

**LEAD SCRUTINY MEMBER UPDATE: NOVEMBER 2013**

**JOINT REPORT OF THE LEAD SCRUTINY MEMBERS**

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide an update to the Scrutiny Committee regarding the work of each of the six Lead Scrutiny Members and supporting Panels.

**2. SCRUTINY LEAD MEMBER UPDATE**

***Scrutiny Chair and Vice Chair (Cllrs David Tate and Norma Wright)***

- 2.1 On 8 October 2013, the Chair and Vice Chair met with officers to discuss the forthcoming changes to leisure provision in Sunderland. The meeting specifically focused on scrutiny's future involvement in developing a strategic approach to increasing participation in physical activity, sport and leisure.
- 2.2 The Chair and Vice Chair also met with officers the following day to discuss the annual informal scrutiny budget consultation for 2014/15. It was agreed the meeting will be held on **10 December 2013, at 1.00pm until 3.00pm**. Further details will follow.
- 2.3 The Regional Scrutiny Network was held on 18 October 2013. Cllr Tate led the meeting for the first time in his role as the Chair of the Network. Members and officers received a regional report produced by the National Offender Management Service in relation to Reducing Reoffending in the North East: improving joint working between prisons and local authorities. It also heard from Gateshead Citizens Advice Bureau in relation to the frontline perspective of the impact of Welfare Reform.
- 2.4 On 29 October 2013, the Lead Member for City Services attended a meeting of the South Tyneside Select Committee on behalf of the scrutiny function to hear a presentation from the Coal Authority about the proposed Aquifer at Whitburn. Durham colleagues were also present at this meeting which was an opportunity for Members to raise any queries they had regarding the Aquifer. The main concerns raised at the meeting were the potential environmental impact of the pumping facility on the sea and the surrounding land. The next phase of the programme will be to submit planning / licence applications in November 2013. This will be followed by a public consultation by the Environment Agency.

***Children's Services (Cllr Debra Waller)***

- 2.5 The Panel has recently met with officers from the local authority and City Hospitals Sunderland around the Sunderland Lifestyle, Activity & Food Programme and the Specialist Childhood Weight Management Service to

discuss the programmes and support provided to children identified as being overweight or obese. The meeting provided information for the review and illustrated how the local authority and hospital were working together across the city to tackle this issue.

- 2.6 The aim of both programmes is to promote and encourage, through a series of healthy lifestyle sessions, children and their families to eat well, become more active and live longer. The Panel noted that families often do not see the issue, do not address the problem and therefore are difficult to engage with through the support programmes.
- 2.7 The Panel are to visit the Stay and Bake Programme at the Tansy Centre in South Hylton. This is an interesting concept that provides an opportunity to engage and develop relationships with families through a cookery course, and this may provide a way to engage with families to acknowledge weight issues, where they exist, and access support.

### ***City Services (Cllr Stephen Bonallie)***

- 2.8 On 5 October 2013, the Panel met with representatives from the Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB) as part of its review into licensing and alcohol. In attendance were Lynne Thomas (SSCB Business Manager), Jan Van Wagendonk (SSCB Independent Chair) and Linda Mason (Chair of the SSCB Legal, Policy and Procedures Sub Committee).
- 2.9 The Panel discussed a range of issues including the level and effect of underage drinking on the health and behaviour of young people, together with the detrimental effect of parent who drink too much.
- 2.10 In relation to licensing, it was noted that the SSCB is a statutory consultee on any licensing applications. While the Board is asked to comment there was in practice unfortunately very little upon which they could comment due to a lack of information on safeguarding contained within applications. It was considered important that licensees had a wider understanding of the impact of excessive drinking on family life.
- 2.11 It was suggested that the Council should work with the SSCB and the police in order to put together a package of information that could be distributed to all licensees.
- 2.12 The Panel also received feedback on last year's policy review into Waste and Recycling in Sunderland: Approach to Resident Engagement. It was noted that a great deal of progress had already been made in implementing the report's recommendations.
- 2.13 The Panel took the opportunity to discuss the operation of the bulky waste collection service and existing levels of fly tipping. There was also some discussion around the time taken to order a new or replacement bin and the need to target communications with residents in order that they are clear about the standard of service they can expect. Overall, Members

referred to the very high quality of the waste and refuse collection service in Sunderland

