

Executive Scrutiny Committee

A meeting of Executive Scrutiny Committee was held on Tuesday, 15th September, 2015.

Present: Cllr Mrs Sylvia Walmsley(In the Chair), Cllr Carol Clark, Cllr Michael Clark, Cllr Chris Clough, Cllr Nigel Cooke, Cllr Philip Dennis, Cllr Mrs Jean O'Donnell, Cllr Tracey Stott, Cllr Laura Tunney, Cllr Matthew Vickers.

Officers: Lesley King, Kate Fulton(R), Graham Birtle, Peter Mennear and Kirsty Wannop(LDS)

Also in attendance: None

Apologies: Cllr David Harrington, Cllr Paul Baker, Cllr Derrick Brown, Cllr Mohammed Javed, Cllr Eileen Johnson, Cllr Maurice Perry

1 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2 Minutes of the meeting which was held on 28th July 2015

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 28th July 2015.

Members requested that information that had been circulated regarding the Performance Outturn Report since the last meeting be discussed at the next meeting and added to the work programme.

AGREED the minutes be approved.

3 Reporting In Review of Freedom of Information Requests - Scope

The Committee received the scope for the Reporting in Review of Freedom of Information Requests.

Members requested that the cost for dealing with FOI's be included in the baseline report.

AGREED that the scope be approved.

4 Reporting In Review of Consultation - Scope

Members considered the scope for the Reporting in Review of Consultation.

The Committee discussed how the use of social media and Stockton News could be used and considered within the review.

AGREED that the scope be approved.

5 Review of Debtors Write-offs

The Committee considered a report that provided Members with baseline information in respect of the reporting in review of Debt Write-offs further to the scoping document that was presented previously to Committee.

The main information provided included the following:-

- At 31 August 2015, the Council had outstanding debt of £10.8m, which was made up of 12,491 invoices. Approximately 50% of this debt (£75% of invoices), related to Adult Social Care and Housing Benefit overpayments.
- In addition a number of payment arrangements had been set up to repay outstanding debt. This equated to £6.7m, 5503 invoices, and again the bulk related to care.
- Members were presented with information outlining the overall debt by period due and this showed £5.4m was over a year old. A significant proportion was in relation to debt on payment arrangements.
- A relatively small number of debts were written off though this was always done as a last resort.
- Details regarding the different procedures for following up outstanding debt were also outlined.

Members raised the following questions/queries:-

- What did Heating Ventilation and Electrical invoices cover?
- Trends in debt and comparison with previous years?
- Do we use credit rating to check organisations before we deal with them?

AGREED that:

1. The queries raised by members be answered.
2. the report be noted.

6 Statutory Forward Plan

Members considered the Statutory Forward Plan and requested that information regarding the Tees Active Report and what it would cover be provided.

AGREED that the information requested be circulated and the Forward Plan be noted.

7 Chairs Updates

The Committee was provided with updates on the Select Committee reviews.

AGREED that the updates be noted.

8 Executive Scrutiny Work Programme

Members discussed the Committee's work programme and the following was raised:-

- Performance Outturn Report would be discussed at the next meeting on 27th October 2015.

- Cllr Harrington had an item to add to the work programme for 26th January 2016.

AGREED that the Work Programme be noted.

9 Chair of Executive Scrutiny Update

Cllr Harrington sent his apologies for not making the meeting but would be back for the meeting on 27th October 2015.