

**MONITORING OF PREVIOUSLY AGREED RECOMMENDATIONS -
PROGRESS REPORT**

Summary

Members are asked to consider the assessments of progress contained within the attached Progress Report on the implementation of the recommendations from the Efficiency, Improvement and Transformation (EIT) review of Legal Services.

Detail

1. Following the Cabinet consideration of scrutiny reports, accepted recommendations are then subject to a monitoring process to track their implementation.
2. At the meeting on 8 May 2012, Members received and approved the Action Plan that set out how the recommendations from the EIT review of Legal Services would be implemented.
3. Evidence has been submitted by the relevant department for this initial Progress Report, together with an assessment of progress against all recommendations. The Committee are asked to consider and agree the assessments of progress as contained in the report. Should members of the Select Committee agree, those recommendations which have reached an assessment of '1' are then signed off as having been completed.
4. Attached at **Appendix 1** is the Progress Report.

Name of Contact Officer: Judith Trainer

Post Title: Scrutiny Team Leader

Telephone No. 01642 528158

Email Address: judith.trainer@stockton.gov.uk

Progress Update – EIT Review of Legal Services

No.	Recommendation	Lead Responsibility	Finance Manager	Anticipated Completion Date/ Completion Date	Quarter 1&2 Evidence of progress Presented to Committee on 20/11/12 (Please state current position on recommendation or alternative action taken)	Q1&2 Savings/Costs to Date (please state whether actual or estimated)	Q1&2 Assessment of progress (Categories 1-4)
1	Maintain the current in-house Legal Service taking account of 19% reductions in budget made to date.	Head of Legal Services.	Suzie Lloyd	31/03/2013	The in house service has recently reduced (as opposed to maintaining its existing resources) due a vacant Principal Solicitor post.	£122K Actual £45k estimated	1 –fully achieved
2	Review the management of all the Council's spatial data sets to ascertain if further efficiencies or improvements can be gained by consolidating these services.	Head of Legal Services/GIS Manager.	Suzie Lloyd	31/03/2013	The GIS team has taken on responsibility for maintaining the land ownership data sets from the Land & Property team which will improve data quality and simplify processes.		1 – fully achieved
3	Undertake a tender exercise for the procurement of services provided by barristers	Head of Legal Services	Suzie Lloyd	30/09/2012	Newcastle City Council has taken the lead on behalf of the North East Authorities and has recently awarded the tender to 4 sets of barristers chambers.		1- fully achieved
Predicted savings of Review				£183K	Actual Savings of Review to Date (including all recommendations)	£167K	
Human Resources Implications							