

COMMUNITY AND SAFER CITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME AND POLICY REVIEW 2010-11

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

8 JUNE 2010

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 For Members to determine the Annual Work Programme for the Scrutiny Committee during 2010-11, including the main theme for a detailed policy review.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Scrutiny Committee is responsible for setting its own work programme within the following scope:

General Scope: To consider issues relating to community safety and promoting a cohesive, integrated and inclusive community.

Remit: Safer Sunderland Strategy, Social Inclusion, Community Safety, Anti-Social Behaviour, Domestic Violence, Community Cohesion, Equalities, Licensing Policy, Community Associations, Registrars.

- 2.2 The Council's Scrutiny Committees are aligned to the relevant priorities of the Sustainable Community Strategy – the Sunderland Strategy. This allows each Scrutiny Committee to focus on the priority areas and targets in the Sunderland Strategy and Local Area Agreement (LAA) and for the work of all Scrutiny Committees to consistently address those areas of performance requiring detailed examination.
- 2.3 This approach allows a clear themed focus on the outcomes for the people of Sunderland, and allows for cross-cutting examination of issues, with potential for linking areas of knowledge and expertise that would not ordinarily be brought together, so increasing the likelihood of the committees identifying novel approaches and solutions to the issues they consider.
- 2.4 The most relevant Sunderland Strategy priority for this committee is:
- Safe City: To make Sunderland a place where everyone feels welcome and can be part of a safe and inclusive community, where people will feel secure and can enjoy life without worrying about becoming a victim of crime.*
- 2.5 All Scrutiny Committees will take a role in the scrutiny of partnership and area issues and have a role in engaging with partners, external scrutiny, community and public engagement, and engaging with media and area scrutiny.

3. Policy Review

- 3.1 Policy review is the process of maintaining an overview of council policies and will usually examine whether the Council and its partners intended policy outcomes have been achieved. The process will also explore issues such as the service user's perspective.
- 3.2 Policy reviews are project planned with appropriate methodology applied to investigate the chosen topic. This may include meetings, site visits, surveys, public meetings or analysis of comparative practice in other local authorities.
- 3.3 Previous reviews carried out by this Scrutiny Committee have included: Fear of Crime, Sunderland arc, Vibrant City Centre, Sunderland Housing Strategy, Communication with Sunderland Housing Group and Best Practice in Neighbourhood Renewal, Neighbourhood Renewal Fund and Community Cohesion. All previous reviews are available at <http://cityweb/directorates/chief-executive/scrutiny/scrutinyhome.shtm>
- 3.4 Following the selection of a topic for review, the Committee will receive a report setting out a possible approach to the review. This will include the terms of reference, definitions, links to corporate goals, partnerships, the national and local context, and proposals for gathering evidence.
- 3.5 The shortlist of topics for 2010-11 is listed below. The Committee is recommended to select one topic from this shortlist for an in depth review. The list includes all topics suggested by Members from the discussions held at the Scrutiny Conference on 20th May 2010.

Suggested Topics for Policy Review/Task and Finish Group		
	Brief Description	Objective
1.	Violent Crime Reduction	<p>Key performance measures on violent crime show a percentage rise in most serious violence against the person in the City. In addition the City has a high level of domestic violence which is highlighted in the Comprehensive Area Assessment.</p> <p>The Safer Sunderland Partnership Violent Crime Delivery Group covers violent crime, domestic violence, sexual exploitation and sexual violence.</p> <p>The Review would scrutinise the actions of the Safer Sunderland Partnership's interventions and actions to tackle most serious violence. This work would also impact on feelings of safety, fear of crime, women's public safety and public confidence in the criminal justice system.</p> <p>In addition; the City Council is required to have a local Tackling Violence against Women and Girls Strategy in place by April 2010 and as such input from the Scrutiny Committee would be invaluable.</p>

2.	Alcohol related Crime in the City Centre	To understand the powers of the council and other partner agencies in tackling alcohol-related crime across the city and consider the licensing policy and how licensed premises can contribute to reducing alcohol related crime.
3.	Community Safety: Diversionary activities for young people.	To identify how the Council can more effectively contribute to raising peoples' feelings of safety in their own communities by considering activities that are available for young people.

4. Work Programme

- 4.1 A draft work programme for 2010-11 with items already scheduled is attached as Appendix A.
- 4.2 The work programme can be amended during the year and any Member of the Committee can add an item of business to an agenda (See Protocol 1 Overview & Scrutiny Handbook).

5. Conclusion & Recommendation

- 5.1 The Committee is asked to:
- (a) Consider the draft Annual Work Programme for 2010-11 and indicate any additions or amendments; and
 - (b) Consider the list of suggestions for policy review and determine one topic for review.
- 5.2 Subject to any amendment at this meeting, the work programme will be submitted to the Management Scrutiny Committee in its coordinating role.

6. Background Papers

- 6.1 No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

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