

Report to: **Resources Scrutiny Committee**
Date: **10 March 2009**
Report of: **Scrutiny Support Manager**
Subject: **District of Easington Scrutiny Annual Report 2008/09**
Ward: **All**

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 To seek approval of the District of Easington Scrutiny Annual Report 2008/9.

2. Consultation

2.1 This report has been produced following consultation with the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Council's 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 This is the final Scrutiny Annual Report for District of Easington prior to the move to a single Unitary Authority for County Durham on 1st April 2009. The document therefore concentrates on those areas of work undertaken by the Scrutiny Committees during the last 12 months. It will be for Durham County Council to determine the work programme and "modus operandi" for its Scrutiny Committees after vesting day.

3.3 Notwithstanding the above, the Council may wish to forward suggested work programme issues or priorities for consideration by the new Unitary Authority and accordingly some suggested priority areas are highlighted within this report.

3.4 The proposed District of Easington Scrutiny Annual report is attached herewith. (Appendix A).

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 2008/09.

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 in respect of policy development and service review.
- III. reviews the work undertaken by the Scrutiny Committees during 2007/8.
- IV. details some potential priority issues which are to be referred to Durham County Council prior to vesting day.

5. Implications

5.1 Financial Implications

- 5.1.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

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 those ongoing priority areas identified within the report will be forwarded to Durham County Council.

5.6 Local Government Review Implications

- 5.6.1 The ongoing priority areas identified within the Annual Report will be forwarded to Durham County Council for consideration as part of the development of its Scrutiny Work Programme.

6.0 Corporate Implications

6.1 Corporate Plan and Priorities Implications

- 6.1.1 The work programmes for the Council's Scrutiny Committees during 2008/09 was focussed on issues identified within the Council's agreed priorities as set out in the Council's Best Value 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

- 6.3.1 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

7.1 The Committee is requested to agree the District of Easington Scrutiny Annual Report 2008/9 and endorse those outstanding issues priority issues for referral to Durham County Council as part of the development of their Scrutiny Work Programmes for 2009/10.

Background Papers

Minutes and Reports from the Community Services Scrutiny Committee, Regeneration Services Scrutiny Committee and Resources Scrutiny Committee meetings from May 2008 to April 2009.

The Council's Constitution.

The Council's Transitional Plan for Local Government Review