

AGENDA ITEM

**REPORT TO EXECUTIVE
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

30 MARCH 2010

**REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF
LAW AND DEMOCRACY**

APPOINTMENT OF TASK AND FINISH GROUPS

SUMMARY

The report seeks the appointment of task and finish groups to conduct two scrutiny reviews.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Task and Finish Groups are appointed as follows in line with the timescales set out at paragraph 3:

Outside Bodies:

Councillor Dick Cains
Councillor Susanne Fletcher
Councillor Bob Gibson
Councillor Tina Large

Cycling on Pavements:

Councillor Aidan Cockerill
Councillor Colin Leckonby
Councillor Mick Womphrey
Councillor Bill Woodhead

BACKGROUND

1. At the last Executive Scrutiny Committee, Members approved the Select Committee Work Programme for 2010/11. In addition to the programme of Select Committee work, the Committee agreed that two Member task and finish groups be appointed to conduct work in relation to outside bodies and cycling on pavements. A copy of the pro forma considered by the Committee at its last meeting is attached and sets out the issues which will be subject to scrutiny.
2. Following the meeting of Executive Scrutiny Committee, all non-executive Councillors were asked to indicate if they were interested in being involved with either of these groups. Expressions of interest have been received from the Councillors listed above.
3. It is proposed that the review of outside bodies should commence immediately. However, during 2010 (August to October) the Council will be carrying out the 3 yearly consultation programme for Community Safety priorities for the next 3 years (2011-14),

and will be putting Cycling on Pavements as an item on the consultation 'menu'. It is therefore proposed that the Cycling on Pavements scrutiny should be carried out early 2011 to allow the feedback from the consultation to be considered as part of the evidence for the review.

4. Following appointment of the task and finish groups, the scrutiny reviews will be subject to the usual scoping and project planning arrangements. A Chair for each task and finish group will also need to be appointed at the first meeting of each group.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5. Staffing and other resource implications will be met from within existing budgets.

RISK ASSESSMENT

6. The proposed changes are classes as low risk. Any response to matters involving significant variations will still require approval of full Council.

COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

7. Service Delivery (Enhance Local Democracy).

Director of Law and Democracy

Name of Contact Officer: Margaret Waggott

Telephone No: 01642 527064

Email Address: margaret.waggott@stockton.gov.uk

Background Papers:

None

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:

Not Ward Specific

Property Implications:

None

SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2010/11
SUGGESTED REVIEW – PRO FORMA

Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?

Cycling on Pavements

A member of the public has requested that Scrutiny addresses the problem of people (and not only children) riding bicycles through Thornaby Town Centre which is a pedestrian-only area

Nuisance and safety concerns have arisen in other Forums by members of the public and Councillors, in particular in the Town Centres across the Borough. Concerns were raised at the Housing & Community Safety Select Committee's Overview meeting regarding the issue and it had previously been suggested as a review topic for the 2009/10 work programme by Cllr Steve Nelson, but was not determined as a priority at that time.

NOTE: ENTRIES BELOW RELATE TO ISSUE CATEGORIES OF THE PICK PROCESS.
PLEASE REFER TO THE EXPLANATION NOTES TO THIS FORM FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

Public interest justification:

The issue was suggested as a review topic by a member of the public.

A petition was handed in at a Police Consultation Event in September 2008.

Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:

The problem has an adverse impact on the safety of residents and the environmental well being of the area.

Council performance and efficiency in this area (including organisation development) if known:

N/A

Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):

During 2010 (August to October) the Authority will be carrying out the 3 yearly consultation programme for Community Safety priorities for the next 3 years (2011-14), and will be putting Cycling on Pavements as an item on the consultation 'menu'.

If members are minded to conduct a scrutiny review on this issue, this could be scheduled for early 2011.

Signed: Member of the Public

Date: 18 July 2009

SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2010/11
SUGGESTED REVIEW – PRO FORMA

Summary of issue you wish to be scrutinised, including key concerns and outcome for scrutinising the topic?

Outside Bodies

Members are elected each year at Annual Council to attend various outside bodies, however there does not appear to be a clear understanding of how Member's report back from these bodies to other Council Members and Officers.

Is it necessary for the Authority to appoint members to each of these outside bodies and whether there are other bodies we do not currently appoint to that the Authority should be represented on?

Is the membership of outside bodies publicised widely enough?

Finally, is there a cost to the Authority for membership of outside bodies and, if so, does this provide value for money?

The key outcomes of the review would be:

- Members have a better understanding/clearer guidance on how to report back to Council
- Members are appointed to the most appropriate outside bodies
- The outside bodies Members are appointed to are contributing to the Authorities priorities and are providing value for money

NOTE: ENTRIES BELOW RELATE TO ISSUE CATEGORIES OF THE PICK PROCESS.
PLEASE REFER TO THE EXPLANATION NOTES TO THIS FORM FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

Public interest justification:

Members appointments to and reporting back from bodies would become more efficient and effective, thereby improving the quality of outcomes for both the Authority and SBC residents

Impact on the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area:

Members appointments to and reporting back from bodies would become more efficient and effective, thereby improving the quality of outcomes for both the Authority and SBC residents

Council performance and efficiency in this area (including organisation development) if known:

Members appointments to and reporting back from bodies would become more efficient and effective, thereby improving the quality of outcomes for both the Authority and SBC residents

Keep in Context (are other reviews taking place in this area?):

Members Advisory Panel received a report in June 2006 outlining the process to assess and minimise the risk of members being appointed to Outside Bodies

In June 2008 a Task and Finish Group of the Corporate, Adult Services and Social Inclusion Select Committee recommended in their Review of Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS)

that Members receive appropriate support to fulfil their roles on VCS bodies, including a review of guidance currently issued, and to consider how information regarding the activities of VCS organisations appointed to by this Council may be best brought to the attention of Members. Consequently all Councillors appointed to outside body organisations for 9/10 were advised of contact details of each organisation they have been appointed; and informed whether their role is as an executive of or adviser to, the organisation concerned. Members were also signposted to the existing guidance available to support them on outside bodies; and in particular to the Checklist to be considered by Councillors before commencing their role with the organisation and FAQ's regarding this role.

Signed: Cllr Dick Cains

Date: 29 January 2010