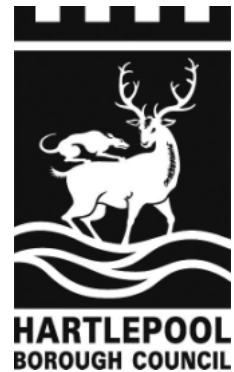


SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE AGENDA



Friday, 29 January 2010

at 4.00 p.m.

in the Council Chamber,
Civic Centre, Hartlepool

MEMBERS OF SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE:

Councillors C. Akers-Belcher, S Akers-Belcher, Barker, Brash, James, London, A Marshall, J. Marshall, McKenna, Preece, Richardson, Rogan, Shaw, Simmons, Wright and Young

Resident Representatives: Evelyn Leck, Iris Ryder and Linda Shields

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

2. **TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**

3. **MINUTES**

- 3.1 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2010 (*to follow*)
- 3.2 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 22 January 2010 (*to follow*)

4. **RESPONSES FROM THE COUNCIL, THE EXECUTIVE OR COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL TO REPORTS OF THE SCRUTINY COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

No Items

5. CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOR SCRUTINY REVIEWS FROM COUNCIL, EXECUTIVE MEMBERS AND NON EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

- 5.1 Dog Control Orders: Referral from Central Neighbourhood Consultative Forum
– *Scrutiny Manager*

6. FORWARD PLAN

No Items.

7. CONSIDERATION OF PROGRESS REPORTS / BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK DOCUMENTS

- 7.1 2010/11 Budget and Policy Framework Proposals: Feedback from the Overview and Scrutiny Committees – *Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees*

- 7.2 2010/11 Proposals for Capital Programme Funding - *Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*

8. CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL MONITORING / CORPORATE REPORTS

No Items.

9. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

No items.

10. CALL-IN REQUESTS

11. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS ARE URGENT

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- i) **Date of Next Meeting: 5 February 2010 commencing at 2.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool.**

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

29 January 2010



Report of: Scrutiny Manager

Subject: DOG CONTROL ORDERS: REFERRAL FROM
CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE
FORUM

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To inform Members of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee of the recent scrutiny topic referral from the Central Neighbourhood Consultative Forum to the Overview and Scrutiny Function.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 As outlined within the Authority's Constitution, the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee has the discretion to consider the appropriateness of undertaking a scrutiny investigation following a referral from the Authority's regulatory panels and other committees.

2.2 The Constitution clearly states that should the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee decide not to examine a particular 'referral', the decision must be justified and reported to Council and the referring body.

2.3 At the meeting of the Central Neighbourhood Consultative Forum held on 15 October 2009, a Councillor raised concerns about Dog Control Orders and how they are detrimental to responsible dog owners on particular recreation grounds.

2.4 After a discussion on the issue at the meeting of the Central Neighbourhood Consultative Forum held on 17 December 2009, the Forum agreed that this issue should be referred to the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee to determine its appropriateness of re-directing the issue for further consideration to the relevant Scrutiny Forum to explore the issue in detail.

2.5 Dog Control Orders fall under the remit of Neighbourhood Services therefore if the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee feel that it is appropriate to re-direct to the appropriate Scrutiny Forum, it is suggested that this item be considered as part of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum's work programme for the next Municipal Year, 2010 / 11 due to its current workload commitments.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee considers the appropriateness of undertaking a scrutiny enquiry into this matter and re-directs the issue for further consideration to the relevant Scrutiny Forum and if re-directed to the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum, the Forum considers it as part of their work programme for the 2010 / 11 Municipal Year.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:-

- (i) Minutes of the Central Neighbourhood Consultative Forum held on 15 October 2009; and
- (ii) Minutes of the Central Neighbourhood Consultative Forum held on 17 December 2009

