

Executive Scrutiny Committee

A meeting of Executive Scrutiny Committee was held on Tuesday, 5th July, 2011.

Present: Cllr Ken Lupton (Chairman), Cllr Mrs Lynne Apedaile, Cllr Julia Cherrett, Cllr Nigel Cooke, Cllr Robert Gibson, Cllr Mohammed Javed, Cllr Eileen Johnson, Cllr Jean Kirby, Cllr Paul Kirton, Cllr Miss Tina Large, Cllr Mrs Jean O'Donnell, Cllr Maurice Perry.

Officers: Nigel Hart, Judith Trainer, Margaret Waggott (LD); Sue Reay (Xentrall).

Also in attendance: Mrs Judith Robson (Parent Governor Rep).

Apologies: were submitted on behalf of Cllr Barbara Inman, Cllr Terry Laing, Cllr Mick Stoker, Cllr Mrs Mary Womphrey.

1 Evacuation Procedure

2 Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Cooke and Javed each declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in respect of the item entitled 'Chairs Updates' due to their employment with North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust.

Cllrs Lupton and Mrs O'Donnell also declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in respect of the item entitled 'Quarterly Progress Updates on Previously Agreed Recommendations' in respect of the review of Tees Active as a result of their membership as Council representatives on this organisation.

3 Draft Minutes of the Meeting - 5th April 2011

The draft minutes held on 5th April 2011 were agreed as a correct record.

4 Quarterly Progress Updates on Previously Agreed Recommendations

Consideration was given to quarterly assessment of progress made on the implementation of the recommendations from the following reviews:-

- EIT Reporting in Review of Advice and Information;
- EIT Reporting in Review of Commercial Trading;
- EIT Reporting in Review of Domestic Violence;
- EIT Reporting in Review of Devolved ICT;
- EIT Reporting in Review of Procurement and Commissioning;
- EIT Task and Finish Review of Xentrall;
- EIT Task and Finish Review of Democratic Services;
- Scrutiny Review of Outside Bodies.

The Committee requested the following further information:

- Recommendation 1-EIT Review of Advice & Information-the identity of the successful contractor be provided for the Committee.
- Recommendation 1-EIT Review of Commercial Trading-details be provided to the Committee of the checks/balances in place regarding Commercial Trading Services being utilised as the first choice provider by other

services within the authority, so as to demonstrate that an appropriate means of challenge is in place.

Details were also submitted of all Quarter 4 Progress Updates presented and agreed by Select Committees including, for all EIT reviews, a summary of key progress in implementing recommendations, an update on Human Resource implications and savings incurred at the end of Quarter 4 2010/11.

The Committee requested the following further information/action:

-Environment Select Committee-EIT Review of Built & Natural Environment-Clarification was requested as to whether the review of car parking across the borough, due to report to Cabinet, had as yet included consultation with all members.

-Health Select Committee-Review of Dentistry-the Committee referred to the need for the outstanding action regarding this review to be referred to the new Health & Well Being Board for consideration given the forthcoming demise of the NHS North East Strategic Health Authority (SHA).

RESOLVED that:

1) The Progress Updates be noted and the assessments for progress be confirmed.

2) Further information be provided as requested.

5 Annual Report 2010/11

Consideration was given to the content of the proposed Scrutiny Annual Report for 2010/11.

Subject to this Committee's agreement of its content, the report would be circulated to key partner agencies and would be published on the Scrutiny Web Site.

Reference was made to the need to include reference to the findings of the recent Winter Maintenance review carried out by the Regeneration & Transport Select Committee.

Regarding scrutiny in 2011/12, it was noted that this should include a review of the development of the Health & Well Being Board, which would be in its first year of operation.

RESOLVED that the content of the Scrutiny Annual Report 2010/11 be approved subject to the amendment identified above.

6 Forward Plan

Members were provided with the Statutory Forward Plan for 1 July 2011 to 31 October 2011.

RESOLVED that the Forward Plan be noted.

7 Report on Chairs Updates

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

Reference was made to the update provided by the Arts, Leisure & Culture Select Committee outlining delays incurred by British Waterways in works to upgrade the White Water course on the River Tees; with completion not expected until August/September. Whilst the matter was believed to be related to an engineering and water quality issue, and therefore out of the Council's control, it was suggested that the Chief Executive and relevant Cabinet Member be urged to request that British Waterways urgently confirm their timescale and future spending plans to ensure the completion of the works.

Housing and Community Safety – It was noted that as part of the Review of Taxi Services, representations had been made regarding the necessary 'de-cluttering' of un-used/inappropriate taxi ranks within the borough.

Environment - Review of Care for Your Area Services-Given the wide ranging and front line prominence of this proposed review, it was suggested that all members would be engaged as part of its envisaged consultation.

Health – The Chair advised that he had just recently been advised that the 22 bed residential Mental Health Unit at 163 Durham Road was to close due to insufficient demand for the service with the majority of people securing help at home or as a day patient. A representative of the Trust would be attending the next meeting of Health Select to explain the decision.

RESOLVED that Chairs updates be noted.