

Report to: **Resources Scrutiny Committee**
Date: **24 April 2007**
Report of: **Scrutiny Support Manager**
Subject: **District of Easington Scrutiny Annual Report 2006/2007**
Ward: **All**

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To seek approval of the draft District of Easington Scrutiny Annual Report 2006/7.

2. Consultation

Consultation has taken place with the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the 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 draft 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 2006/07.
- 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 2006/7.
 - IV. sets out the proposed areas of work which form the new Scrutiny Committees' Work Programmes for 2007/8 as far as they have been determined to date.
 - V. Highlights areas of further developments in Scrutiny that the Committees will face during the coming year.

- 4.4 In April 2006, the Council agreed to review its Scrutiny Structures during 2006/7 and a report was agreed by the District Council of Easington on 5 April 2007 which established three new Scrutiny Committees based around Executive Portfolios.
- 4.5 This Annual Report therefore highlights the work undertaken by the Partnerships, Resources and Service Delivery Scrutiny Committees during 2006/7 and invites each Committee to endorse the appropriate sections within the report.
- 4.6 The Annual Report also highlights the relevant Service Unit Position statements that will be considered by the newly established Community Services, Regeneration Services and Resources Scrutiny Committees during 2007/8. Executive Portfolio holders will also be required to report to the appropriate Scrutiny Committee to report on the formal Partnerships and partnership working that is undertaken within their Portfolio.
- 4.7 The Annual report also details briefly the challenges and areas of future development that will be faced by the Scrutiny Committees arising from both the Local Government White Paper "Strong and Prosperous Communities" and the Police and Justice Act 2006, particularly where they relate to the proposals to establish "Community Calls for Action".
- 4.8 It is proposed that the Annual Report be submitted to the first meetings of the new Scrutiny Committees for endorsement and finalisation of their 2007/8 work programmes.

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 although, the development of the Community Call for Action process will require the Scrutiny Committees to agree to procedures to deal with these. Such procedures, when developed will be submitted to the Council for adoption.

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 Corporate Implications

5.6.1 Corporate Plan and Priorities Implications

5.6.2 The proposed work programmes for the Scrutiny Committees for 2007/08 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.

5.6.3 Equality and Diversity Implications

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

5.6.5 E-Government Implications

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

5.6.7 Procurement Implications

5.6.8 There are no Procurement implications arising from the report.

6 Recommendations

Members are requested to agree the District of Easington Scrutiny Annual Report 2006/7 subject to any amendments which they may feel necessary, and that the report be submitted to the first meeting of the new Scrutiny Committees for finalisation of the 2007/8 work programmes.

Background Papers

Minutes and reports from the Partnerships, Resources and Service Delivery Scrutiny Committees 2006/7.

The Council's Constitution

The report of the Assistant Chief Executive to District Council 5th April 2007 entitled "Review of Political Management Arrangements – The Scrutiny Function".