

Regeneration and Transport Select Committee

Update to Executive Scrutiny Committee – 22 November 2011

EIT Programme – Review of Regeneration and Economic Development

Update on Progress (including issues/problems/successes)

The Committee agreed its final report at the meeting of 14 November. Recommendations include:

- the future role of the Regeneration Service should primarily be that of strategic leadership to support the economic growth of the Borough, and this should be facilitated by the creation of an economic intelligence function;
- transfer of the building management of The Shambles to Land and Property Section and undertake a detailed evaluation of the operational functions of the Stockton Business Centre and assess options for future management;
- reduction in funding to the Stockton Middlesbrough Initiative in line with deliverability of schemes;
- developing specialisms within business engagement in order to concentrate on new and existing businesses, based on sectoral growth opportunities, and the development of 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 with consideration given to transferring Tourist Information Centre functions to the Customer Contact Centres and other appropriate venues;
- town centre businesses to be supported through the business engagement teams through the development of a retail and town centre business specialism, with operational functions (eg. events) transferred to more appropriate areas of the Council;
- develop a strategic leadership role in relation to employability and skills, in conjunction with TVU, to further understand the skills needs of the local economy, and better utilise the resources of Tees Achieve;
- closer working with TVU to ensure the delivery of its Business Plan and Statement of Ambition, and to ensure the success of the Local Enterprise Partnership.

Timescales

The review is scheduled to report to Cabinet at the meeting of 8 December 2011.

EIT Task and Finish Review of Highways

The baseline information for this review was reported to the Committee on 14 November. The recommended options will be reported to Committee on 16 January.

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 5 December.