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

29 January 2010



Report of: Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees

Subject: 2010/11 BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK PROPOSALS: FEEDBACK FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To feedback the collective responses of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee and the four standing Scrutiny Forums following their recent consideration of the Executive's Budget and Policy Framework Proposals for 2010/11.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 At a meeting of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee held on 16 October 2009, consideration was given to the Executive's Initial Budget and Policy Framework Consultation Proposals for 2010/11.
- 2.2 At this meeting it was agreed that the initial consultation proposals were to be considered on a service provision basis by the appropriate Scrutiny Forum. With any comments/observations being fed back to this meeting of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee to assist in the formulation of this Committee's formal response, to be presented to the Cabinet on 14 December 2009.
- 2.3 Following the Cabinet's determination of their finalised 2010/11 Budget and Policy Framework Proposals at their meeting on 22 December 2009, further consideration was given to the finalised proposals by the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee at their meeting on 15 January 2010.
- 2.4 The Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee and the four standing Scrutiny Forums then repeated the same process followed during the consideration of the initial budget consultation during 15 January 2010 to 26 January 2010, with collective feedback being considered at this meeting to enable a formal response to be determined and presented to the Cabinet on 8 February 2010.

- 2.5 During the consideration of the Executive's initial and finalised Budget and Policy Framework Proposals for 2010/11, the appropriate Cabinet Members were in attendance subject to their availability.

3. FEEDBACK FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES TO THE EXECUTIVE'S FINALISED BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK PROPOSALS FOR 2010/11

- 3.1 As part of the Budget and Policy Framework consultation for 2010/11, Members of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee and the four standing Scrutiny Forums considered pressures, priorities, efficiencies and potential sources of additional income for each of the authorities departments.

- 3.2 Based upon the evidence provided, comments made by the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee at its meeting on the 15 January 2010 in relation to the Councils overall budget situation, and specifically the Chief Executives Department, are outlined below. Given the timetable for submission of a formal Scrutiny response to Cabinet on the 8 February 2010, and access to information requirements for the publication of reports, the comments of each of the Standing Scrutiny Forums had not been formulated in time for the production and printing of this report. As such, full details of the Standing Scrutiny Forums comments will be circulated for Members consideration, under separate cover, prior to this meeting.

- 3.3 Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee – Members of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee:-

- (i) Strongly endorsed the protection of support for the Credit Union as a priority for 2010 and recommended that this funding be ring fenced;

- (ii) Congratulated Cabinet in the decision to include the extension of the 'out of hours service' as a priority within the budget and policy framework proposals for 2010/11. Given that consideration of this area of the budget consultation proposals falls within the remit of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum, Members strongly recommend to the Forum that:-

- The extension of the out of hours service be supported and endorsed; and
- The proposal, put forward by the Regeneration and Economic Development Portfolio Holder at the recent Cabinet meeting on the 22 December 2009, to extend the provision of noise abatement services to every Friday and Saturday evening be supported and endorsed as a cost effective means of expanding the service.

- iii) Concern was expressed regarding the possible implications of the current, and future, budgetary position on staffing levels and the implications this could have on the capacity of staff, and in turn the authority, to respond to issues / queries (on an individual and strategic level). Emphasis was

placed upon the importance of having in place an appropriate strategy to help deal with any such possible loss of expertise and experience (i.e. training to enable the development of existing staff and recruitment / retention measures). Members emphasised the importance of Member involvement in the development of such a strategy through Scrutiny and Council.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 It is recommended that the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee:-

- (a) considers the feedback from the Authority's Overview and Scrutiny Forums' in relation to the Executive's Budget and Policy Framework proposals for 2010/11;
- (b) determines its formal response in relation to the Executive's Budget and Policy Framework proposals for 2010/11 to be presented to the Cabinet on 8 February 2010; and
- (c) grants delegated authority to the Chair of this Committee to approve the content of the formal response to enable its submission to the Cabinet on 8 February 2010 in accordance with the agreed timetable.

January 2010

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:-

- (i) Report of the Scrutiny Manager entitled '2010/11 Budget and Policy Framework Proposals' presented to the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee held on 15 January 2010;
- (ii) Minutes of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee held on 15 January 2010;
- (iii) Minutes of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Forum held on 26 January 2010;
- (iv) Minutes of the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum held on 20 January 2010;

- (v) Minutes of the Adult and Community Services and Health Scrutiny Forum held on 25 January 2010; and
- (vi) Minutes of the Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum held on 21 January 2010.

