

Executive Scrutiny Committee

A meeting of Executive Scrutiny Committee was held on Tuesday, 31st July, 2012.

Present: Cllr Ken Lupton (Chairman), Cllr Derrick Brown, Cllr Carol Clark, Cllr Nigel Cooke, Cllr Robert Gibson, Cllr Mohammed Javed, Cllr Eileen Johnson, Cllr Jean Kirby, Cllr Paul Kirton, Cllr Terry Laing, Cllr Miss Tina Large, Cllr Ross Patterson, Cllr Maurice Perry, Cllr Mick Stoker, Cllr Mrs Mary Womphrey

Officers: Paul Diggins, Richard Poundford (DNS); Kate Fulton (PIE); Tony Montague (R); Simon Willson (CESC); Graham Birtle, Tanya Harrison, Judith Trainer, Margaret Waggott (LD)

Also in attendance: No other persons were present

Apologies: Cllr Julia Cherrett, Cllr Barbara Inman, Cllr Jean O'Donnell

1 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Cooke declared a personal interest in relation to the agenda item - by virtue of being employed by NHS Tees and Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust.

Councillor Javed declared a personal interest in relation to the agenda item - by virtue of being employed by NHS Tees and Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust.

Councillor Gibson declared a personal interest in relation to the agenda item - Regeneration of Local Shopping Parades by virtue of being Chairman of Knowhow North East who were involved with negotiating the future of Port Clarence shops. Councillor Gibson took no part in the discussion of the item.

2 Minutes for Signature - 8th May 2012

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th May 2012 were signed by the Chair in the office of Democratic Services.

AGREED that the minutes be signed as a correct record.

3 Draft Minutes - 6th June 2012

Consideration was given to the draft minutes of the meeting held on 6th June 2012.

AGREED that the draft minutes be approved.

4 Q4 and ear End 2011/12 Performance Outturn and 2011/12 Financial Outturn

Members considered a report which provided the outturn and commentary on progress against the targets set for 2011/12. The achievements against Council Plan objectives, areas for improvement, summary of Freedom of Information requests, complaints, commendations and comments, RIPA update were highlighted and details of suggestions received through the staff suggestion scheme were provided in the report.

Members also considered the Council's financial position at the end of the 2011/12 financial year.

AGREED that:

1. The levels of performance and proposed actions be noted.
2. That the updated Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) be noted.

5 Task and Finish Review - Gated Communities

Members were advised that following an appointment of a Task and Finish Group to review access to gated communities, evidence had been gathered and assessed in relation to properties with controlled access systems.

The Task and Finish Group had concluded that the only issue was Ward Member access and had determined that no further action could take place.

AGREED that the report be noted.

6 Chairs Update - Cleveland Fire Authority Task and Finish Review (Verbal Update)

Members were advised that following the appointment of a Task and Finish Group to review Cleveland Fire Authority's considerations of alternative business models, including the creation of a Social Enterprise to deliver fire and rescue services on a commissioned basis, the Group had received a presentation and were satisfied with progress. Further consultation by the Fire Authority would take place as the proposals were developed, including Local Authorities.

AGREED that the report be noted.

7 Annual Report 2011/ 12

Consideration was given to the content of the proposed Scrutiny Annual Report for 2011/12.

Following the Committee's agreement of its content, the report would be circulated to key partner agencies and would be published on the Scrutiny pages of Stockton Council's web site.

AGREED that the Scrutiny Annual Report 2011/12 be approved.

8 Regeneration of Local Shopping Parades

Members were provided with a report following Executive Scrutiny Committee's request for the assessment of the Boroughs 38 neighbourhood and district centres with regards to retail offer, level of activity and condition. The findings were reported and the four centres in need of improvement were discussed.

It was noted that three of the centres were privately owned, one of which had been subject to recent fire damage which afforded little opportunity to force

change from the Authority, however officers would continue to monitor the situation and offer input where possible. The remaining centre was council owned but discussions were taking place over transfer of ownership.

AGREED that the report be noted.

9 Forward Plan

Members were provided with the Statutory Forward Plan for 1st August 2012 to 30 November 2012.

Members requested that a report on the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme be presented to Executive Scrutiny as part of the consultation process prior to final proposals being presented to Cabinet.

AGREED that:

1. The Statutory Forward Plan be noted.
2. A report on the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme be presented to Executive Scrutiny as part of the consultation process prior to final proposals being presented to Cabinet.

10 Report on Chairs Updates

Members were provided with an update from each of the Select Committee Chairs on the current and future review topics.

In respect of Environment Committee's Review of Affordable Warmth, discussion took place regarding the number of properties which fell within the criteria but had not benefited from the Community Energy Savings Programmes which included:

- External wall insulation
- Cavity wall insulation
- New heating systems
- Boiler replacements
- Heating controls
- Fuel switching
- Energy efficiency advice
- benefits advice

AGREED that:

1. The Chair's updates be noted.
2. A report be presented to this Committee, detailing the properties which fell within the criteria but which had not benefited from the schemes.