

**(g) SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –
PROGRESS REPORT**

**REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**Strategic Priorities: CIO1: Delivering Customer Focused Services, CIO4:
Improving partnership working to deliver 'One City'.**

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To inform the Members of the Management Scrutiny Committee of the progress made to date by the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee.

2. Progress of Scrutiny Committee

- 2.1 This is the first report to this committee on the progress of the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee. The report provides progress on the work of the committee since its first meeting on 15 June 2009 as follows:-

- (a) The Access to Housing Policy Review has been scoped and work is ongoing in gathering evidence as part of the review process. Members have held focus groups with officers of the Health, Housing and Adult Services Directorate and social housing providers across Sunderland.
- (b) The committee has also received the first of 3 reports around climate change in Sunderland. The purpose of these reports is to provide members of the committee with information relating to current initiatives and the sustainability of such initiatives in and around Sunderland.
- (c) Members of the Committee have also developed, through consultation with council officers, a major projects report which will provide the committee with an overview of the current progress of some of the city's major projects. This report will be presented to committee on a quarterly basis and allow for members to pursue topics of interest in a greater detail if required.
- (d) The committee has also received the first update on the previous Culture and Leisure Review Committee policy review – A Place to Play. The report outlined progress on the recommendations.

- (e) A member of the committee also attended a conference in London on the Fair and Flexible Housing Policy and this information has proved useful in developing themes within this years policy review.
- (f) The committee has received reports around supported housing and homelessness and these have proved informative and have provided further information for the policy review as well as detailing some of the current issues around the city.
- (g) The Committee is involved in the consultation process for the Football Investment Strategy and officers from City Services have presented information to members for comment.

2.2 The Committee are also looking at the following:

- (a) The committee are preparing to undertake a mini-review into Local Studies which will provide members with the opportunity to look at the current service available and how this can be improved. A scoping paper is expected to be presented to the committee in December 2009.
- (b) As part of the Access to Housing Policy Review arrangements are being finalised for representatives from Coventry Council to visit Sunderland and share their experiences of developing a single route into housing. This will provide important evidence for the policy review.
- (c) The committee are also looking into sustainability appraisals and have requested further information from officers on this issue and this is expected in January 2010.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Management Scrutiny Committee notes the progress of the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee.

4. Background Papers

Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2009/10

Contact Officer: Nigel Cummings, Scrutiny Officer
0191 561 1006
nigel.cummings@sunderland.gov.uk