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

29th January 2010



Report of: Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods

Subject: 2010/11 PROPOSALS FOR CAPITAL PROGRAMME FUNDING

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To receive details of the £1.2 million funding available for capital programme works and to consider proposals that have been prioritised by the Strategic Capital Resource and Asset Programme Team.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Detailed proposals have been developed and, in line with Scrutiny's previous request, Cabinet, at their meeting on 25th January 2010, have referred the proposals to the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee. The proposals are attached as **Appendix 1**.
- 2.2 Scrutiny's comments will be taken back to Cabinet on 8th February 2010 prior to full Council approval as part of the 2010/11 Budget and Policy Framework.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- .1 That Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee considers the proposals and comment accordingly.

4. CONTACT OFFICER

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CABINET REPORT

25th January 2010



Report of: Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods

Subject: 2010/11 PROPOSALS FOR CAPITAL PROGRAMME FUNDING

SUMMARY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek Cabinet approval for Capital Programme proposals to be put forward to Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee for their consideration.

2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

The report outlines the background to £1.2 million of funding available for capital programme works and presents proposals that have been prioritised by the Strategic Capital Resource and Asset Programme Team. It is suggested that Cabinet agree to forward the proposals to Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee for their consideration in line with previous requests.

3. RELEVANCE TO CABINET

The funding is part of the 2010/11 Budget and Policy Framework Proposals.

4. TYPE OF DECISION

Non key.

5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Cabinet 25th January 2010 then to Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee 29th January 2010, returning to Cabinet on 8th February 2010 prior to full Council approval.

6. DECISION(S) REQUIRED

That Cabinet approve the forwarding of the proposals to Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee for their consideration.

Report of: Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods

Subject: 2010/11 PROPOSALS FOR CAPITAL PROGRAMME FUNDING

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Cabinet approval for Capital Programme proposals to be put forward to Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee for their consideration.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In February 2009 Members confirmed their commitment to Unsupported Prudential Borrowing for a range of local priorities which do not attract Government funding and to provide an annual allocation until 2011/2012 for asset management issues together with other items.
- 2.2 This is the area that Members can most readily exercise policy choices, albeit at a cost to the review budget, unless schemes can generate sufficient income in their own right.
- 2.3 Budget provision to fund the revenue consequences of the following prudential borrowing have been built into the budget process.

3. CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 Detailed proposals have been developed (see **Appendix 1**). In previous years these details have not been included in the detail budget proposals submitted to Scrutiny prior to consideration at Council. Following on from comments at Scrutiny, when the second quarter financial monitoring report was considered and bearing in mind that they are in intrinsic part of the budget and policy framework it is suggested that they be submitted separately for Scrutiny so that their views can be incorporated into the Cabinet's final budget recommendations to Council in February 2010.
- 3.2 Expenditure and commitments are reviewed throughout the year to ensure the full allocation is prioritised and spent.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That Cabinet approve the forwarding of the proposals to Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee for their consideration.

APPENDIX 1

SCRAPT Capital Projects 2010 - 2011
Available Budget £1,200,000

Project Name/Property	Recommended Budget
Disabled Facility Grants	£180,000
Key Vacant Buildings / General Flexible Town Wide Grant Pot	£200,000
Match Funding to lever in Regeneration Support.	£250,000
Air Monitoring Equipment Replacement of existing and provisional of additional station.	£70,000
Voluntary Sector Premises Pool Grants to voluntary / community sector for premises related expenditure	£25,000
Newburn Bridge Roof and security doors replacement .	£85,000
North Cemetery Phased structural rebuilding of retaining wall.	£75,000
Lynn Street Depot Workshops roof replacement	£50,000
Building Management Systems Replacement of obsolete equipment to achieve improved energy control	£45,000
Central Library Boiler Replacement	70,000
Seaton Carew Community Centre Window Replacement	*£65,000
Seaton Carew Sports Hall Roof replacement	*£85,000
Total	£1,180,000

***NOTE**

There is an ongoing study regarding facilities at Seaton Carew and ultimately these items will be the subject of the outcomes of that study.

Window replacement at the Community Centre is an essential requirement to ensure service provision continues. The Sports Hall roof replacement is still the subject of review, and this scheme may be amended depending upon the outcome of the study. It is recognised that if the Sports Hall is to remain operational in the medium term some substantial works are needed.