

Executive Scrutiny Committee

A meeting of Executive Scrutiny Committee was held on Tuesday, 17th November, 2009.

Present: Cllr Robert Gibson (Chairman), Cllr Mrs Ann Cains, Cllr Dick Cains, Cllr Ken Dixon, , Cllr David Harrington, Cllr Miss Tina Large, Cllr Colin Leckonby, Cllr Mrs Jean O'Donnell, Cllr Maurice Perry, Cllr Mrs Maureen Rigg, Cllr Mick Stoker, Cllr Bill Woodhead.

Officers: Graham Birtle, Fiona Shayler, Judith Trainer, Margaret Waggott (LD). Paul Diggins, Jamie McCann (DNS); Tony Beckwith (CESC).

Also in attendance:

Apologies: were submitted on behalf of Cllr Cherrett, Cllr Smith, Cllr Trainer, Paul Connaughton, Mr Frank, Judith Robson.

1 **Declarations of Interest**

None

2 **Minutes of the meeting held on 20th October 2009**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th October were agreed as a correct record.

3 **Efficiency Improvement and Transformation (EIT) - Commercial Trading Services**

Members were provided with a report providing an update on progress being made on the EIT Review of Commercial Trading Services, and the emerging findings from this review.

The Executive Scrutiny Select Committee noted the detailed baseline and initial challenge information at its meeting on 22nd September 2009.

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

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

An update on the progress being made on the EIT Review of Commercial Trading Services, to the end of October 2009 was provided.

Detailed analysis had been undertaken on a number of different strands of work. A number of options had been developed, which were currently being appraised for their financial benefits to the Council, as well as the impact on the service provided.

Amongst the options being considered were:

- Reduction in commercial waste collections from two rounds to one (estimated savings £40k per annum);
- Use of re-useable waste sacks rather than disposable (estimated savings £50k per annum)
- Dedicated procurement/contracts officer to generate savings through improved buying of materials and negotiation of contracts.

RESOLVED that the update on progress being made on the EIT Review of Commercial Trading Services, and the emerging findings from this review be noted.

4 EIT Review of Communication, Consultation and Engagement

Members were provided with the final report for the Efficiency Improvement and Transformation (EIT) - Commercial Trading Services. Councillor Stoker presented the final report and held discussion with Members on the recommendations.

RESOLVED that the final report be noted and forwarded to Cabinet for endorsement.

5 EIT Review of Commissioning and Provision of Public and Community Transport

Members were provided with the final report following the Efficiency Improvement and Transformation review of Communication, Consultation and Engagement. Councillor Perry highlighted the report and answered Members queries.

RESOLVED that the final report be noted and forwarded to Cabinet for endorsement.

6 Environment Select Committee - Final Report of Carbon Management

Members were provided with the final report of Carbon Management. Councillor Mrs Rigg highlighted the report and detailed each recommendation.

RESOLVED that the final report be noted and forwarded to Cabinet for endorsement.

7 Environment Committee - Second Review Topic

This item would be deferred until the next meeting.

8 Scrutiny of Partnerships and the LAA

The report provided a summary of new legislation which strengthens scrutiny powers to enable Councils to hold LSPs and their partners to account for local action and public spending. The report suggested that it was timely to review the Council's scrutiny arrangements to ensure that our scrutiny structures were fit for purpose and our scrutiny activity focused on providing effective and robust partnership scrutiny which fully exploited the new scrutiny powers.

The Executive Scrutiny Committee were asked to consider how the Council's scrutiny function could respond to the new legislative developments prior to consultation with the Local Public Service Board on how best to involve partners in discussions on developing working arrangements.

In taking this issue forward, it was proposed to seek initial views on this issue from the Local Public Service Board (where there was representation from key partners) and seek suggestions on how best to develop working arrangements.

The level and approach of future involvement of Select Committees in the Council's EIT Programme would need to be reviewed alongside the development of partnership scrutiny to ensure that the scrutiny work programme was achievable and could be adequately resourced.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and further investigations take place.

9 Forward Plan

Members were provided with the forward plan for 1st November 2009 to 28th February 2010.

RESOLVED that the forward plan be noted.

10 Report on Chairs Updates

Members were provided with an update from each of the Select Committees.

RESOLVED that the Chairs updates be noted.