

DECISION-MAKER:		SCRUTINY PANEL C		
SUBJECT:		KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY INQUIRY – MEETING THREE PAPERS		
DATE OF DECISION:		30 th September 2010		
REPORT OF:		HEAD OF CORPORATE POLICY AND PERFORMANCE		
AUTHOR:	Name:	Adam Reeves	Tel:	023 8083 3378
	E-mail:	adam.reeves@southampton.gov.uk		

STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

None.

SUMMARY

On the 17th June 2010 the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee agreed the Terms Of Reference and Outline Plan for an inquiry into the local Knowledge Economy. Meeting One of the Panel focused on setting the scene locally and Meeting Two looked at evidence from the two Southampton Universities and the 14-19 and Adult Education perspectives. The third meeting of the Inquiry will focus on the “Business Perspective” and look in particular at the challenges and issues that local companies face when setting up and running their businesses in the City.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (i) That the Panel reviews the attached appendices in preparation for the third meeting of the Knowledge Economy Inquiry on 30th September 2010 which will focus on views from local businesses.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To enable the Panel to gain more information about this topic in advance of the forthcoming Inquiry session.

CONSULTATION

2. Stakeholders will be consulted throughout the Inquiry period.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

3. None.

DETAIL

4. The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on the 22nd April agreed that two Scrutiny Inquiries should be carried out by Panel C in 2010/11.
5. The Committee agreed that the first inquiry should focus on the local Knowledge Economy whilst the second inquiry that will be carried out later in the year will examine the City’s Cruise Industry and how we can maximise the benefits it brings to the City.

6. The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee suggested that the proposed Knowledge Economy Inquiry should consider “Maximising the benefits of the 2 Universities and creating a knowledge economy in Southampton” with consideration being given to the recent Centre for Cities report, revision of the PUSH Economic Development plan, Business Southampton’s work in developing a single marketing entity for the city and the aspiration for Southampton to become a premier office location.
7. Discussions were held with the then Assistant Chief Executive (Economic Development and Regeneration) and the Economic Development Manager to develop Terms of Reference for this Inquiry. They have highlighted the importance of ensuring that the review focuses on stimulating the development of the local knowledge economy, which includes maximising the economic benefits that the two Universities bring to the city.
8. Terms of Reference and an Inquiry Plan were agreed at the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee of 17th June 2010. It was also agreed that the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee should meet with the Chair of this Panel before the first meeting to clarify any outstanding issues relating to the attached Terms of Reference and Inquiry Plan. This meeting took place before the first meeting of the panel.
9. The full Council meeting of 14th July 2010 approved changes to membership of Scrutiny Panels A and C which will require the meeting to discuss the appointment of a new Chair.
10. The first meeting of the Scrutiny Inquiry into the Knowledge Economy heard evidence from Jeff Walters, Economic Development Manager, Southampton City Council who focused on setting the local scene, considered barriers and opportunities, assets, performance and policy direction and research. The second speaker was Kishor Tailor, Economic Development Manager, PUSH (Partnership For Urban South Hampshire) who outlined the role of PUSH, perceived barriers and opportunities, the Diamonds For Growth and Solent Synergy programmes and the Centre for Cities report relating to the PUSH area.
11. The second meeting heard evidence from Dr. Keith Johnson, Pro Vice-Chancellor, External Development, Southampton Solent University, Professor Philip Nelson, Deputy Vice Chancellor, University Of Southampton and Dr. Tony Raven, Director of Research and Innovation Services, University of Southampton. These University representatives presented on and discussed the view from the Universities on issues relating to the local Knowledge Economy.
12. Also giving evidence were Denise Edghill, Senior Commissioning Manager, Children’s Services and Learning, Southampton City Council and Angela Wright, Chief Executive of Solent Education Business Partnership who gave their views from the adult education and 14-19 year old perspective.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital

13. Not applicable.

Revenue

14. Not applicable.

Property

15. Not applicable.

Other

16. Not applicable.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

17. The duty to undertake overview and scrutiny is set out in Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000 and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

Other Legal Implications:

18. None.

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

19. None.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

1	Meeting Three Running Order
---	-----------------------------

Documents In Members' Rooms

	None
--	------

Background Documents

2010/11 Scrutiny Programme (Agreed by Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on 22nd April 2010)

	None	
--	------	--

Background documents available for inspection at: Room 10, Civic Centre, Southampton.

FORWARD PLAN No: Not applicable **KEY DECISION?** No

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	Not applicable
------------------------------------	----------------

Documents In Members' Rooms

	None
--	------

Background Documents

2010/11 Scrutiny Programme (Agreed by Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on 22nd April 2010)

	None	
--	------	--

Background documents available for inspection at: Room 10, Civic Centre, Southampton.

FORWARD PLAN No: Not applicable **KEY DECISION?** No

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	Not applicable
------------------------------------	----------------