

END OF YEAR REPORT - 2009/10

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

**Strategic Priorities: Safer and Prosperous City
Corporate Performance Objective: CI01,CI04**

1 Why has the report come to the Committee

- 1.1 To seek the views of members on a report setting out the operation and achievements of the Committee over the last year.
- 1.2 The report, together with the comments of members, will be submitted to the Management Scrutiny Committee on 29 April 2010. The report will then be incorporated into an Annual Scrutiny Report which is being prepared for the service as a whole.

2 Background

- 2.1 In June 2009, the members of the Scrutiny Committee agreed their annual work programme for the municipal year 2009/10. The Work Programme brought together the issues raised by members as the major priorities and challenges facing the city for the year ahead.
- 2.2 In drawing up the work programme, every effort was made to retain a degree of flexibility in the workload in order to allow the Committee to deal with issues of immediate concern.
- 2.3 The section that follows summarises the major issues by the Committee and sets out its main achievements.

3 Operation and Achievements of the Committee

The Community and Safer City Scrutiny Committee is one of the Council's newly established scrutiny committees and this is its first annual report.

In setting our work programme for the year, the Committee was keen to build on the foundations provided by the former Regeneration and Community Review Committee, in particular its study into fear of crime in the city.

From the outset, we agreed to focus our attention on one of the key challenges facing the city – tackling the issue of anti social behaviour. The Committee has therefore conducted an in depth review of the action being taken by the Council and its partner on the Safer Sunderland Partnership (SSP) to combat anti social behaviour and the fear of anti social behaviour.

During the year, we have met with a wide range of our partners in order to review the action being taken and identify any gaps in provision or examples of good practice. This includes representatives from Northumbria Police, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service, gentoo, Nexus, Victim Support and the Magistrates Court. We also received details of the impact of deprivation on the incidence of crime and anti-social behaviour.

The Committee also attended the XL Village evening event held at Redhouse school in order to view at first hand the kind of activities on offer for young people and speak with the organisers and the young people themselves. We were particularly impressed by the enthusiasm and dedication of the staff involved and the dramatic effect such events can have on incidences of anti social behaviour.

We also undertook a highly informative visit to Gilbridge Police Station in order to discuss the approach of the police to tackling anti social behaviour in the city. This was followed by a tour of a number of "hotspot" locations and visit to view at first hand the operation of the Partnership's CCTV centre based at the Civic Centre. The Committee also G4S offices based in Washington to discuss system of tagging for offenders.

The Committee has also looked at the work being done by the SSP to tackle violent crime in the city. At the beginning of the year, we received a report on a proposed pilot to introduce polycarbonate glasses into a number of pubs in the city centre. We were most impressed by the potential of the scheme to reduce incidences of crime and fear of crime and urged the SSP Board to identify additional funding for the pilot to be extended. Pleasingly, the SSP accepted out approach and we will continue to monitor the effect of the scheme in the year ahead.

What has been most pleasing during the year is the active level of support and commitment shown by our partners on the SSP. We feel it is important to continue to develop partnership working and strengthen the links with our partners.

In conclusion, I would like to thank my colleagues for their hard work and enthusiasm during the year and look forward to next year being equally rewarding and productive.

4. Recommendation

Members are asked to consider the operation, achievements and impact of the Committee during 2009/10;

That the report, together with the comments of members, be submitted to the Management Scrutiny Committee on 29 April 2010 and incorporated into the Annual Scrutiny Report.

5. Background Papers

CPA Action Plan
City of Sunderland Corporate Assessment

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