

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE SCRUTINY

10 JUNE 2009

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF LAW AND DEMOCRACY

EFFICIENCY, IMPROVEMENT AND TRANSFORMATION – PROJECT PLANS FOR REVIEWS REPORTING IN TO EXECUTIVE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

SUMMARY

This report presents the project plans for the four reviews which will be reporting in to Executive Scrutiny Committee

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the project plans be noted.

DETAIL

Commercial Trading Services

1. The overall aim of the review is to investigate options for the future strategy and business development and business development of Commercial Trading. This will help to ensure that these services are commercially focused and at least maintain their market share and profitability during the economic downturn and are fully prepared to take advantage of the opportunities for appropriate growth afforded by economic recovery. Services included are:

- Heating, ventilation and electrical works
- Civic catering
- Fleet management
- Vehicle maintenance
- Highway schemes and improvements
- Commercial trade waste collections

Domestic Violence

2. The review will provide an opportunity for in depth consideration of how “the system” works with the benefit of independent challenge which may generate some more effective approaches. All activities funded by Stockton Council which are specific to domestic violence are included and primarily:

- Services provided by Harbour
- Services provided by CESC (three FTE posts)
- The post of DV Co-ordinator shared with Hartlepool Council
- Activity undertaken by other Councils employees as part of their overall duties

Advice and Information

3. There is currently no clear picture of advice and information provision across the Borough. An understanding of provision (direct, commissioned and by voluntary sector), current funding arrangements and demand for services may lead to elimination of duplication, improved signposting, opportunities for the Council to signpost to external advice and information, comparison between direct and commissioned advice and information and potential for rationalisation of the sums paid to external organisations. The review will focus on advice and information services relating to:

- Children and Young People
- Housing (rented housing, homelessness, grants and adaptations)
- Economic (money advice, debt, benefits and employment)
- Health, Well Being and Social Care
- Asylum Seekers

4. Project Plans for each of the above reviews are attached at Appendix 1.

Youth Services

5. The review of youth services has been underway for some time. The scope and action plan for this work is attached at Appendix 2 together with the level 1 project progress report.

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

Enhanced service delivery through the EIT process.

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Background Papers

Scope and Project Plans

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:

Not Ward Specific

EIT REVIEW OF COMMERCIAL TRADING SERVICES PROJECT PLAN

<p>Reporting-In Review</p> <p>Committee: Executive Scrutiny</p>	<p>Chair: Cllr Robert Gibson</p> <p>Email: robert.gibson@stockton.gov.uk</p>
<p>Lead Officer</p> <p>Jamie McCann, Head of Service Stockton</p>	<p>Contact Details</p> <p>01642 527071 Email: jamie.mccann@stockton.gov.uk</p>
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<p>Finance Officer</p> <p>John Bailey, Senior Accountant</p>	<p>Contact Details</p> <p>01642 527355 Email: john.bailey@stockton.gov.uk</p>
<p>Scrutiny Officer</p> <p>Judith Trainer</p>	<p>Contact Details</p> <p>01642 528158 Email: judith.trainer@stockton.gov.uk</p>

KEY TASK/MILESTONES	DETAILS/ACTIVITIES	DATE	RESPONSIBILITY
Scoping of Review and Draft Project Plan	Research Informal Discussions	May 2009	Officer Project Team
Select Committee consider Project Plan for EIT Review	Meeting to consider project plan and agree the timescales for the Committee's involvement.	10 th June 2009	Executive Scrutiny Select Committee
Communications / Publicity of Review		Ongoing throughout EIT Review	Officer Project Team
STAGES 1 AND 2			
Obtaining evidence for Baseline/Challenge	Collection of evidence based around the standard set of key questions		Officer Project Team
Reporting-in to Select Committee	Committee consider baseline/challenge information, and conduct additional challenge	Proposed date: 25 th August 2009	Executive Scrutiny Select Committee

STAGE 3			
Identify opportunities for EIT	Consideration given to the opportunities for EIT, using the standard service options key questions	August – October 2009	Officer Project Team
STAGE 4			
Review options and agree way forward	Review options for change and choose the best way forward.	October – November 2009	Officer Project Team
Reporting-in to Select Committee	Select Committee review and comment on selected options	Proposed date: 20 th November 2009	Executive Scrutiny Select Committee
STAGE 5			
Report to Cabinet	Presentation of report	January/February 2010 (date TBC)	Officer Project Team

