

SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

DEVELOPING EFFECTIVE ROLES AND RELATIONSHIPS WITH CABINET, SCRUTINY, OFFICERS AND PARTNERS

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

16 July 2009

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To update Members of the work currently being undertaken with Professor Bovaird from the Institute of Local Government Studies, University of Birmingham, as part of the on-going development of effective roles and relationships with Cabinet, Scrutiny, Officers and Partners.

2. Developing Effective Roles and Relationships

- 2.1 As Members are aware, work is currently underway to develop effective roles and relationships with Cabinet, Scrutiny, Officers and Partners as part of the Council's Community Leadership Programme.
- 2.2 Furthermore, Members will recall that the Improvement and Development Agency for Local Government (I&DeA), as part of the Peer Review into the Council's Scrutiny arrangements undertaken back in September 2008, also highlighted this to be key area for development and fundamental to the effective and future operation of Overview and Scrutiny in Sunderland.
- 2.3 Consequently, discussions have been held with Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs during their Away Day held on 14 and 15 May 2009 and more so recently at the last Informal Meeting of Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs held on 8 June 2009, to look at the practicalities of developing effective roles and relationships with key stakeholders with the assistance of Professor Bovaird, a very well respected individual with extensive knowledge in this field.

3. Next Steps

- 3.1 I am pleased to inform the Committee that arrangements have been made for Professor Bovaird to visit the Council on the afternoon / early evening of **Monday 27 July 2009** to undertake informal introductory meetings with key stakeholders (to include Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs), with a view to shaping a series of workshops to be delivered from September 2009 onwards. The programme for this afternoon / early evening is currently being finalised and key stakeholders will be provided with advance notification in due course.

4. Recommendations

4.1 Members are requested:-

- (a) to endorse the future involvement of Professor Bovaird, by way of external support and assistance in developing effective roles and relationships with Cabinet, Scrutiny, Officers and Partners; and
- (b) as a key area for improvement, agree to receive regular progress reports on such developments.

5. Background Papers

None

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