

# ENVIRONMENT AND ATTRACTIVE CITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

## ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME AND POLICY REVIEW 2010-11

### REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

17 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 remit:

*General Scope: To consider issues relating to environment, neighbourhoods and sense of place*

*Remit: Local Transport Plan; Unitary Development Plan; Building Control; Coast Protection; Cemeteries and Crematorium; Grounds Maintenance; Highway Services and Streetscene; Waste and Recycling; Allotments.*

- 2.2 The City Council's Scrutiny Committees are aligned to the relevant priorities of 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, linked to strategic and LAA priorities, is proposed to allow a clear themed focus on the outcomes for the people of Sunderland, and allow 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:

*Attractive and Accessible City - creating a city that celebrates and protects its natural and built environment, a place that is recognised inside and outside the city as an attractive and accessible place to live,*

*work, study and visit. The physical environment will support everyone in the city to achieve their aspirations, now and in the future.*

- 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, 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 City Council and its partners intended policy outcomes have been achieved. The process will also explore issues such as the perspective of residents affected by the policy.
- 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:

Traffic Issues (with a focus on parking issues); Highway and Network Management (with a focus on the potential for 20mph zones in the city); Allotment Provision; Public Realm and Streetscene; Carbon Management; Child Pedestrian Accidents and Road Safety; Development of Cycling within the city; City Centre Traffic Management and Recycling.

All previous reviews are available at:-

<http://www.sunderland.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=3420>

- 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 topics suggested as priorities at the discussions between members, officers and partners at the Annual Scrutiny Conference on 20 May 2010.

<b>Suggested Topics for Policy Review/Task and Finish Group</b>		
	<b>Brief Description</b>	<b>Objective</b>
1.	Sunderland 'The Place'	A review into the strands of activity taking place across the local authority, including the Legible City strategy, PR and Marketing and whether there is a cohesive approach to positioning Sunderland regionally and nationally.
2.	Recycling Implementation Review	To review the success of recycling initiatives and practices across the city and investigate cultures and attitudes toward recycling.
3.	Traffic Management	To review the flow of traffic on routes in, out and across the city (including the City Centre).
4.	Public Realm	A review of the public realm, public spaces between private buildings including pavements, streets, squares, parks.
5.	Reducing the carbon footprint	Developing on best practice around the city.
6.	Encouraging the use public transport	Encouraging the use of public transport through the provision of Park and Ride and Bus Prioritisation schemes.

#### **4. Work Programme**

- 4.1 A draft work programme for 2010-11 is attached as Appendix A. The work programme will be populated with items agreed by Members at this meeting and submitted to the July meeting.
- 4.2 The work programme can be amended during the year. 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
  - (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**

None

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