Project Plan

EIT Scrutiny Review: Domestic Violence

Chair / Member Sponsor Cllrs. Steve Nelson, Mrs Ann McCoy, Cunningham and Coleman	Contact Details 01642 Email:
Scrutiny Officer N/A	Contact Details 01642 Email
Lead Officer Mike Batty	Contact Details 01642 527074 Email: mike.batty@stockton.gov.uk
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Finance Officer John Bailey	Contact Details 01642 527355 Email: john.bailey@stockton.gov.uk

KEY TASK/MILESTONES	DETAILS/ACTIVITIES	DATE	RESPONSIBILITY
Scoping of Review Draft Project Plan	Research Informal Discussions	11 May 2009	Lead Officer
Tri-Partite Meeting	Formal meeting to discuss ideas for draft scope for consideration by Select Committee	In view of the absence of a Select Committee, a Scrutiny Officer and Director, and the involvement of four Cabinet Members, it is proposed to brief Cabinet Members by email prior to the EIT Board on 22 May.	Chair and Vice Chair Scrutiny Officer Lead Officer Independent Officer Cabinet Member Corporate Director
Select Committee Agree Scope and Project Plan	Executive Scrutiny Committee to consider Project Plan	No Select Committee – by EIT Board 22 May 2009.	Lead Officer
Communications / Publicity of Review		Advice required on extent to which this is necessary, since raising the profile of the services is likely to stimulate demand	Lead Officer
Stages 1 and 2: Obtaining Evidence Baseline/Challenge	Submission of evidence in response to key questions	Report to Executive Scrutiny 23 June 2009.	Lead Officer
Stage 3: Identify opportunities for EIT	Submission of evidence in response to key questions	Report to Executive Scrutiny 20 October 2009.	Lead Officer
Stage 4: Review Options/ Agree way forward	Review options for change and choose the best way forward	20 October 2009	Lead Officer

Circulate Draft Report to Contributors		21 October 2009.	Lead Officer
Tri-Partite Meeting	Discuss draft findings and recommendations	November 2009	Lead Officer Independent Officer Cabinet Members Corporate Director
Final Agreement of Report	Discussion of any issues raised at tri partite meeting and final agreement of report	December 2009	Cabinet Members Corporate Director Lead Officer Independent Officer
Consideration of Report by Executive Scrutiny Committee	Presentation of report by Lead Officer	5 January 2010	Executive Scrutiny Committee
Report to Cabinet	Presentation of report by Lead Officer	11 February 2010	Cabinet

Project Plan

EIT Review – Advice & Information

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Scrutiny Officer Judith Trainer	Contact Details 01642 528158 Email: judith.trainer@stockton.gov.uk
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Finance Officer Stephen Winship	Contact Details 01642 526366 Email: stephen.winship@stockton.gov.uk

KEY TASK/MILESTONES	DETAILS/ACTIVITIES	DATE	RESPONSIBILITY
Scoping of Review Draft Project Plan	Research Informal Discussions	EIT Board – 14th May 2009 (draft scope) EIT Board – 22nd May 2009 (final)	Scrutiny Officer/ Link Officers/ Chairs and Vice Chairs
Tri-Partite Meeting	Formal meeting to discuss ideas for draft scope for consideration by Select Committee	N/A	Chair and Vice Chair Scrutiny Officer Lead Officer Independent Officer Cabinet Member Corporate Director
Select Committee Agree Scope and Project Plan	Formal meeting to agree scope and project plan	Executive Scrutiny – 9th June 2009	Select Committee
Communications / Publicity of Review		w/c 15th June 2009	Scrutiny Officer Press and PR
Stages 1 and 2: Obtaining Evidence Baseline/Challenge	Submission of evidence in response to key questions Select Committee conduct challenge and identify further information requirements	Reporting in to Executive Scrutiny – 22nd September 2009	Select Committee
Stage 3: Identify opportunities for EIT	Submission of evidence in response to key questions Select Committee consider and challenge options for EIT	Reporting in to Executive Scrutiny – 5th January 2010	Select Committee
Stage 4: Review Options/ Agree way	Members decide findings and	Reporting in to Executive Scrutiny 5th January 2010	Select Committee

forward	recommendations		
Circulate Draft Report to Contributors		N/A	Scrutiny Officer
Tri-Partite Meeting	Discuss draft findings and recommendations	N/A	Chair and Vice Chair Scrutiny Officer Link Officer Independent Officer Cabinet Member Corporate Director
Final Agreement of Report	Discussion of any issues raised at tri partite meeting and final agreement of report	N/A	Select Committee Cabinet Member Corporate Director Link Officer Independent Officer
Consideration of Report by Executive Scrutiny Committee	Presentation of report by Chair	N/A	Executive Scrutiny Committee
Report to Cabinet	Presentation of report by Chair	11th February 2010	Cabinet

