

Executive Scrutiny Committee

A meeting of Executive Scrutiny Committee was held on Tuesday, 27th October, 2015.

Present: Cllr David Harrington(Chairman), Cllr Mrs Sylvia Walmsley(Vice-Chairman), Cllr Paul Baker, Cllr Derrick Brown, Cllr Carol Clark, Cllr Michael Clark, Cllr Chris Clough, Cllr Nigel Cooke, Cllr Philip Dennis, Cllr Mohammed Javed, Cllr Eileen Johnson, Cllr Mrs Jean O'Donnell, Cllr Maurice Perry, Cllr Laura Tunney, Cllr Matthew Vickers, Cllr David Wilburn

Officers: Peter Mennear, Michael Henderson (LD); Kate Fulton (R); Simon Willson (CESC); Mark McGivern (PH); Paul Diggins (DNS)

Also in attendance:

Apologies: Cllr Michael Clark and Cllr Tracey Stott

1 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

2 **Minutes of meeting held on 15 September 2015**

Following discussion on the Forward Plan on 15 September, it was noted that the Tees Active report would be an in depth look at performance under the current contract, and would be reported to Cabinet in February 2016.

Minutes of meeting held on 15 September 2015 were approved.

3 **Final Performance Outturn - Year End 2014/15 residual targets**

Members received a report that provided target outturn details for 11 Council Plan 2014/15 measures, the data for which, had not been available at the time of reporting final outturn in July.

A list of the measures was provided, together with the data, which was now available. Final Outturn indicated that five out of seven indicators, where targets had been set, had been achieved. This meant that 63% of all 2014/15 targets had been achieved, set against 66% the previous year. In respect of the remaining four measures, where no targets had been set, outturn data was available and would be used to inform future target setting.

Members considered the information provided and discussion could be summarised as follows:

- the Council always tried to set targets that were stretching but the targets needed to be realistic and had to take account of restrictive budgets and reductions in staff.

- For quantitative measures, the Council compared its performance against comparator authorities.

- EH100 CO2 emissions from Council operations. The committee noted that this figure was calculated and published nationally. The data showed a 10%

decrease in CO2 emissions and it was likely that some of this reduction would be as a result of remodelling of some of the Council's operations but also the introduction of initiatives such as updating street lighting .

- Members noted that each measure had a data owner, who was responsible for the integrity of the data.

- CS 103 - Number of sexual offences. Members were reminded of improvements made to the way Cleveland Police recorded crime and consequent increases in the figures. It was considered that, prior to the improvements, recording had not been sufficiently robust. An accurate baseline would be established during 2015/2016.

- AS100 – Overall satisfaction of carers with social care services. This was a nationally validated measure and the Council had exceeded the performance of its comparator authorities and had significantly exceeded the national average. It was explained that this measure was based on a survey and work would be undertaken to drill down into the data /responses received, which would be reported to Adult Services and Health Select Committee. The survey involved over 200 carers and the Council could be reasonably confident it was an accurate reflection. Members agreed it was important to analyse the data further and draw out any useful information about particular groups of people e.g. from an age, geographical perspective etc. Members noted that when further analysis had been completed it could be fed into the Committee via performance reporting processes.

The response was seen as positive following the introduction of the new Carers' Strategy

- HW400 – Child Poverty – Data was gathered and published nationally with a minimum time lag in data of two years. Publication of the most recent national figures was awaited. The Council decided not to set a target until the latest national figure was published as this would be more likely to include any impact of the initial rollout of Welfare Reform. The Government was also looking to change the definition of child poverty, following a couple of consultations, however, this was still awaited.

- AS 102 – Proportion of service users who have control over their daily lives - It was queried why, despite an improvement last year the score had dropped to below 2012/2013 level and showed a 5.2% decline overall; it was explained that the score was still in the comparator group range but this would be looked at as part of the Personalisation Peer Review, and the 'Making it Real' client group.

Members noted the general issue relating to the number of surveys that service users were being asked to complete, particularly in health and social care, with numerous providers trying to assess service delivery and evidence their effectiveness, via qualitative data. It was accepted that this could be a burden for service users, however, sharing information was not always helpful as surveys were often very specific and therefore sharing information was sometimes not appropriate.

Some of the survey work was required by the Council as commissioners,

although it was hoped that strategically the sharing of data could improve, and also that as integration progressed, the number of assessments that people must undergo should reduce.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

4 Scrutiny Review of Choice Based Lettings

Members considered the People Select Committee's final report following its review of Choice Based Lettings.

The report had been approved by Cabinet, at its meeting on 8 October 2015. The Committee supported the report and noted the recommendations would be reviewed in 6 months.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

5 Statutory Forward Plan

The Committee considered the Statutory Forward Plan 1 October 2015 - 31 January 2016 was noted.

RESOLVED that the Plan be noted.

6 Chairs Update

Members considered the Chairs' updates on Select Committee's reviews.

With regard to the Crime and Disorder Select Committee's review of School Parking it was highlighted that indiscriminate parking could have a negative impact on the operation of emergency services in terms of preventing access to incidents. Reference was also made to the fact that parking, around schools, sometimes, spilled into other parking areas e.g. GP surgeries. This could create problems for patients attending for appointments.

The Chair of the Place Select Committee provided the Committee with an update to the published report, on progress of the Review of Boundary signs. Members noted that initial consultation was beginning and any suggestions from interested parties, was being sought, via Stockton News. The final report of the review would be presented to Cabinet in the New Year.

RESOLVED that the updates be noted.

7 Executive Scrutiny Work Programme

Members considered the work programme and noted/agreed that:

- a short update report, describing the process for setting the scrutiny work programme, would be submitted to the November meeting.
- the committee would set the Scrutiny Work Programme 2016/17 in March

2016.

- The Boundary Signs review final report would be rescheduled.
- Members queried what scrutiny arrangements were being considered, in relation to the Tees Valley Devolution Deal and the Chair indicated that he would raise the issue of scrutiny's role in this, with the Chief Executive.
- December's meeting to be brought forward from 22nd December to 17th December.
- It was suggested that the 26th January meeting, which, currently, had no items identified for it, should be used as a development event, when members could reflect on previous scrutiny work and consider what the focus might be in the future. The Committee, and particularly recently elected members to the Council, felt this would be extremely useful and supported the proposal. Further consideration of this would be undertaken at the Committee's next meeting.

RESOLVED that:

1. the work programme be amended as detailed above.
2. the Chair would raise the issue of scrutiny's role in devolution, with the Chief Executive Officer.

8 Chair of Executive Scrutiny Update

There was no update.