

MANAGEMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DEVELOPING THE WORK OF SCRUTINY AND THE COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP ROLE OF ELECTED MEMBERS

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

22 OCTOBER 2009

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To inform Members of a series of workshops to be facilitated by Professor Tony Bovaird of Birmingham University to further develop the work of Scrutiny and the community leadership role of Elected Members.

2. Introduction

- 2.1 Members will recall that Tony Bovaird, Professor of Public Management and Policy within the Institute of Local Government Studies of the University of Birmingham visited the City Council on 27 July 2009 to meet with key officers, Cabinet and Scrutiny Members informally to discuss how he could support the Authority in establishing effective working relationships with Cabinet, Scrutiny, officers and partners.
- 2.2 Such preparations have since informed a series of workshops, to be facilitated by Professor Bovaird from October 2009 onwards, as outlined in Section 3 of this report.

3. Series of Workshops to be facilitated by Professor Bovaird

- 3.1 As a result of Professor Bovaird's visit to the City Council on 27 July 2009, it was evident that there are two key areas worthy of further development as outlined below:-
- (a) On deepening the work of Scrutiny both in the Council and with key partnerships; and
 - (b) On expanding and deepening the role of frontline Elected Members in community leadership.
- 3.2 Following in-depth discussions with Professor Bovaird and key individuals, the following workshops overleaf are proposed:-

(a) WORKSHOP 1: HOW SCRUTINY CAN SUPPORT COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES IN SUNDERLAND

**Dates: Wednesday 28 October 2009 – 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm
Tuesday 24 November 2009 – 5.00 pm to 6.30 pm**

An hour and a half workshop (to include light buffet) for all Elected Members outlining how Scrutiny can help with their community leadership role.

This would cover the roles which frontline Members could play in community leadership and the mechanisms by which the Scrutiny role could support these community leadership activities. To include using frontline Members to mobilise evidence from the community in relation to all Scrutiny policy reviews, collecting views from the public on scrutiny issues, holding local meetings on scrutiny issues, discussing scrutiny issues with local organisations on which they are Board/Management Committee Members, disseminating the recommendations of scrutiny policy reviews widely to relevant people and groups within the local area.

(b) WORKSHOP 2 – DELIVERING EFFECTIVE SCRUTINY

**Dates: Thursday 29 October 2009 – 5.00 pm to 8.00 pm
Tuesday 24 November 2009 – 10.00 am to 1.00 pm**

A three hour workshop (to include light buffet) for all Scrutiny Committee Members on their Scrutiny role and how they can mobilise the resources of other Elected Members, groups in the community and external partners to make Scrutiny more effective.

(c) WORKSHOP 3: MAXIMISING THE VALUE OF SCRUTINY WITH CABINET, THE COUNCIL AND THE LSP

Dates: Wednesday 28 October 2009 – 5.30 pm to 7.30 pm

A two hour workshop between Cabinet and Scrutiny Chairs on making the most of Scrutiny in Sunderland (to include light buffet). To examine how the forward work programmes of the Cabinet and the Scrutiny Committees can be dovetailed so that the Scrutiny reviews and reports can be of maximum value to the Cabinet, the Council and the LSP.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 It is recommended that the series of workshops be supported and where appropriate, encourage Elected Members to attend.

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