

## SCRUTINY POLICY REVIEWS 2013/14

### REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

#### 1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide the Scrutiny Committee with the draft recommendations of two of the scrutiny policy reviews undertaken by the Lead Scrutiny Members and their supporting Panels.

#### 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The scrutiny operating commissioning model is now in its second year. As part of the arrangements the Scrutiny Committee commissioned the Lead Scrutiny Members along with their respective scrutiny panels to undertake up to two policy reviews during 2013/14, the topics having been brought forward from discussions at the Annual Scrutiny Debate in May 2013.
- 2.3 Detailed evidence gathering for the two policy reviews before Committee has taken place since June 2013, with the City Services and Children's Services Scrutiny Panels agreeing the content, conclusions and recommendations of the final reports at meetings in January and February 2014. The final reports of two policy reviews are attached (**Reports A and B**) and are summarised below:-

Report	Panel	Policy Review Topic
7A	Children's Services	Child Obesity
7B	City Services	Alcohol and Licensing in Sunderland

#### 3. POLICY REVIEWS 2013/14 – PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS

##### *Children's Services Scrutiny Panel*

- 3.1 The recommendations of the Child Obesity Scrutiny Policy Review 2013/14 are:-
- (a) That research is conducted, through Public Health Strategy, to establish the impact of the School Food Plan on schools following the introduction of reforms and associated additional funding in September 2014;

- (b) That Public Health and Planning teams within the local authority look to conduct joint training sessions related to Health Impact Assessments (HIA) considering the practicalities to incorporating HIAs within the planning process;
- (c) That data gathered from the National Childhood Measurement Programme (NCMP) along with intelligence gathered from the impact of other obesity and lifestyle programmes, including LAF Programmes and community based or led services across Sunderland, is utilised to model and target intervention resources effectively; and
- (d) That Public Health Strategy explore and consider ensuring that key policy documents including the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, and other local needs assessments and strategies, take into account realistic opportunities to increase active travel.

***City Services Scrutiny Panel***

3.2 The recommendations of the Alcohol and Licensing Policy Review 2013/14 are:-

- (a) That further work be undertaken to assess evidence from Accident and Emergency in order to identify any areas of the city that may demonstrate a link between the level of crime and disorder and the number of licenced premises;
- (b) That the Council, in consultation with partners, considers whether there is any evidence of a need for a Cumulative Impact Policy in any part of the city;
- (d) That the Council investigates the activities of premises selling takeaway food in relation to the delivery of alcohol with a view to obtaining evidence which may inform future licensing decisions;
- (e) That the Council, at the next revision of the Licensing Policy Statement, includes a model condition which would require an alcohol licensee to be a member of a relevant Pubwatch Scheme;
- (f) That the introduction of a voluntary agreement with licensed premises for a suitable closing hour be explored firstly with partners and then, if necessary, with the relevant Pubwatch scheme in any appropriate areas of the City;
- (g) that the Council lobbies central government to introduce measures to tackle the low unit cost of alcohol sold in many supermarkets and other off licensed premises, which can lead to the excessive consumption of alcohol and associated harm to health, and the disparity in cost with alcohol sold at on-licensed premises where alcohol consumption occurs in a regulated environment;

- (h) That the Place Boards receive information on licensing law in order to facilitate the assistance of residents in pursuing their rights to apply for the review by the Council of the licences of premises that they feel create problems for the community .

#### **4. RECOMMENDATION**

- 4.1 It is recommended that the Scrutiny Committee considers and endorses the two scrutiny policy reviews presented at **Appendices A and B**, in particular the recommendations as outlined in section three of this report, prior to submitting to the Cabinet at its April meeting.

#### **5. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- Scrutiny Committee Agenda and reports: 13 June 2013

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