

Executive Scrutiny Committee

A meeting of Executive Scrutiny Committee was held on Tuesday, 18th December, 2012.

Present: Cllr Ken Lupton(Chairman), Cllr Miss Tina Large(Vice-Chairman), Cllr Derek Brown (vice Cllr Julia Cherrett), Cllr Nigel Cooke, Cllr Barbara Inman, Cllr Mohammed Javed, Cllr Eileen Johnson, Cllr Terry Laing, Cllr Mrs Jean O'Donnell, Cllr Maurice Perry, Cllr Mick Stoker, Cllr Mrs Mary Womphrey and Mr Richard Amir

Officers: L. King, T. Montague (R); M. Waggott, J. Trainer, G. Morton, M. Henderson, P. Mennear (LD); P. Diggins, D. Rowbotham (DNS)

Also in attendance:

Apologies: Cllr Mrs Lynne Apedaile, Cllr Paul Kirton, Cllr Robert Gibson, Cllr Jean Kirby,

1 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Javed declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in the item entitled EIT Review of Learning Disability Service as he was employed by Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys' NHS Foundation Trust.

Councillor Cooke declared a personal interest in the item entitled EIT Review of Learning Disability Service as he was employed by Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys' NHS Foundation Trust.

2 Minutes for Signing - 1st October 2012

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st October 2012 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

AGREED that the minutes be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3 Draft Minutes - 23rd October 2012

Consideration was given to the draft minutes of the meeting held on 23 October 2012.

AGREED that the draft minutes be approved.

4 Quarter Two 2012/13 Performance & Financial Outturn

Members considered a report that outlined progress against annual performance targets for the period April to end of September 2012/13. It highlighted progress against Council Plan objectives, areas for improvement, provided a summary of Freedom of Information requests responded to, Complaints, Commendations and Comments, a RIPA update and provided details of suggestions received through the Staff Suggestion scheme.

It was explained that good progress had been made during the first six months, with 74% of performance targets achieved or on track to be achieved. This compared to 81% achievement at the same point last year. Trends showed that actual achievement at year end tended to be lower than anticipated, but this

was good progress at this stage. The Council was receiving a significant number of Freedom of Information and Data Protection enquires with an increase on the same period last year, 405 compared to 392. The staff suggestions scheme had received nine suggestions during the first six months of 2012/13. Progress with the EIT Review programme was provided as were details of Complaints, Comments and Commendations received during the first half of the year.

Members discussed the performance information and agreed that the first two quarters had been very positive.

Members also considered the Council's financial position as at the end of the second quarter of 2012/13.

Members noted recent government announcements that were likely to affect the Council's financial position.

AGREED that the information be noted.

5 Monitoring of Previously Agreed Recommendations - Legal Services

Members considered a report that provided an assessment of progress relating to the implementation of the three recommendations coming from the Efficiency, Improvement and Transformation review of Legal Services.

Members noted that implementation had been fully achieved in respect of all the recommendations and savings of £167k had been made to date.

AGREED that the progress report be noted and the assessment of progress be confirmed.

6 Monitoring of Previously Agreed Recommendations

Members considered a report that provided an assessment of progress relating to the implementation of recommendations coming from a number of previous reviews.

During discussion of the EIT Review of Care For Your Area members noted that the Council's bid to the Department for Communities and Local Government's weekly collection support scheme had delivered a positive outcome. The Council would receive £1.8m, enabling "single pass" recycling to commence; by using new split body vehicles to collect the same types of recyclable waste as at present. This would result in a reduced fleet, fewer rounds and carbon savings whilst continuing to deliver revenue. The new approach was likely to be in place by October next year (2013) and could realise savings of 500k per year.

Members also queried the delay on recommendation 2 of the cycling on pavements review, relating to PCSOs having adequate powers to deal with incidents. It was explained that this would be followed up and a response obtained.

AGREED that the progress be noted and the assessments of progress be

confirmed.

7 Scrutiny review of Affordable Warmth

Members were provided with a report, produced by the Environment Select Committee, relating to its Scrutiny Review of Affordable Warmth.

Members discussed the recommendations at length and, in particular, recommendation 6, which suggested the formation of a 'Fuel Poverty Partnership'. Members noted that the Select Committee had considered it was important that the Partnership be 'stand alone', rather than attached to another initiative, such as the Health and Wellbeing agenda.

Members noted that the report would be submitted to Cabinet in February 2013.

AGREED that the report be presented to Cabinet.

8 Forward Plan

Members were presented with the Statutory Forward Plan from 1 November 2012 to 28 February 2013.

AGREED that the report be noted.

9 Report on Chairs Updates

Members were provided with an update, from each Select Committee's Chairman, on current and future review topics.

AGREED that the Chairmen's updates be noted.

10 EIT Review of Learning Disability

The Chairman explained that he had agreed that this item be considered as an urgent item, so the Committee had an opportunity to consider it, prior to it being presented to Cabinet in January 2013.

The Committee considered the draft report and each of the recommendations. Members raised no significant issues relating to the report and agreed it be presented to Cabinet.

AGREED that the report be presented to Cabinet.