

Executive Scrutiny Committee

A meeting of Executive Scrutiny Committee was held on Tuesday, 30th March, 2010.

Present: Cllr Robert Gibson (Chairman), Cllr Mrs Ann Cains, Cllr Dick Cains, Cllr Miss Tina Large, Cllr Colin Leckonby, Cllr Mrs Liz Nesbitt, Cllr Mrs Jean O'Donnell, Cllr Maurice Perry, Cllr Mrs Maureen Rigg, Cllr Andrew Sherris, Cllr Bill Woodhead. Mr Paul Connaughton (Parent Governor Representative).

Officers: Paul Diggins (DNS); Fiona Shayler, Judith Trainer, Margaret Waggott (LD); Garry Cummings, Simon Willson (R).

Also in attendance:

Apologies: were submitted on behalf of Cllr Ken Dixon, Cllr David Harrington, Cllr Michael Smith, Cllr Mick Stoker, Cllr Mrs Alison Trainer, Cllr Mick Womphrey.

1 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Maureen Rigg declared a personal/non prejudicial interest in relation to Agenda Item No. 4 - Quarter 3 Performance and Finance Report further to a relative being in a care home.

Cllr Colin Leckonby declared a personal/non prejudicial interest in relation to Agenda Item No. 5 - Appointment of Task and Finish Groups further to being a member of the Stockton Cycling Club.

2 Draft Minutes - 2nd March, 2010

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd March 2010 be approved as a correct record.

3 Q3 Performance & Finance Report

Members were provided with a report that outlined the Council's service and financial performance for the 3rd Quarter to 31 December 2009 and updates to the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) from 2010/11 incorporating recent budget decisions. The report highlighted achievements against objectives in the Council Plan, the Local Area Agreement, the National Indicator Set, consultation activity undertaken, summary of Freedom of Information requests, complaints, commendations and comments received.

Members discussed other means of dealing with waste whilst the Energy from Waste plant was running at reduced capacity following the fire at the Haverton Hill plant during the summer. It was stated that, although the amount of waste incinerated is projected to be less than the targeted levels, Stockton's current performance still placed it as one of the best performing authorities in the country in terms of diverting waste from landfill sites.

Members held discussion on the numbers of older adults admitted to residential and nursing care and whether there was a distinction within the figures between those who chose residential care as self-funders and those who were placed following social care assessment. It was confirmed that the performance indicator data related to those who were social care clients; there was not the same level of information available on those that self funded.

Discussion was held on the NEETs target (Not in Education, Training or Employment) and it was noted that, as part of the LAA refresh, agreement had been reached to amend the target to a more realistic level, in line with the previous year's performance, due to the current economic climate.

RESOLVED that:-

1. That the overall levels of performance be noted.
2. The updated MTFP, level of working balances and revised Capital Programme be noted.

4 Appointment of Task and Finish Groups

Members were provided with a report that sought the appointment of task and finish groups to conduct two scrutiny reviews.

That Task and Finish Groups be appointed as follows:-

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

It was proposed that the review of outside bodies should commence immediately. However, during 2010 (August to October) the Council would be carrying out the 3 yearly consultation programme for Community Safety priorities for the next 3 years (2011-14), and would be putting Cycling on Pavements as an item on the consultation 'menu'. It was 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. Members requested that Members of the Task and Finish Group for Cycling on Pavements be able to comment on the consultation process prior to its commencement. It was stated that the Team Leader (Scrutiny) would raise this matter with Mike Batty.

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

RESOLVED that the Task and Finish Groups were appointed as follows in line with the timescales set out within the report.

5 Forward Plan

Members were provided with the Statutory Forward Plan for 1st March 2010 to 30th June 2010.

RESOLVED that the Forward Plan be noted.

6 Report on Chairs Updates

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

RESOLVED that the update be noted.