

MANAGEMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

FORWARD PLAN – KEY DECISIONS FOR THE PERIOD 1 JULY – 31 OCTOBER 2009

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

16 JULY 2009

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide Members with an opportunity to consider the Executive's Forward Plan for the period 1 July – 31 October 2009.
- 2.1 To seek the views of Members on the value of the Committee continuing to receive the Forward Plan on a regular basis.

2. Background Information

- 2.1 The Council's Forward Plan contains matters which are likely to be the subject of a key decision to be taken by the Executive. The Plan covers a four month period and is prepared and updated on a monthly basis.
- 2.2 Holding the Executive to account is one of the main functions of Scrutiny. One of the ways that this can be achieved is by considering the forthcoming decisions of the Executive (as outlined in the Forward Plan) and deciding whether Scrutiny can add value in advance of the decision being made. This does not negate Non-Executive Members ability to call-in a decision after it has been made.
- 2.3 To this end, it has been agreed that, on a pilot basis, the most recent version of the Executive's Forward Plan should be included on the agenda of each of the Council's Scrutiny Committees. The Forward Plan for the period 1 July – 31 October 2009 is attached as **Appendix 1**.

3. Current Position

- 3.1 In considering the Forward Plan, Members are asked to consider only those issues which are under the remit of the Management Scrutiny Committee. These are as follows:-

Corporate Improvement Plan; Sunderland Strategy; Partnerships (including relations with external bodies); enhancing the role and reputation of Sunderland regionally, nationally and internationally; co-ordination and development of the Scrutiny Function; Asset Management, Property Services and Building Maintenance; Area Frameworks; Corporate Communications; External Assessments; Public Protection and Trading Standards; Governance; Emergency Planning (to refer to appropriate Scrutiny Committee); Budget, financial resources and value for money; and to review any matter not falling

within the remit of the other Scrutiny Committees.

- 3.2 It should be stressed that the Forward Plan comes to each of the Committees as a pilot exercise to determine the value of it coming to each of the Council's Scrutiny Committees on a regular basis. The views of each of the Committees will be reported to this Committee for further consideration.
- 3.3 In the event of Members having any queries that cannot be dealt with directly in the meeting, a response will be sought from the relevant Directorate.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 To consider the Executive's Forward Plan for the period 1 July – 31 October 2009;
- 4.2 To seek the views of Members on the value of the Committees continuing to receive the Forward Plan on a regular basis.

5. Background Papers

None

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