

**Asset Management Review**

**Report of the Director of Development and Regeneration**

**Strategic Priorities: Prosperous City of Sunderland Council Corporate Improvement Objectives: Effective and Efficient Council**

**1.0 Why has this report come to Committee?**

1.1 Members may recall a report to the then Policy and Coordination Review Committee in September 2008 which set out the Councils approach to the review of its property portfolio, and in particular the review of the Councils Industrial Portfolio. This report updates the Committee as to the current position.

**2.0 Current Position**

2.1 It had been intended before now to bring a further report to the Committee setting out the findings of the review of the Industrial Portfolio. Members may be aware however that the Audit Committee has recently undertaken a review of the Councils approach to Strategic Asset Management. This was a wide ranging review which covered all aspects of the Councils corporate approach to asset management, and recognised the role that the Policy and Coordination Review Committee had undertaken in regard to the scrutiny of asset management issues.

2.2 The Audit Commission has however recommended that the scope of the review into the Councils Industrial Portfolio be broadened to consider a range of additional options such as expanding or reducing the portfolio, and which estates are suitable for job creation or job retention. As a consequence, the review of the Industrial Portfolio is currently being revised so as to take these comments into account. It has not therefore proved possible to report back to the Committee within the timescale previously envisaged, although it is anticipated that the review will be available in October 2009.

**3.0 Community Assets Review**

3.1 Members may also recall that the Committee, as part of the same report in September of last year, discussed the review of the Councils community assets that was also underway.

3.2 Considerable progress has been made and each of the Council owned buildings in which community activities take place have been considered in terms of the asset condition, the management and governance arrangements in place, and the programmes that are delivered from each building. This has enabled the provision of activities across the City to be mapped.

3.3 The next steps are to identify, as much as is practical, which activities are delivered from non Council owned buildings so as to understand how each area of the City is served. The completed piece of work will then enable an analysis of provision in each area, leading to the development of a policy for the provision and support of community development activities which are sustainable in the long term.

#### **4.0 Recommendations**

4.1 The Committee is asked to note the information contained in the report, and

- i) to agree to receive a further report on the review of the Industrial Portfolio in October 2009,
- ii) to agree to receive a further report on the review of Community Assets in due course.

#### **5.0 Background Papers**

5.1 Property data and property Review files held by the Director of Development and Regeneration.