
CLIMATE CHANGE

Purpose of Report

1. To advise Members of this Scrutiny Committee of a decision taken at the Monitoring and Co-Ordination Group held on Monday, 23rd July, 2007 in relation to Climate Change.

Background Information

2. Members will recall that on Thursday, 5th July, 2007, a Climate Change Event was held at the Town Hall to which all Members were invited to attend to discuss how this Council, through its Scrutiny Committees, can undertake relevant reviews within their remits and feed back their findings for inclusion in an Action Plan on Climate Change for the Darlington and Tees Valley Climate Change Strategies.
3. Each Scrutiny Committee made suggestions for areas to consider including within their Scrutiny Work Programmes and it was agreed at the Monitoring and Co-ordination Group Meeting held on 23rd July, 2007 that each Scrutiny Committee include in their Work Programmes Climate Change with a view to investigating further by way of Task and Finish Reviews, the areas suggested at the above event for each individual Scrutiny Committee (**Appendix 1**).
4. It is proposed that one of the themes of the forthcoming Special Meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee, to be held on 15th October 2007 during Local Democracy Week, be Climate Change. It is hoped that this will increase awareness of the issues surrounding Climate Change in those children that attend the meeting, provide a platform for enthusiastic and positive engagement, and encourage the involvement of schools in the ongoing Climate Change review.
5. The Chair of the Environment Scrutiny Committee requested that each Scrutiny Committee give a progress report to a further workshop she is intending to host in October, 2007.
6. The deadline for a final position statement from each Scrutiny Committee is February, 2008, to allow for their findings to be included in the Action Plan referred to in paragraph 2.

Legal Implications

7. This report has been considered by the Borough Solicitor for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Borough Solicitor considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members, other than those highlighted in the report.

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

8. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect.

Recommendation

9. Members of this Scrutiny Committee are requested to consider the suggested areas and outline how it intends to investigate further, and agree that one of the themes of the forthcoming Special Meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee, to be held on 15th October 2007, be Climate Change.

Paul Wildsmith
Director of Corporate Services

Background Papers

No Background papers were used in the compilation of this report.

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