

REVIEW INTO LOCAL STUDIES PROVISION IN SUNDERLAND: DRAFT 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 first draft 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 Report

- 3.1 The draft 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 findings of the review and the conclusions that have been drawn from these findings. Members may wish to amend the report for purposes of accuracy, clarity or relevance to ensure the report is a true reflection of the review work undertaken.

3.4 Members should also begin to consider themes and issues for recommendations. The draft report has made some provisional recommendations, however it is for members to consider the relevancy and content of these recommendations in relation to the local studies.

4. Conclusion

4.1 The Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee are presented with a draft copy of the review document for comment and amendment with the aim of producing a final draft report with recommendations for approval by the committee.

5. Recommendation

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

5.2 That consideration is the draft recommendations and that comments and amendments are included in the final review report by the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee.

5.3 That a final review report is presented to the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee at its April 2009 meeting.

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