***Health, Housing and Adult Services (Cllr Christine Shattock)***

- 2.14 The Panel continues to gather evidence around supporting carers and recently visited the newly opened St Benedict's Hospice in Ryhope. The hospice provides Specialist Palliative Care (SPC) that aims to improve the quality of life of patients and their families facing problems associated with life-threatening illness. The visit also highlighted how the hospice supports carers and their links with other organisations including the Carers' Centre. The hospice provides support to the population of Sunderland and North Easington (due to geographical location) and is fully funded by the NHS.
- 2.15 Members also discussed the Liverpool Care Pathway (LCP), which had recently undergone an independent review of its use in England, brought about through substantial criticism in the media which had created a general unease with the public. It was noted that the LCP had been in use in Sunderland since 1999 and that it was to be phased out within the next six to 12 months.
- 2.16 The Panel's next meeting will be to review the evidence gathered so far and prepare for the expert jury day which is to be held in early December. The jury day will provide a large quantity of evidence from a range of stakeholders, captured in a single day.

***Public Health, Wellness and Culture (Cllr George Howe)***

- 2.17 The Panel is looking into patient and public engagement (PPE) in the health service.
- 2.18 A meeting was held on 8 October to take evidence from the Patient Engagement lead at NHS England. NHS England is at the starting point of encouraging the development of new relationships between patients, carers and clinicians.
- 2.19 The Panel heard that patient engagement should be a strand of quality in its own right. The NHS Patient Engagement Framework is evidence-based which means that a large amount of evidence is collected to provide an overview of patient views. The Panel is still in the process of determining the extent to which this large volume of evidence is used to reflect patient views in service delivery.
- 2.20 Through NHS England, each Area Team will have high level Quality Surveillance Group which will share intelligence about health services thereby pooling PPE in one place. Added to this, the implementation of the Friends and Family Test is designed to help standardise the views of patients and relatives.

- 2.21 While there is a vast amount of information on patient views, the Panel is still trying to determine the weighting given to public views in shared decision making and will be continuing to collect evidence from providers.

***Skills, Economy and Regeneration (Cllr Tom Martin)***

- 2.22 On 15 October 2013, the Panel held its meeting at the Evolve Business Centre, Rainton Bridge. As well as touring the building, Members had the opportunity to discuss with local firms the opportunities available for the Software and IT sector and the obstacles to future growth.
- 2.23 The meeting was attended by Anne Curtis, Creative Director at Shoo Fly Publishing, David Glyn (CEO/Development) and Claire Glyn (Marketing) at 4<sup>th</sup> Aspect and David Cliff, Managing Director of Gedanken.
- 2.24 A number of issues were raised during the meeting including the importance of the high quality infrastructure provided by the Centre, together with the prestige this brought when dealing with potential clients. The Centre also offered access to a highly skilled and committed workforce, good transport links and an attractive local environment.
- 2.25 Reference was made to the importance of promoting the Centre and making people aware of the facilities on offer. There was also a need to encourage the flow of information between the Council, the University and firms based at the Centre. It was felt that in many ways the software sector should be seen as a form of advanced manufacturing and its value should be better understood and championed. The quality of the city's cultural offer, housing and local environment was an important influence in attracting new business into the city. It was also important that the Council's procurement process took account and was accessible for smaller local companies.

***Responsive Services and Customer Care (Cllr Iain Kay)***

- 2.26 The Panel is carrying out a review of volunteering with a focus on unlocking capacity.
- 2.27 The Panel met on 17 October to take evidence on the Council's approach to facilitating and promoting volunteering, including the use of volunteers to support delivery of Council services and the role of the Council in promoting volunteering opportunities in communities.
- 2.28 The Panel discussed volunteering opportunities for employees within the council. The current arrangement allows employees to gain learning credits in work time but the opportunities are not well known. Future arrangements through a revised strategy may include increasing the ways that employees can be involved in volunteering.

