

Executive Scrutiny Committee

A meeting of Executive Scrutiny Committee was held on Tuesday, 8th February, 2011.

Present: Cllr Miss Tina Large (Chairman), Cllr Mrs Ann Cains, Cllr Dick Cains, Cllr Ken Dixon, Cllr Maurice Perry, Cllr Mrs Maureen Rigg, Cllr Andrew Sherris, Cllr Mick Stoker, Cllr Bill Woodhead.

Officers: Fiona McKie, Judith Trainer (LD).

Also in attendance:

Apologies: were submitted on behalf of Cllr Julia Cherrett, Cllr Robert Gibson, Cllr David Harrington, Cllr Jean O'Donnell, Cllr Liz Nesbitt. Mr Paul Connaughton (Parent Governor Rep).

1 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Mrs Cains declared a personal/non prejudicial interest in relation to Agenda Item No. 4 EIT Review of School Catering further to being a School Governor.

Cllr Cains declared a personal/non prejudicial interest in relation to Agenda Item No. 4 EIT Review of School Catering further to being a School Governor.

2 Draft Minutes - 16th November 2010, 30th November 2010, 4th January 2011

The minutes of the meetings held on 16th November 2010, 30th November 2010 and 4th January 2011 were agreed as a correct record.

3 EIT Review of School Catering Final Report

Members were provided with the final report for the EIT Review of School Catering.

The Chairman was in attendance and highlighted the report.

Members expressed the importance of ensuring that children that were eligible for free school meals were unable to be identified by other pupils.

Members queried whether the price of an adult school meal could be increased as it was currently the same price as a child's meal. It was stated that Officers would still be continuing to find alternative methods to make savings.

Members requested that Schools be encouraged to consider using the School Catering Service instead of private providers.

RESOLVED that the final report be forward to Cabinet.

4 NHS Stockton on Tees/Health Select Committee Working Agreement

As part of the continuing need to have extensive public, patient and stakeholder engagement in the delivery and design of local health services, the Health Select Committee had established a productive working relationship with Stockton's Primary Care Trust (NHS Stockton-on-Tees) over the previous years.

In an attempt to formalise this relationship, it was proposed to adopt a Working Agreement that sets out the principles of co-operation, and the methods of communication to be used. Similar protocols were being developed for the other three local authorities covered by NHS Tees as a whole (Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland).

Health Select Committee considered and endorsed the protocol at their meeting on 10 January 2011.

RESOLVED that the protocol be endorsed and recommended to Council for approval.

5 Quarterly Progress Updates on Previously Agreed Recommendations

Members were asked to consider the assessments of progress contained within the Progress Updates on the implementation of previously agreed recommendations from the EIT Reporting In Reviews of Advice and Information, Commercial Trading, and Domestic Violence.

Members held discussion on the progress of the Advice and Information EIT review. Members had attended the soft launch of the directory of advice and information providers at the 'Are you being Served Event' and felt that the E-Directory had not been well received by the elderly and questioned whether people had been consulted on how they would use such a directory. The Scrutiny Team Leader would report back to Members.

RESOLVED that the quarterly progress updates on previously agreed recommendations be noted.

6 Select Committee Work Programme

Over the past two years the Scrutiny work programme had focused on providing support to the Council's Efficiency, Improvement and Transformation (EIT) programme with Member involvement in all reviews.

All reviews for Years 1 and 2 would be completed by the end of the 2010/11 municipal year with the exception of the following topics:

- Children and Young Peoples Assessment/ Field Work
- Mental Health and Learning Disability

At the previous Executive Scrutiny Committee the review of Mental Health and Learning Disability was allocated to Health Select Committee to agree a scope for review and undertake some preliminary work ahead of the May elections with work continuing into the 2011/12 municipal year. In addition, on 19 October, Executive Scrutiny Committee took a decision to expedite some Year 3 EIT reviews into the current year.

The Year 3 reviews had already been prioritised for scrutiny by the Scrutiny Liaison Forum and the number of reviews to be undertaken as part of Year 3, it was proposed that Executive Scrutiny Committee agree the work programme without the need for a further meeting of the Scrutiny Liaison Forum. Whilst recognising the priority of the EIT programme, Executive Scrutiny Committee still retained the flexibility to review it in the light of any emerging issues within year.

In addition to the Year 3 reviews, Children and Young People Select Committee had been made aware that the current Officer Led Task and Finish Review of Connexions (reporting to Cabinet in February 2011) would form part of a bigger piece of work on Early Intervention Grants. It was proposed that this work continued to be led by Officer Task and Finish Group reporting at key stages to the Children and Young People Select Committee.

RESOLVED that the Work Programme be approved.

7 Forward Plan

Members were provided with a copy of the Statutory Forward Plan for 1 February 2011 - 31 May 2011.

RESOLVED that the Forward Plan be noted.

8 Report on Chairs Updates

Members were provided with an update from each of the Select Committee's:-

Corporate, Adult Services and Social Inclusion - EIT Review of School Catering had been completed and would be presented to Cabinet on 17th February, 2011.

Arts, Leisure and Culture - The officer-led review of Finance, Audit, and Risk Management had

been completed and presented to Cabinet. Members would be receiving an action plan for their review of Sport, Leisure and Recreation.

Housing and Community Safety - The final report for the EIT Gateway Review of Administration, Business Support/Customer Services and Performance Management had been agreed at their meeting on 13th January 2011.

Environment - Review of Built and Natural Environment had been agreed by Cabinet and Members had received the action plan.

Regeneration and Transport - Members would be finalising their EIT Review of Events, Arts and Tourism in February. The Committee had received the scope for the EIT Task and Finish Review of Highway Management.

Children and Young People - The EIT Review of Youth Services had been completed and agreed by Cabinet. Members had received the final report for the Officer led EIT Task and Finish Review of Connexions, which would be presented to Cabinet in February.

Health - EIT Review of Fair Access to Care Services had been completed and Members had received the action plan. The Task and Finish EIT review of Adult Service Structure baseline report had been received by Members and options would be presented at the meeting on 8th March. The Regional Review of the Health Needs of the Ex-Service Community had been completed and was currently being considered by the Cabinet at all 12 local authorities in the North East. The Chairman reported that the results of the Judicial Review for the fluoridation of water would be announced soon.

RESOLVED that Chairs updates be noted.