

REVIEW INTO LOCAL STUDIES PROVISION IN SUNDERLAND: DRAFT FINAL REPORT

LINK TO WORK PROGRAMME: POLICY DEVELOPMENT & REVIEW

Report of the Chief Executive

**STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: SP1, SP5
CORPORATE PRIORITIES: CIO1, CIO4**

1. Why has this report come to committee?

- 1.1 The report provides Members of the committee with the draft final report from the evidence gathered in relation to the mini-review into Local Studies.
- 1.2 The review report presents in detail the evidence, research and conclusions drawn throughout the review process and members are asked to comment on this for relevance, clarity and accuracy.
- 1.3 The working group review into local studies has links to the Councils Strategic Priorities in particular 'Attractive and Inclusive City.' The review also has links to Corporate Priorities on delivering customer focused services and improving partnership working.

2. Background

- 2.1 At its meeting on 15th June, 2009 following discussions regarding the work programme the Committee consider the possibility, among other topics, of a study into local studies within Sunderland. The Committee discounted a review of Local Studies as the in-depth policy review for 2009-10, however it was decided that a smaller review should be undertaken by the Committee.
- 2.2 Further to this a Scoping Paper for a review into Local Studies provision was presented to, and agreed by the Scrutiny Committee at the meeting of 15th December 2009 which contained the background, context and terms of reference for the review.

3. The Draft Final Report

- 3.1 The draft final report on local studies provision in Sunderland is attached as an appendix to this report and presents members with the facts and evidence that have been gathered throughout the review process. As part of the review process evidence was obtained from a variety of stakeholders.
- 3.2 The report is divided into a number of sections which provide the background information to the mini-review, how the working group review was carried out and the findings and conclusions from the mini-review process. The findings from this are set out as follows:

- Local Studies – The National and Local Picture
- Staffing Resource
- Partnership Working
- Volunteering Opportunities
- Accessibility
- Audience Development
- Consultation.

3.3 Members are asked to read the report and comment on the content with particular reference to the recommendations arising from the evidence gathered and presented in the report. Members may wish to amend the report for purposes of accuracy, clarity or relevance to ensure the report is a true reflection of the work undertaken.

4. Conclusion

4.1 The Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee is presented with a final draft copy of the policy review document for comment and amendment with the aim of producing a final report for presentation and approval by Cabinet.

5. Recommendation

5.1 That the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee provides comments on the final draft report and that any agreed amendments are made.

5.2 That consideration is given to the recommendations contained in the final draft report.

5.3 That the agreed final report is presented to the Cabinet for approval at its June 2010 meeting.

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