SCOPE OF YOUTH SERVICE/YOUTH PROVISION REVIEW

The purpose of the scoping document is to provide headline information to inform the development of the Efficiency and Improvement Review Programme. It is not intended to be a large and in depth piece of work. It will be used again in the Challenge module and as such it can be expanded and refined at that time.

Service / function / theme	Youth Service/Youth Provision Review/CESC
Responsible Head of Service	Peter Seller, Head of Children and Young People's Strategy
Responsible Cabinet Member	Alex Cunningham
Applicable legislation	<p>Legal duty on the local authority to provide positive activities, so far as is reasonably practical to young people aged 13 to 19 and for young people with a learning disability, up to 24.</p> <p>Local authority must also secure that the facilities for primary and secondary education include adequate facilities for recreation and social and physical training, including for those who have not reached the age of 13.</p> <p>There is also a range of guidance from central government on the development of integrated youth support services and targeted youth support.</p> <p>Government has published a 10 year strategy – aiming high for young people- a ten year strategy for positive activities.</p>
Local policy decisions	<p>The Children and Young People's Plan, 2009-2012 sets out the priorities for the Children's Trust Board and its partner agencies.</p> <p>Key priorities include;</p> <p>"increase the range of accessible culture, leisure, sporting and social activities for children and young people by developing services across statutory, voluntary and independent sectors"</p> <p>"enhance the involvement and participation of children and young people, parents and carers in community life, positive activities and in the development of services to meet identified need"</p> <p>Young People's participation in positive activities(NI110) is also part of the Local Area Agreement.</p>
Service configuration	<p>Local Authority provision; youth services are part of integrated services. They are deployed as part of the integrated services area provision through integrated youth support teams, along-side Connexions workers and as a centrally based Integrated Youth Support Service, providing specialist input across the Borough and including Youth Offending Services.</p> <p>The voluntary and community sectors provide a wide range of services and provision to young people across the whole borough. Services are provided through a mix of funding streams.</p> <p>There is also a range of national organisations providing such as scouts, guides etc.</p> <p>All organisations and services also support a wide range of volunteering, both of young people and</p>

	adults working with young people.
Community focus & demographic change	Services and provision is open and available on a universal basis across the whole borough. Some services are targeted on specific group based on national guidance and local need.
Recent scrutiny and other review activity	Scrutiny review took place on youth services in 2006. As part of the Joint Area Review, there was an inspection of youth services in December, 2007. There is ongoing self assessment re Targeted Youth Support Services, most recent completed in January, 2009.
Possible review outcomes	Possible outcomes will include; -rationalisation of buildings and other assets -proposals for commissioning of services, rationalisation of providers -proposals on local authority staff terms and conditions -identification of gaps in service and recommendations for addressing these -proposals on levels of service to be provided.
Cost profile	Local authority budgets for youth services are now part of the integrated service provision. It is difficult therefore to completely identify them as separate costs. The youth service budget, prior to integration was £1.7 million and the Connexions budget was £1.9 million. There is also funding into a pooled arrangement for PAYP of £177,000. There is a range of commissioned services providing a wide range of activities through the voluntary and community sectors. Funding is also secured by the voluntary and community sectors from other sources such as national grants. Some elements of universal provision are funded nationally and by individual contributions and fees.
Assets	A wide range of buildings are used to provide youth services and youth provision across the borough, with a mix of ownership(local authority, community, private). Some buildings are used for direct provision, others are used as a staff base and some have a mixed use. There is a range of transport and equipment available.
Performance	External inspection by Ofsted (last in 2007, linked to JAR) – overall outcome ‘good’. Now part of future Ofsted annual assessment arrangements for Children’s Services, as part of CAA. National benchmarking, via REYS (Resourcing Excellent Youth Services) standards, and via annual NYA (National youth Agency) audit (based on data returns from LAs). LAA measure for ‘Young people’s participation in positive activities’ (NI 110) – new measure, so no trend data. Current position (from 2008 TellUs survey) places Stockton (65%) behind national average (70%). Other national measures (NYA annual audit) cover:

