

# **SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

## **IDEA SCRUTINY FITNESS HEALTH CHECK – 15 AND 16 FEBRUARY 2010**

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**21 January 2010**

### **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To update Members of the arrangements for the IDeA Scrutiny Fitness Health Check to be undertaken on 15 and 16 February 2010.

### **2. Background Information**

- 2.1 Members will recall that the Improvement and Development Agency for Local Government (IDeA), undertook a Peer Review into the Council's Scrutiny arrangements back in September 2008 which identified key area for development and fundamental to the effective and future operation of Overview and Scrutiny in Sunderland.
- 2.2 There is currently two days paid support outstanding from the in-depth review, therefore it is proposed that the IDeA undertake a follow-up fitness check on the tentative dates of 15 and 16 February 2010 with particular emphasis on partnership scrutiny.
- 2.3 Preparations are currently underway to produce a short self-assessment outlining the changes made since the Peer Review along with an assessment of where the City Council's scrutiny arrangements are in respect of partnership scrutiny against the criteria identified in the Centre for Public Scrutiny's Principles of Good Scrutiny (to also include roles and relationships, process and practice, skills and support).
- 2.4 The IDeA on-site Team will consist of David Armin, IDeA Improvement Manager and Robin Stonebridge, Ex-Member and IDeA freelance consultant.
- 2.5 The IDeA will spend a day and a half on-site, observing the meeting of the Environment and Attractive City Scrutiny Committee, meet with a range of stakeholders as outlined below, provide feedback to a roundtable meeting at the end of their visit, followed up by a written summary of key messages:-
- (i) Group discussion with partners;
  - (ii) Group discussion with Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs;
  - (iii) Interview with the Chief Executive;
  - (iv) Interview with Leader;

- (v) Group discussion with officers supporting Scrutiny across service departments; and
- (vi) Group discussion with Scrutiny Team.

**3. Finalised Timetable for IDeA Scrutiny Fitness Health Check – 15 and 16 February 2010**

3.1 Outlined below is the finalised timetable for the IDeA Scrutiny Fitness Health Check to be held on 15 and 16 February 2010:-

| <b>Monday 15 February 2010</b>  |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 12 noon to 1.00 pm              | Welcome Lunch  |
| 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm              | Group Discussion with Scrutiny Team  |
| 3.00 pm to 4.00 pm              | Group discussion with Officers supporting Scrutiny across Service Directorates       |
| 6.00 pm to 7.30 pm              | Observe meeting of the Environment and Attractive City Scrutiny Committee            |
| <b>Tuesday 16 February 2010</b> |  |
| 9.30 am to 10.30 am             | Group Discussion with Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs                                |
| 11.00 am to 12 noon             | Group Discussion with External Partners  |
| 1.30 pm to 2.00 pm              | 1:1 Discussion with the Assistant Chief Executive and David Armin of the IDeA        |
|                                 | 1:1 Discussion with Sunderland Partnership Manager and Robin Stonebridge of the IDeA |
| 2.30 pm to 3.30 pm              | 1:1 Discussion with the Chief Executive and David Armin of the IDeA                  |
|                                 | 1:1 Discussion with the Leader and Robin Stonebridge of the IDeA                     |
| 4.30 pm to 5.30 pm              | End of Day Feedback Session  |

**4. Recommendation**

4.1 Members are requested to receive the report and ask any questions felt to be appropriate.

## 5. Background Papers

None

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