

LEAD SCRUTINY MEMBER UPDATE: SEPTEMBER 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 The Chair and Vice Chair met with representatives of the Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group on 18 July 2013, to discuss the relationship it will have with the Scrutiny Committee going forward. Some actions were agreed at the meeting which have been / will be implemented.
- 2.2 The Chair and the Lead Member for Children's Services met with representatives from the School Improvement Service on 4 September to follow up an initial meeting held last year which looked at the results of the Ofsted Inspection Plan for Oxclose School.
- 2.3 The next regional scrutiny network meeting will take place on **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October, (venue to be announced) from 10.00 – 12.30pm**. The Citizens Advice Bureau will be in attendance to discuss welfare reform. All scrutiny members are encouraged to attend.

*Children's Services (Cllr Debra Waller)*

- 2.4 The Children's Services Scrutiny Panel has arranged a number of evidence gathering sessions that will take place over the coming months. The Panel are to visit Highfield Community Primary school, which has banned packed lunches, and also the Stay and Bake initiative which looks at teaching families to eat healthy and cook on a budget. The Panel will also be taking evidence from NHS child nutritionists and discussing with council officers the programmes in place in the city to tackle child obesity.
- 2.5 The Scrutiny Panel has also canvassed a number of local authorities around the country who have or are in the process of looking at ways to control the proliferation of fast food outlets in their areas as a way of tackling child obesity and obesity in general.
- 2.6 The Panel is also to look at the issue of sexual exploitation and the work the council undertakes around this very sensitive issue and a meeting is to be arranged that will see officers and members coming together to discuss this in greater detail.

*City Services (Cllr Stephen Bonallie)*

- 2.7 The Panel met on 18 July 2013 to agree the remit and work programme for its review into the operation of licensing in the city and receive background information in relation to the review.

- 2.8 The Panel also received a progress report on the pilot programme for introducing 20 mph zones in parts of the city.
- 2.9 The Panel also received feedback on the actions proposed by the Executive to implement the Panel's recommendations contained in its review into the operation of the Tell Us Once for Bereavement Service.
- 2.10 The next meeting of the Panel will be held on 18 September 2013. The meeting will focus on its review into licensing, meeting with Sue Robinson from BALANCE and Chief Inspector Jerry Pearson from Northumbria Police.

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

- 2.11 The Health, Housing and Adult Services Scrutiny Panel is looking at supporting carers across the city and have a number of evidence gathering sessions arranged or being planned. The Panel is to visit the Carers Centre in Thompson Park in September and this will provide the opportunity for Members to gain a real understanding of the work that is undertaken there as well as being able to meet and talk with members of staff and carers who use the centre's resources. The Panel are also to visit St Benedict's Hospice which provides specialist palliative care to people in Sunderland.
- 2.12 The Panel are also planning to hold an Expert Jury Day in December which will provide important evidence for the review and already the event will see representatives from the CCG, Age UK, NTW and the Carers Centre providing expert opinion on the issue of Carers.

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

- 2.13 The Panel is pursuing a review of public engagement in the health service. We held a meeting on 16 July to hear from the Care Quality Commission about how they use patient information to improve services, and also how they regulate health providers and how they use information from service users to help with their regulation activities.
- 2.14 Some Members of the Panel attended a Governing Body meeting of the Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group held in public on 23 July in order to assess the openness and transparency of the decision-making process as part of the review of public engagement.

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

- 2.15 The Panel last met on 24 July 2013 in order to agree the remit and scope of the review into the Diversification of the Local Economy. Ian Williams (Business Investment Director) was also in attendance to set the scene and provide some background information in relation to the review.
- 2.16 The Panel also received feedback on the actions proposed by the Executive to implement the Panel's recommendations contained in its review into the operation of the Work Programme in the city.
- 2.17 The next meeting of the Panel will be held on 19 September 2013. The Panel will receive a presentation from Vince Taylor (Head of Strategy and Performance) on the approach being

taken on diversification as part of the Sunderland Economic Masterplan. The Panel will also receive feedback from the Executive in relation to its review into the delivery of Apprenticeships in the city.

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

- 2.18 The Panel is pursuing a review of volunteering with a focus on unlocking capacity.
- 2.19 The Panel met on 23 July and took evidence from the Voluntary Organisations North East Network on the state of the sector in the north east and in Sunderland. Organisations in Sunderland stated that in the last 12 months they had seen a 68% decrease in funding, yet there had been a 61% increase in demand for their services. Organisations reported that they had worries about sustainability, but there was willingness to fight for survival and an acceptance of the need to look at diversifying. The Panel had a further meeting in the summer and heard from the Volunteer Centre and from Skillsbridge. Sustainability of funding sources was inevitably a key issue and recognition of the need for good governance and business planning. Overall, it was a useful evidence gathering session with an overview of how organisations can do more to be more active in society.

### **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 2 September 2013 the breakdown of the budget stood as follows:-

<b>Description</b>	<b>£</b>
Scrutiny Development	5,146.16
Member Development	2,275.09
Policy Review Development	0.00
<b>Total Expenditure to Date</b>	<b>7,421.25</b>

<b>Budget</b>	15,000
<b>Remaining Budget</b>	7578.25

## **5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 5.1 It is recommended that the Scrutiny Committee notes and considers the update of the Lead Scrutiny Members and receives a further verbal update at the meeting.

## **6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- Scrutiny Committee Agenda and Papers – 11 July

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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>