

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**Questions to Area Committee – Review of Pilot Scheme**

**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To inform the Area Committee of the Questions to Area Committees received to date.
- 1.2 To seek the Area Committee's agreement to extend the pilot and for a review to be undertaken and reported to the March meeting of the Area Committee.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 At its meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2009 the Area Committee approved the protocol to the Questions to Area Committees Scheme and that a pilot be undertaken for the next two Area Committee meetings in September and November 2009, with Councillors being encouraged to invite local people along to these meetings to ask strategic questions affecting the Coalfield Area as a whole.
- 2.2 The Area Committee also agreed that after the pilot a review on how it was managed in terms of process and practicalities would be held, with the possibility of it being rolled out across the City in 2010.

**3. Questions to Area Committee**

- 3.1 Questions to the Area Committees have been received for the September and November 2009 meetings as follows:-

Coalfield Area Committee	-	0
East Area Committee	-	0
North Area Committee	-	0
Washington Area Committee	-	1
West Area Committee	-	1

- 3.2 At the time of writing this report questions have been raised in respect of the Area Committees for the January meeting as follows:-

East Area Committee	-	3
Washington Area Committee	-	6

- 3.3 In view of the relatively low number of questions received during the initial period and the fact that three of the five Area Committees have

not received any questions prior to the January meeting, it is proposed to extend the pilot and undertake a review with a report to be submitted to the March meeting of the Area Committee for Members' consideration.

3.4 The questions submitted to the Committee are attached as **Annex 1**.

3.5 The Councils response and officer contact details are included in **Annex 2**.

#### **4. Recommendation**

4.1 To approve a review of the pilot to the Questions to Area Committees to be submitted to the March meeting of the Area Committee.

4.2 That Members note the questions received and the response given by the Council

#### **5. Background Papers**

Minutes of the meeting and report of the July meeting of the Area Committee.

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