

ENVIRONMENTAL AND PLANNING REVIEW COMMITTEE

16 June 2008

WORK PROGRAMME 2008-09

REPORT OF THE CITY SOLICITOR

Strategic Priorities : Attractive and Inclusive City and Prosperous City

1. Why has this report come to the Committee?

- 1.1 To consider and agree a work programme for the Review Committee for the municipal year 2008/09.
- 1.2 To consider a topic for policy development and review as part of the Committee's work programme. Members' views on the work programme will shape the work of the Committee for the year ahead.

2. Background

- 2.1 The work programme of the Committee sets out the key issues to be addressed during the year and a timetable of work. To be effective, the work programme seeks to provide a framework for the year ahead, while retaining sufficient flexibility to respond to any important issues that may emerge.
- 2.2 The Work Programme seeks to reflect the remit of the Review Committee and balance its responsibility for undertaking scrutiny, performance management and policy review and development.
- 2.3 The Work Programme is a working document which the Committee can develop throughout the year. As a living document the work programme allows Members and Officers to maintain an overview of work planned and undertaken during the Council year.
- 2.4 The work of the Committee in delivering its work programme will support the Council in achieving its Strategic Priorities of an Attractive and Inclusive City and a Prosperous City as set out in the Sunderland Strategy 2008-2025 and the Local Area Agreement 2008-2011.

3. Current position

Work Programme

- 3.1 A draft work programme is attached marked appendix 1. The programme includes work items requested by the Committee previously and work carried over from 2007-08.
- 3.2 The work programme also incorporates the priorities identified by Members at the First Annual Scrutiny Workshop held on 20 May 2008. A summary of the issues raised during the breakout session for the Environmental and Planning Review Committee is attached marked Appendix 2.
- 3.3 At this point in the year, Members may also want to retain sufficient flexibility within the work programme to allow the Committee to respond to issues that emerge during the year, in addition to ensuring that the Committee investigates and monitors issues already identified as a Committee priority.
- 3.4 In particular, Members may wish to ensure that future agendas can accommodate early consultation on emerging proposals, to ensure that the Committee's work is able to contribute to the development of new Council or partners' proposals at an early stage when the Committee's views can add maximum value.
- 3.5 Members of Review Committees have also expressed a wish to explore new ways of working, such as increased use of task and finish groups. Members may wish to identify those themes where the use of such groups could make a significant contribution to the work of the Committee.

Policy Development and Review

- 3.6 Policy development and review is a central component of the work of the Council's Review Committees.
- 3.7 Policy development and review studies provide an opportunity for the Review Committee to assist the Council and Cabinet in the development of future service policy. It also provides an opportunity for examining issues of direct concern to the local community, encouraging public and service user engagement and building on existing partnership arrangements.
- 3.8 Based on the priority issues raised during the Scrutiny Workshop and summarised in appendix 2, Members are invited to consider the study area it wishes to examine in the current municipal year.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 The work programme developed from the meeting will form a flexible mechanism for managing the work of the Committee in 2008-09.

5 Recommendation

5.1 That the work programme for 2008/09 be approved and submitted to the Policy & Co-ordination Review Committee.

5.2 That the Committee identify an area to examine as part of a policy review and development.

6. Background Papers

6.1 briefing note for First Annual Scrutiny Workshop held 20th May 2008

6.2 MORI survey

7. Glossary

n/a

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