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CITY COUNCIL



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COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Committee Report

Public

Date of Meeting: 28th August 2003

Title: SUBJECT REVIEW/INQUIRY - POST FOOT AND MOUTH
DISEASE ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH MATTERS - TERMS
OF REFERENCE

Report of: Overview and Scrutiny Manager

Report reference: OS 07/03

Summary:

The report outlines draft Terms of Reference and associated matters for this review/inquiry

Recommendations:

The committee agrees Terms of Reference, initial list of witnesses, ways of working and the provisional timetable.

Contact Officer: John Mallinson

Ext: 7010

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information)
Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers: None

1. Scope of Review

The review title itself (Post Foot And Mouth Disease Environmental And Health Matters) effectively defines the scope and it is important that the committee adheres to the topic as defined (i.e. only post FMD) and only the two aspects identified (i.e. not drift into FMD generally). This is because:-

- a. wider reviews have been done already (county, other regions and nationally)
- b. we couldn't resource a review which was more wide ranging
- c. other agencies probably wouldn't participate having already done so.

2. Start Point

Because of the other inquiries, which have considered evidence in these areas, the committee shouldn't start from scratch. It should therefore, consider the most relevant information namely, that which was locally focussed, as a first step. The County Foot & Mouth Disease Inquiry, which was a comprehensive and independent inquiry, included in-depth work on these two areas of concern and would therefore make a suitable start point.

3. Terms of Reference

Reflecting the above the Terms of Reference could therefore be:-

- a. To review the County Foot & Mouth Disease Inquiry findings on Environmental and Health Impacts
- b. To seek evidence to update the position on both aspects
- c. To establish what action has been taken in respect of that Inquiry's findings by relevant agencies on these matters
- d. To make any recommendations consequent upon the evidence received.

4. Potential Witnesses

Appropriate initial witnesses could include:-

- a. Representative(s) of the relevant North Cumbria Health Bodies
- b. Dr Peter Tiplady (who remains involved in a research project on FMD related health impacts)
- c. Environment Agency
- d. Head of Environmental Protection Services
- e. Environmental Interest Group
- f. Representative of County Foot & Mouth Disease Inquiry.

This list would be reviewed by the committee as the review/inquiry progressed as evidence may well suggest additional witnesses.

5. Ways of Working

A 'select committee' style is appropriate to this type of review/inquiry with the committee receiving evidence from the various witnesses and asking them relevant questions to establish an evidence base on which to build any appropriate findings/recommendations. There may well be opportunities for task groups to be established to look into particular subject areas and the committee can consider this as such opportunities emerge. The 'select committee' style of working does not sit well within a traditional committee meeting and it is therefore suggested that the committee consider holding special meetings, with no other business, when taking evidence.

6. Timetable

A provisional timetable could be:-

- a. 28th August 2003 - Agree Terms of Reference
- b. Special meeting late September/early October - commence work with review of County Foot & Mouth Disease Inquiry Findings and hearing evidence from first witnesses
- c. Special meeting November - further evidence from remaining witnesses
- d. 8th January or 12th February 2004 - consider draft report.

7. Recommendations

The committee agrees Terms of Reference, initial list of witnesses, ways of working and the provisional timetable.

John Mallinson
Overview and Scrutiny Manager
August 2003

