

Report to: **District Council of Easington**
Date: **3 July 2008**
Report of: **Scrutiny Support Manager**
Subject: **District of Easington Scrutiny Annual Report 2007/8**
Ward: **All**

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 To seek approval of the District of Easington Scrutiny Annual Report 2007/8.

2. Consultation

This report has been produced following consultation with Scrutiny Management Board and the members of the Council's three Scrutiny Committees.

3. Background

3.1 Under the terms of Article 6 of the Council's Constitution, Scrutiny Committees must report annually to full Council on their workings and make recommendations for future work programmes and amended working methods, if appropriate.

3.2 The document attached to this report meets these requirements.

4. Position Statement and Option Appraisal

4.1 The proposed Annual Report details the work of the Council's Scrutiny function undertaken by the three Scrutiny Committees and overseen by the Scrutiny Management Board during 2007/08.

4.2 The report has been produced jointly on behalf of the Scrutiny Committees and aims to demonstrate the principle that the Scrutiny Committees work together in ensuring that they complement the strategic work of the Executive and that the corporate priorities and performance targets agreed by the Council are met.

4.3 The report:-

- I. details the principles behind effective scrutiny within the Council
- II. highlights the co-ordinating role of the Scrutiny Management Board and how it has developed its formative role in respect of policy development and service review.
- III. reviews the work undertaken by the Scrutiny Committees during 2007/8.
- IV. sets out the proposed areas of work which form the new Scrutiny Committees' Work Programmes for 2008/9.
- V. highlights areas of further developments in Scrutiny that the Committees will face during the coming year.

4.4 This Annual Report highlights the work undertaken by the Community Services, Resources and Regeneration Services Scrutiny Committees during 2007/8.

4.5 The Annual Report also sets out the proposed areas of work that will form part of the Committees' work Programmes for 2008/9 and are drawn from the Council's Corporate Plan and Transitional Plan which detail key Council Priority areas of work over the coming year.

5. Implications

5.1 Financial Implications

5.1.1 The only financial implications identified is the cost of producing copies of the Scrutiny Annual Report for circulation to the Council's partner organisations and community representatives. It is envisaged that these costs can be met from within the Council's Cost of Democracy Budget.

5.2 Legal Implications

5.2.1 The report is required to be produced under the terms of Article 6 of the Council's Constitution in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000.

5.3 Policy Implications

5.3.1 There are no direct Policy implications arising from the report.

5.4 Risk Implications

5.4.1 A risk assessment has been completed and the necessary actions required to manage the risks have been identified.

5.5 Communications Implications

5.5.1 The District of Easington Scrutiny Annual Report will be published and the Marketing and Communications Unit approached to arrange an appropriate press release.

5.6 Local Government Review Implications

5.6.1 The Annual Report identifies areas of Scrutiny activity for 2008/9 that have been proposed in conjunction with the Council's approved Transitional Plan for Local Government Reorganisation. Reviews will be aimed at identifying areas of best practice within the Council to take forward into the new Unitary Council after vesting day.

6.0 Corporate Implications

6.1 Corporate Plan and Priorities Implications

6.1.1 The proposed work programmes for the Scrutiny Committees for 2008/09 have been drawn up to focus on issues that have been identified within the Council's agreed priorities as set out in the Council's Corporate and Performance Plan.

6.2 Equality and Diversity Implications

6.2.1 There are no Equality and Diversity Implications arising from the report.

6.3 E-Government Implications

There are no E-Government implications arising from the report.

6.4 Procurement Implications

6.4.1 There are no Procurement implications arising from the report.

7 Recommendations

The District Council is requested to approve the District of Easington Scrutiny Annual Report 2007/8.

Background Papers

Minutes and Reports from the Community Services Scrutiny Committee, Regeneration Services Scrutiny Committee and Resources Scrutiny Committee meetings from May 2007 to April 2008.

The Council's Constitution

The Council's Transitional Plan