

Executive Scrutiny Committee

A meeting of Executive Scrutiny Committee was held on Tuesday, 28th July, 2009.

Present: Cllr Robert Gibson (Chairman), Cllr Mrs Ann Cains, Cllr Dick Cains, Cllr Julia Cherrett (vice Cllr Mrs Trainer), Cllr Ken Dixon, Cllr Mick Eddy (vice Cllr Harrington), Cllr Tina Large, Cllr Maurice Perry, Cllr Mick Stoker. Mr J Robson (Parent Governor Representative).

Officers: Marilyn Davies, Paul Diggins(DNS); Lesley King (PP); Fiona Shayler, Judith Trainer, Margaret Waggott (LD); Garry Cummings (R).

Also in attendance: Mr Robson (Judith Robson - Support).

Apologies: were submitted on behalf of Cllrs Harrington, Leckonby, Mrs Nesbitt, Mrs O'Donnell, Mrs Rigg, Sherris, Smith, Mrs Trainer, Womphrey, Woodhead, Mr Frank, Mr Connaughton.

1 **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Mrs Cherrett declared a personal/non prejudicial interest in relation to Agenda No. 4 - 2008/09 Year End - Performance and Finance and Report and Agenda No. 5 Domestic Violence further to being a Tristar Homes Ltd. Board Member.

Cllr Gibson declared a personal/non prejudicial interest in relation to Agenda No. 4 - 2008/09 Year End - Performance and Finance and Report and Agenda No. 5 Domestic Violence further to being a Tristar Homes Ltd. Board Member.

2 **Minutes of the previous meeting - 10th June 2009**

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th June 2009 were agreed as a correct record.

3 **2008/09 Year End - Performance and Finance Report**

Members were provided with the Council's service and financial performance for the full year from April 2008 to 31st March 2009 highlighting achievements, areas for improvement, consultation activity undertaken, complaints, commendations and comments and outturn against revenue and capital budgets.

Members discussed the increase in local bus and light rail journeys, it was stated that the increase was against the local plan target.

The current unemployment rate was highlighted and Members expressed concern that this could worsen due to the current economic climate.

Discussion was held on the rate of alcohol related harm, and it was anticipated that the recent changes to the DAT becoming a DAAT recommended by the Committee would help address the problem. Councillor Mrs Cains stated this would continue to be monitored through the Health Select Committee.

Members held discussion on the lower demand for telecare and requested further information on this. It was stated that this information would be sought and emailed to Members.

Members requested further information regarding the nature of complaints regarding Tees Valley Music Service. This would be emailed to Members once an update had been received.

RESOLVED that the 2008/09 Year End Performance and Finance report be noted and that the further information requested be sent to Members.

4 **Domestic Violence**

Members were provided with base line information on the Domestic Violence Review which was an Officer led 'reporting in' review.

Members held discussion on the loss of NRF during 2009/10. The funding for the IDVA post would also be withdrawn following this year. The IDVA post was a dedicated advocate post that assisted both men and women through the court process who had been victims of domestic violence. The post had assisted in increasing the number of convictions as there were often many withdrawals of victims through the court process without the assistance of this post.

Members discussed the various services available to people who were victims of domestic violence.

RESOLVED that the baseline information for the Officer 'reporting in' review of Domestic Violence be noted.

5 Councillor Calls for Action

Members were provided with a report that sought approval for the process for dealing with calls for action within the Council's scrutiny arrangements.

Members were provided with a draft guidance and a pro forma to instigate a call for action together with a criteria to guide the Executive Scrutiny Committee in approving or rejecting a call for action.

RESOLVED that the process for dealing with calls for action within the Council's scrutiny arrangements be approved.

6 Forward Plan

Members were provided with the statutory forward plan for 1st July 2009 - 31st October 2009.

RESOLVED that the forward plan be noted.

7 Chair Update

Corporate, Adult Services and Social Inclusion Select Committee

Currently undertaking EIT review of Communication, Consultation and Engagement. The Committee have currently received baseline information.

Children and Young People Select Committee

Undertaking EIT review of Child Placements and Residential Care. Two meetings had been held to gather baseline information.

The Committee will be holding an all Member seminar on 22nd September to receive an update from Peter Seller on the EIT 'reporting in' review of Youth Service Provision.

Arts, Leisure and Culture Select Committee

The Committee were undertaking EIT gateway reviews of:- Adult Operations; Highways, Lighting and Network; Property Facilities Management.

Environment Select Committee

The Committee were undertaking a review of Carbon Management and had received baseline information.

Health Select Committee

The Committee were undertaking an EIT review of Fair Access to Care Services (FACS). The Committee had received baseline information. The Committee were also being consulted on the North East Ambulance Service.

Housing and Community Safety Select Committee

The Committee were undertaking an EIT review of Regulatory Services. Baseline information for the review was currently being received. The Committee had also received an action plan from its review of Neighbourhood Policing, Neighbourhood Watch and CCTV.

Regeneration and Transport Select Committee

The Committee were undertaking an EIT review of Commissioning and Provision of Public and Community Transport.

It was requested that all Members of the Committee be informed of the dates for the sub group meetings.

The Committee had also received action plans for both the Highways Network Management and Pavement Parking scrutiny reviews.

RESOLVED that the updates be noted.