2.29 In terms of opportunities in communities, increasing the numbers of volunteers participating in priority activities will be a focus of the revised volunteering strategy. The Panel discussed young people's involvement in community life and, in particular, how the University supports students to integrate into the local community through volunteering opportunities. The Panel will focus on the role of young people at a future meeting.

### 3. CHANGES TO PANEL MEMBERSHIPS

3.1 Non-executive Members have now been allocated to a scrutiny panel, membership of the panels has been decided in accordance with current political arrangements.

3.2 Scrutiny Panels are informal; therefore there is flexibility within the arrangements to revise Panel memberships at any point in the municipal year to reflect changes to Member capacity and other commitments.

3.3 There are no changes to report; therefore the complete membership of the Scrutiny Panels is attached for information and consideration as **Appendix 1** of this report.

### 4. DEDICATED SCRUTINY BUDGET

4.1 A small budgetary provision of £15,000 per annum is available to the Scrutiny Committee and the supporting Panels to deliver the agreed Annual Scrutiny Committee Work Programme.

4.2 As of 28 October 2013 the breakdown of the budget stood as follows:-

Description	£
Scrutiny Development	5,146.16
Member Development	2,282.59
Policy Review Development	0.00
<b>Total Expenditure to Date</b>	<b>7,428.75</b>
<b>Budget</b>	<b>15,000</b>
<b>Remaining Budget</b>	<b>7571.25</b>

### 5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 It is recommended that the Scrutiny Committee notes and considers the update of the Lead Scrutiny Members.

### 6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Scrutiny Committee Agenda and Papers
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## APPENDIX 1

### MEMBERSHIP OF THE SIX SCRUTINY PANELS

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>City Services</b></p> <p>Scrutiny Lead Member: Cllr Stephen Bonallie</p> <p>Cllr Neville Padgett Cllr Michael Essl Cllr Stuart Porthouse Cllr Lynda Scanlan Cllr Steven Foster Cllr Amy Wilson Cllr Dianne Snowdon</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Health, Housing &amp; Adult Services</b></p> <p>Scrutiny Lead Member: Cllr Christine Shattock</p> <p>Cllr Jill Fletcher Cllr Ronny Davison Cllr Alan Emerson Cllr Rosalind Copeland Cllr Darryl Dixon Cllr Lisa Smiles Cllr Barbara McLennan Cllr Dorothy Trueman Cllr Mary Turton Cllr Gemma Taylor</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Children's Services</b></p> <p>Scrutiny Lead Member: Cllr Debra Waller</p> <p>Cllr Florence Anderson Cllr Linda Williams Cllr Doris MacKnight Cllr Anthony Farr Cllr Philip Tye Cllr Robert Oliver Cllr Bob Francis</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Skills, Economy &amp; Regeneration</b></p> <p>Scrutiny Lead Member: Cllr Tom Martin</p> <p>Cllr Bob Price Cllr Christine Marshall Cllr David Snowdon Cllr Denny Wilson Cllr Len Lauchlan Cllr Tom Wright Cllr Peter Wood</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Public Health, Wellness &amp; Culture</b></p> <p>Scrutiny Lead Member: Cllr George Howe</p> <p>Cllr Debra Waller Cllr Louise Farthing Cllr Fiona Miller Cllr Julia Jackson Cllr Rebecca Atkinson Cllr David Errington Cllr Paul Maddison</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Responsive Services &amp; Customer Care</b></p> <p>Scrutiny Lead Member: Cllr Iain Kay</p> <p>Cllr Bob Heron Cllr Betty Gibson Cllr Barry Curran Cllr Anne Lawson Cllr John Scott Cllr George Thompson Cllr John Wiper</p>

