

**CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE LAWS
GOVERNING POWERED MOBILITY SCOOTERS & POWERED
WHEELCHAIRS**

Report of the Chief Executive

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: SP2: Healthy City.

**CORPORATE PRIORITIES: CIO1: Delivering Customer Focused
Services, CIO4: Improving Partnership Working to Deliver 'One City'.**

1. Why has this report come to the Committee?

- 1.1 To provide the opportunity for members to contribute to the current consultation taking place on proposed changes to the laws governing powered mobility scooters and powered wheelchairs.

2. Background

- 2.1 At its meeting on 11th November 2009, the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee received a report on the Shop Mobility Scheme operating in Sunderland. This followed a request from the committee to look into issues of safety and legislation surrounding such vehicles.
- 2.2 Following discussions the committee agreed to communicate their concerns around the legislation of mobility scooters to the appropriate body, in this case the Department of Transport. As a result of this the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee have been invited to contribute to the current consultation taking place around mobility scooters.

3. Current Position

- 3.1 The Department for Transport (DfT) is currently undertaking consultation on proposed changes to the legislation covering powered mobility scooters and powered wheelchairs (referred to as "invalid carriages" in legislation).
- 3.2 The aim of any reforms taken forward following the consultation would be to deliver cost-effective improvements to the safety of mobility vehicle users, pedestrians and other road users, while supporting continued mobility for disabled people.
- 3.3 The consultation document, appendix 1, is divided into 5 sections as follows:
- Legal Classification of Mobility Scooters

- Design Standards for Mobility Scooters
- Users of Mobility Vehicles
- Vehicles in Use
- Other Issues.

The consultation began on Wednesday 3 March 2010 and responses need to be with the DfT by no later than Friday 28 May 2010.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 The Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee has the opportunity to provide feedback into the wider consultation around the legislation governing mobility scooters.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 That Members provide comments on the consultation document and that these comments are submitted to the DfT as the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee's formal response.

6. Background Papers

Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee Agenda 2009
Consultation on proposed changes to the laws governing powered mobility scooters & powered wheelchairs (DfT-2010-10)

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APPENDIX 1: ANNUAL REPORT

Annual Report: Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee 2009/10

Chair: Cllr Peter Walker Vice-Chair: Cllr Christine Shattock

Committee Members: Cllr Jill Fletcher, Cllr Anne Hall, Cllr Sylvia Old, Cllr Mary Smith, Cllr Dianne Snowden, Cllr Shirley Leadbitter, Cllr Paul Maddison, Cllr Anthony Morrissey and Cllr Peter Maddison.

It has been another busy year for the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee, during which time we have delivered an ambitious work programme providing discussion and challenge on a range of topics and issues.

Our major policy work this year saw the committee undertake a review that looked into health inequalities across Sunderland, and this has been an extremely challenging and rewarding piece of work. In gathering evidence for the review we held a very successful Community Event Day at the Stadium of Light, where speakers from the Department of Health, Durham University, Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust and the local authority provided valuable information and stimulated much debate. The event attracted stakeholders, voluntary groups and the general public and gave us some useful evidence.

The committee also had the opportunity to hold discussions with a senior researcher working for the recently published Marmot Review, an independent study into reducing health inequalities in England. We also held an expert jury event where a number of witnesses were invited to give evidence to the committee which added to the evidence base of the review.

The review, although ambitious, has highlighted a number of key themes and produced recommendations that we trust can help to develop and ensure that future strategies and policies consider the implications on health outcomes within Sunderland.

Alongside our policy review we have looked at a number of other issues including the legislation surrounding mobility scooters and powered wheelchairs. What we found was very little legislation governing such vehicles and agreed to write to the Department of Transport on this issue. As a result we have been invited to contribute to a wider consultation around this issue

and have provided a detailed response. The committee hopes that ultimately greater legislation will lead to improved safety for scooter users, pedestrians and other road users.

The committee has continued to be involved in a piece of work that began in 2008/09 around the quality and provision of home care services. I am pleased to report that work is continuing to introduce an electronic monitoring system for home care providers along with an annual survey for home care staff, service users and managers. These measures, recommended by the committee, will help to drive up the quality of home care provision in Sunderland.

One of the strengths of the scrutiny process is that we can look into issues or concerns around service provision that are raised by elected members. This year we were asked to consider the out of hours service provision in Sunderland, a broad range of statutory services provided to meet the emergency needs of individuals. Following the highlighting of these concerns and subsequent reports from the HHAS Directorate a working group has been established with key stakeholders, including a representative of the committee, to review current arrangements and look at service improvements. The Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee will be kept fully informed of the progress of the working group.

This provides a snapshot of some of the work undertaken by the committee during the year, and I feel that along with the hard work of my colleagues on the committee we have had another successful year. I look forward to 2010/11 being another rewarding year for the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee.

Cllr Peter Walker
Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee