

Executive Scrutiny Committee

A meeting of Executive Scrutiny Committee was held on Tuesday, 27th July, 2010.

Present: Cllr Miss Tina Large (In the Chair); Cllr Mrs Ann Cains, Cllr Dick Cains, Cllr Julia Cherrett, Cllr Mick Eddy, Mr Frank, Cllr Colin Leckonby, Cllr Mrs Jean O'Donnell, Cllr Maurice Perry, Cllr Mrs Maureen Rigg, Cllr Andrew Sherris and Cllr Mick Stoker.

Officers: P Diggins (DNS); M Waggott, J Trainer, A Duffy, P K Bell (LD); L King, I Miles, T Montague (R); R Papworth (CESC).

Also in attendance: None.

Apologies: Cllr Ken Dixon, Cllr Robert Gibson, Cllr David Harrington, Cllr Liz Nesbitt, Cllr Michael Smith, Cllr Allison Trainer, Cllr Mick Womphrey and Cllr Bill Woodhead.

EXC 9/10 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Cherrett and Cllr Miss Large declared personal non prejudicial interests in respect of agenda item 4 - Q4 Improvement Report - Finance / Performance as there Members of Tristar Homes Ltd Board.

EXC 10/10 **Minutes of Meeting - 1st June 2010**

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st June 2010 were agreed as a correct record subject to the inclusion of Councillor Sherris in the list of apologies.

EXC 11/10 **Q4 Improvement report - Finance/Performance**

Consideration was given to a report that outlined the Council's Quarter 4 Medium Term Financial Plan update and provided detail of service performance for the fourth quarter of 2009/10 and the year end outturn for all measures monitored in 2009/10. It 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 and provided an update on progress with Efficiency Improvement and Transformation (EIT) Reviews. A series of appendices had been prepared to support the report and provided members with a full picture of performance. The list of appendices that were attached to the report were as follows:-

National Indicator Set - (LAA indicators were identified)
Council Plan update
Freedom of Information Summary and Comments
RIPA
EIT Review Update
Billingham Forum - Update

The financial position for 2009/10 was structured around three "ring-fenced" financial areas:-

- General Fund
- Housing Revenue Account
- Capital

With regard to the General Fund a table within the report detailed the MTFP position of each service. Previous reports had identified the difficult financial position facing the Council and officers were considering carefully expenditure in all areas.

The report also set out the impact of recent reductions in grants to local government and proposed actions to address the position within the current financial year.

With regard the Performance Update Members were provided with progress against the Council's performance against Council Plan objectives, the Local Area Agreement, the National Indicator set, details of resident feedback on consultation activity undertaken and a summary of Freedom of Information requests received. A series of appendices had been prepared to support the report and provided Members with a full picture of performance.

Members were then given the opportunity to ask questions and make comments on the information that had been presented to them.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The updated Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and Capital Programme be approved.
2. In order to address the reductions in funding allocations within 2010/11:-
 - The 2010/11 Area Based Grants be reduced by £1.3m as outlined in paragraph 12.
 - The savings generated through the Value for Money programme in advance of that required in the MTFP of £0.5m be utilised.
 - Corporate working balances of £0.7m be utilised.
4. The remaining level of working balances be retained at £9.2m.
5. The funding associated with Billingham Forum be re-profiled over 30 years to reflect the anticipated life of the scheme and to reflect additional costs incurred.
6. Consideration of risks associated with schemes where funding is under review and decisions surrounding Council activity in developing these schemes, be delegated to the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council.
7. Levels of performance and subsequent actions be noted.

**EXC
12/10**

EIT Review of Devolved ICT

Members were presented with the Scope and Project Plan for the EIT Review of Devolved ICT.

The services that were included in the review were:-

Stockton schools ICT provision (within CESC)

Stockton Graphical Information Service (GIS) ICT provision (within DNS)

The review, with permission of Darlington Borough Council, also incorporated Darlington schools ICT provision, so that a partnered service could be considered as a possible outcome of the review.

RESOLVED that the Scope and Project Plan be approved.

**EXC
13/10** **Forward Plan**

Members considered the Statutory Forward Plan for the period 1st August 2010 to 30th November 2010.

RESOLVED that the plan be noted.

**EXC
14/10** **Report on Chairs Updates**

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

Members noted the positive work being undertaken by all the Committees.

RESOLVED that the updates be noted.