

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE SCRUTINY

10th JUNE 2008

REPORT OF TEAM LEADER- SCRUTINY

NE REGION-PROPOSED SCRUTINY DATABASE & INFORMATION SHARING FOR SCRUTINY REVIEWS

SUMMARY

To update members on initial progress made regarding the proposed development of systems to share information within the North East Region regarding both completed scrutiny reviews, and proposed reviews to be undertaken during the current year.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the report be noted and progress on the development of appropriate systems for sharing the envisaged scrutiny information throughout the region, be reported back to this Committee.

DETAIL

1. Members were reminded that, at the last meeting, reference was made during discussion of the proposed Scrutiny Improvement Plan, to the proposal to strengthen co-ordination of Select Committee Work Programming throughout the North East Region; and for the findings of completed reviews to be shared for the benefit of all local authorities in the area.
2. Since the meeting, discussions have been held with the Secretariat of the North East Region Employers Organisation (NEREO) Joint Scrutiny Officer & Member Network, and they have expressed initial support for each proposal.
3. Subsequently, the issue was raised at a NEREO Joint Scrutiny Officer meeting on the 21st May; where it was agreed that the Secretariat of NEREO would contact all local authorities in the region to request details of their planned scrutiny reviews, in order that a scrutiny work programme for the whole of the region could be established and shared, and any duplicity/work sharing considered. Details of these reviews are now being exchanged (Stockton has already submitted details of its work programme), and once a composite schedule has been produced, details will be reported to this Committee.
4. Regarding the sharing of completed scrutiny reviews, the NEREO Network consider this timely as discussions are commencing now, and planned for the following months, regarding how the regional scrutiny officer and member network will operate from April next year when the number of local authorities in the region reduce from 25 to 12. In principle, they are supportive of the need to have such a regional database of scrutiny review information, which would compliment the national data held by the Centre for Public Scrutiny. It is envisaged that the information held would include both completed and proposed/current scrutiny reviews.

5. The matter will therefore be initially discussed at the next Joint Scrutiny Member Network Meeting on the 13th June 2008; at which members from Stockton BC will be invited to attend. The outcome of this will be reported back to this Committee.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial or legal implications arising from the report.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The proposal is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

The Local Area Agreement is the delivery plan of the Sustainable Community Strategy.

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Background Papers:

N/A

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors: Not Ward Specific