, be prioritised across all themes rather than seek to develop a work programme allocating reviews to each individual Select Committee. As a result, a report has now been approved by both Cabinet and Council extending the terms of reference of all Select Committees to allow them to undertake review work not strictly falling under the remit of each committee. This will enable reviews to be prioritised across the board. In addition, the “adults” element which had come within the terms of reference of the Adults and Health Select Committee has been moved to the Corporate Policy and Social Inclusion Select Committee recognising the volume of other scrutiny work under the health scrutiny responsibilities.

Comments from Scrutiny Liaison Forum (SLF)

6. The Scrutiny Liaison Forum at their meeting on 25 March 2008 identified the following 10 scrutiny topics as priorities for review by the Authority for 2008/9 based on the PICK scoring system:-

1. Older Peoples Strategy
2. Obesity
3. Registered Social Landlords
4. Audiology (**prioritised in 2007/8**)
5. Neighbourhood Policing/Neighbourhood Watch/Outward Facing Aspects of CCTV Monitoring
6. Customer First
7. Tees Active
8. Area Partnerships and Support Arrangements
9. Highway and Footpath Management
10. Taxis

7. With reference to the PICK system, members noted that it gave inadequate recognition of organisational development topics in the scoring matrix and the Executive Scrutiny Committee was asked to review this prior to next year's SLF process. It was also suggested that for the exercise in 2009/10, all members be advised of the outcome of the PICK scoring system prior to the meeting of the SLF in order that they may highlight their own top priorities prior to the Executive Scrutiny Committee meeting to determine scrutiny review priorities for the year.

8. Executive Scrutiny Committee are invited to consider the priorities for review identified by the Scrutiny Liaison Forum and allocate initial topics to each of the Select Committees as commencement of the scrutiny work programme for 2008/09. To assist members in this process, a suggestion is given below as to how the top seven priorities identified from the PICK system could be allocated to Select Committees should the Committee so approve:-

1. Older Peoples Strategy **Corporate, Social Inclusion and Adult Services Select Committee**
2. Obesity **Children & Young People Select Committee**
3. Registered Social Landlords **Regeneration & Transport Select Committee**
4. Audiology **Health Select Committee**
5. Neighbourhood Policing/Neighbourhood Watch/Outward Facing Aspects of CCTV Monitoring **Housing & Community Safety Select Committee**
6. Customer First **Environment Select Committee**
7. Tees Active **Arts, Leisure & Culture Select Committee**

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9. There will be staffing implications in order to provide the necessary support for reviews.

RISK ASSESSMENT

10. The selection of appropriate topics for review can help to support service improvement; the selection of inappropriate topics will lead to the waste of officer and Member time and resources.

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<u>Background Papers:</u>	None
<u>Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:</u>	Not Ward Specific
<u>Property Implications:</u>	None

SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2008/09

Ref No.	Suggested Topic	Public Interest	Impact	Council Performance	Keep in Context	Total
1	Older Peoples Strategy	3	3	2	3	11
2	Obesity	3	3	2	2	10
3	Registered Social Landlords	3	3	1	3	10
4	Audiology (Prioritised by SLF in 2007)	2	2	2	3	9
5, 32	Neighbourhood Policing/ Neighbourhood Watch/CCTV Monitoring	3	3	1	2	9
6	Customer First	2	3	1	3	9
7	Tees Active	3	2	1	3	9
8	Area Partnerships and Support Arrangements	2	2	1	3	8
9, 10, 11	Highway and Footpath Management	3	2	1	2	8
12	Taxis	2	2	1	3	8
13	Dial A Ride	2	2	1	3	8
14, 15	Animal Welfare/ Dog Fouling	2	2	1	2	7
16, 17	Youth Assembly/ Engagement with Young People	2	2	1	2	7
18	Carers	2	2	2	1	7
19	Drug Treatment	2	3	0	2	7
20	Tourism	2	2	1	1	6
21	Community Centres and Halls	2	2	2	0	6
22	Planning Appeals	1	2	1	2	6
23	Liaison with Parish Councils	2	2	1	1	6
24	Planning Enforcement	1	2	1	2	6
25	Adult Education	2	2	1	1	6
26	Services for Young People between Childhood and Adulthood (Prioritised by SLF in 2007)	2	2	1	1	6
27	Congestion Charging	2	1	1	1	5
28	Direct Payments	2	2	0	1	5
29	Procurement of Consultants	1	1	0	2	4
30	Rationalisation of Museum Collections	1	1	1	1	4
31	Extended School Day	2	2	0	0	4
33	Job Evaluation	1	1	1	0	3
34	Public Transport					?

PICK Priority Setting**P for Public Interest**

Members' representative roles are an essential feature of Scrutiny. They are the eyes and ears of the public, ensuring that the policies, practice and services delivered to the people of the District, by both the Council and external organisations, are meeting local needs and to an acceptable standard. The concerns of local people should therefore influence the issues chosen for scrutiny. Members themselves will have a good knowledge of local issues and concerns. Surgeries, Parish Councils, Residents Associations and Community Groups are all sources of resident's views. Consultation and Surveys undertaken by the Council and others can also provide a wealth of information.

I for Impact

Scrutiny is about making a difference to the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area. Not all issues of concern will have equal impact on the well-being of the community. This should be considered when deciding the programme of work, giving priority to the big issues that have most impact. To maximise impact, particularly when scrutinising external activity, attention should also be given to how the committee could influence policy and practice. Sharing the proposed programme of reviews with Members, officer and key partners will assist this process.

C for Council Performance

Scrutiny is about improving performance and ensuring the Council's customers are served well. Members will need good quality information to identify areas where the Council, and other external organisations, are performing poorly. There is no shortage of Performance Indicators available and areas where performance has dropped should be our priority.

K for Keep in Context

To avoid duplication or wasted effort priorities should take account of what else is happening in the areas being considered. Is there another review happening or planned? Is the service about to be inspected by an external body? Are there major legislative or policy initiatives already resulting in change? If these circumstances exist Members may decide to link up with other processes or defer a decision until the outcomes are known or conclude that the other processes will address the issues. Reference should also be made to proposed programmes of work in the Councils plans and strategies

PICK Scoring System

- **P**ublic Interest: the concerns of local people should influence the issues chosen

Score	Measure
0	no public interest
1	low public interest
2	medium public interest
3	high public interest

- **I**mpact: priority should be given to the issues which make the biggest difference to the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area

Score	Measure
0	no impact
1	low impact
2	medium impact
3	high impact

- **C**ouncil Performance: priority should be given to the areas in which the Council, and other agencies, are not performing well.

Score	Measure
0	'Green' on or above target performance
1	'Amber',
2	low performance 'Red'

- **K**eep in Context: work programmes must take account of what else is happening in the areas being considered to avoid duplication or wasted effort.

Score	Measure
0	Already dealt with/ no priority
1	Longer term aspiration or plan
2	Need for review acknowledged and worked planned elsewhere
3	Need for review acknowledged

Each topic will be scored under each category as indicated above. Where a category is not applicable, no score will be given.