

Regeneration and Transport Select Committee

Update to Executive Scrutiny Committee – 4 October 2011

EIT Programme – Review of Regeneration and Economic Development

Update on Progress (including issues/problems/successes)

The Committee considered an options appraisals report at the meeting of 12 September.

Options that were discussed by the Committee included:

- creation of an economic intelligence function to replace the Service Support function;
- transfer of the building management of The Shambles to Land and Property;
- retention of Stockton Business Centre in the short term with a view to developing options for future management;
- reduction in funding to the StocktonMiddlesbrough Initiative;
- developing specialisms within business engagement in order to concentrate on specific priority sectors;
- retention of a business grants budget of £40k, but with a view to developing this into a business loan scheme;
- downsized Major Projects Team in line with reduced workload;
- mainstreaming of the enterprise work with schools and young people, and provision of a more focussed enterprise coaching service for specific groups;
- tourism to be taken forward as part of the business engagement agenda, and Tourist Information Centres to be retained until transfer to Customer Contact Centre;
- town centre businesses to be supported through the business engagement teams and an increased focus on economic development, with some functions (eg. operational elements of events, markets) transferred to more appropriate areas of the Council;
- develop a strategic leadership role in relation to employability and skills, in conjunction with Tees Valley Unlimited (TVU), to further understand the skills needs of the local economy, with better utilising the resources of Tees Achieve;
- closer working with TVU.

At the previous meeting of Executive Scrutiny, Members requested more information on the consultation that had taken place with social enterprises, and this is available as part of the agenda papers for the meeting of 12 September.

Timescales

The review is due to report to Cabinet in December 2011. The meeting of 24 October is scheduled to agree the recommendations, and the meeting of 14 November has been arranged in order to agree the final report.

EIT Task and Finish Review of Highways

The Committee considered the scope of the Task and Finish Review of Highway services at the meeting of 12 September. The review will report to the Committee on 14 November and 16 January. This officer-led review is due to report to Cabinet in March 2012.

Other work

The Committee will consider a more detailed presentation on the progress of the Events, Arts and Tourism EIT Review at the meeting of the 24 October.