	<p>rates of contact with, and participation by, young people with services; recorded and accredited outcomes for young people as a result of youth work.</p> <p>Trends over last 3 years (up to 07-08):</p> <p>Contacts: moved from below to above national benchmark; improved to 70th of 119 LAs returning data.</p> <p>Participation: has remained above national benchmark, but has reduced a little; now 84th of 119.</p> <p>Recorded outcomes: good improvement to above national benchmark; 54th of 120.</p> <p>Accredited outcomes: slower improvement, still below national benchmark; 102nd of 121.</p>
Any other information	<p>Review is already in progress following decision at Cabinet, 6th November, 2008.</p> <p>Consideration will need to be given to issues around sustainability, both within local authority provision and within the voluntary and community sectors</p> <p>There are issues around the balance in provision around young people's views on what should be there and what is possible to deliver</p> <p>Given the nature of the review, there is a high level of political interest</p>

YOUTH SERVICE/YOUTH PROVISION REVIEW- 2008/9

ACTION PLAN

OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS	OUTCOMES	DATE	BY WHOM
Awareness Raising	PID agreed at CTMT. PID shared with CTB. Information out to elected members/partners/area partnerships/Unions Information to young people	PID agreed by CTMT and shared with CTB	Dec	PS
		Briefing for providers etc completed and delivered, and to elected members	Jan	MM
		Briefing for young people completed and delivered	Jan	GC
Information Gathering	Resources; Services/staffing/buildings/financial Local authority/VCS/Private/Independent Performance information National legislation/guidance Young People's existing views	All resources including staffing, financial and buildings identified.	Feb	AH/GC
		All existing performance information collated	Feb	PS/SW
		All relevant legislation and guidance identified	Jan	MM/TF
		All views from previous consultations etc collated	Jan	CW/AW
Involvement Events (1)	Planning of event Delivery of event Feedback etc.	Event delivered and all relevant parties involved. Feedback collated, including identification of good practice	Feb	DW/AH/PSu
Sharing of Initial Findings	Confirmation of information Identification of gaps	Steering Group analysis	Feb/Mar	All
Analysis and Assumptions	Drafting of initial analysis and assumptions, including	Report produced	Mar	PS/MM

YOUTH SERVICE/YOUTH PROVISION REVIEW- 2008/9

ACTION PLAN

	future trends etc			
Involvement Events- Providers	Planning of event Delivery of event Feedback etc	Event delivered and feedback completed.	Apr	MM/GC
Involvement Events- young people	Planning of event Delivery of event Feedback etc	Event delivered and feedback completed	Apr	AW/PSu
Draft Recommendations/Report	Drafting of report Consultation on draft	Report drafted, shared with CTMT. Draft consulted on widely.	May	PS/CW
Final Report	Preparation of report	Report completed. Agreed by CTMT and shared with CTB	Jun	PS
Report to Cabinet	Presentation to Cabinet. Outcomes- action planning.	Report agreed by Cabinet. Action Plan developed	July	PS-Steering Group.

	Current Status	Last Month Status
YOUTH SERVICES-YOUTH PROVISION REVIEW		
<p align="center">Completed by: Peter Seller, Head of Children and Young People's Strategy</p>		
<p align="center">Month Ending: February and March, 2009.</p>		
<p>Headlines:</p> <p>Stakeholder meeting held in February.</p> <p>Survey carried out.</p> <p>Confirmation of MyPlace bid</p>		
<p align="center">Achieved this month:</p> <p>Survey; document was developed and circulated to providers. 51 responses received.</p> <p>Stakeholder event; 27 organisations represented. Range of good practice identified. Overall positive outcomes and links developed into the review. Report completed and being shared with providers</p> <p>Work ongoing around information collation, finance, use of buildings, legal framework</p> <p>Event for young people being progressed(April)</p>		

Planned next 2 months

Event for young people

Planning for second stakeholder event

Consideration of options

Problems or Concerns

Timescales are now very tight, involvement event with young people is going to be put back. Overall slipping by a month plus.

Remedial Action

Need to review final reporting dates.