

# Executive Scrutiny Committee

A meeting of Executive Scrutiny Committee was held on Tuesday, 3rd February, 2015.

**Present:** Cllr Ken Lupton(Chairman), Cllr Carol Clark, Cllr Nigel Cooke, Cllr Eileen Johnson, Cllr Mrs Jean O'Donnell, Cllr Mick Stoker

**Officers:** Kate Fulton(PIE), Simon Willson(CESC), Paul Diggins(DNS), Graham Birtle, Judith Trainer, Sarah Whaley(LD)

**Also in attendance:**

**Apologies:** Cllr Mrs Lynne Apedaile, Cllr Miss Tina Large, Cllr Ross Patterson, Cllr Maurice Perry, Cllr Mrs Mary Womphrey,

## **1 Evacuation Procedure**

The evacuation procedure was noted.

## **2 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **3 2014/15 Performance Outturn Report - Six Month Update**

Members were asked to consider a report which provided details of the Council's performance in the first six months of 2014/15, highlighting key achievements, areas for improvement and proposed actions. It also included information relating to Freedom of Information requests and complaints and commendations. Whilst it aimed to give a perspective on the overall performance of the Council, its primary focus was on the achievement of the basket of measures and associated targets agreed as part of the Council Plan 2014-17.

The main issues discussed were as follows:

- Overall performance.

- There were a wide range of achievements and activities delivered in support of the key Council Plan themes that were not captured within the agreed basket of key indicators. Further details were included in thematic summary reports which were appended to the main report and were also available on the Council's Web site at:

<http://www.stockton.gov.uk/stocktoncouncil/ourperformance/stocktoncouncilplanandreports/>

- The negative impact the Newport Bridge road closure would have on the average road journey time per mile during morning peak which had a target of 2 minutes 23 seconds set for 2014/15, however the latest data available indicated an average journey time of 2 minutes and 27 seconds.

- It was unlikely that the year end target of 100 affordable homes would be achieved.

- In relation to the number of households in fuel poverty receiving home improvements and following the removal of Government funding to Go Warm to deliver the target of 1000 homes, Stockton Council was providing finance for the scheme to continue.

- Crime rates were continuing to reduce.

AGREED that the performance report and proposed actions be noted.

#### **4 Referrals from Cabinet - Road Signs**

Executive Scrutiny Committee had been requested by Corporate Management Team to consider the incorporation of a Task and Finish review of road signs into the scrutiny work programme.

The baseline would determine the current condition and location of place signs and the task and finish group would need to understand the available legislation. It would be beneficial to understand the position of the other Tees Valley local authorities, possibly the other north east councils, and then seek the views of Town and Parish Councils and any historical groups which might include some public consultation utilising Stockton News.

Costs would need to be assessed of any recommendations both for purchase and placement and the on-going maintenance including, if necessary, a staged implementation programme. Subsequently, consultation with SBC Communications regarding design would be required to ensure appropriateness and branding and the Highways Section to ensure appropriateness.

Stockton Borough Council had replied to a government review which was looking at this issue so the conclusion of the scrutiny review should be concluded when the government's position was known.

AGREED that the topic be included in the scrutiny work programme.

#### **5 Forward Plan**

AGREED that the Forward Plan be noted.

#### **6 Report on Chairs' Updates:-**

**-Adult Services and Health...Councillor Faulks**

**- Arts, Leisure and Culture...Councillor O'Donnell**

**- Children and Young People...Councillor Clark**

**- Corporate and Social Inclusion...Councillor Stoker**

**- Environment...Councillor Cooke  
Housing and Community Safety...Councillor Cherrett**

**- Regeneration and Transport...Councillor Perry**

The Committee was provided with updates on Select Committee reviews.

AGREED that the updates be noted.