

ENVIRONMENT AND ATTRACTIVE CITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
13TH JULY, 2009

POLICY DEVELOPMENT & REVIEW 2009/10: SCOPE

Report of the Chief Executive

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: SP5: Attractive and Inclusive City

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

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to put forward proposals and seek agreement from Members in relation to the forthcoming policy review into Traffic Issues and Network Management.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Annual Scrutiny Conference was held at the Stadium of Light on 11th June 2009 and at the Environment and Attractive City breakout session a number of viable policy review proposals were formulated for discussion by Members of the committee. At its meeting on 18th June 2009 following discussions regarding the work programme, the Committee agreed to focus on Traffic Issues and Network Management within the city.
- 2.2 Members agreed that the study should focus on a number of key themes including; issues of road safety, parking strategy, school parking and traffic flows.
- 2.3 On the 18 June 2009, the Committee also agreed to establish a Task and Finish Group on this issue. The Group comprises Councillor E Gibson (Chair), Councillor John Kelly and Councillor Peter Woods.

3. The Scrutiny Review Process

- 3.1 Scrutiny reviews will carry out a number of stages in undertaking and completing a review. The stages broadly are:

Stage 1 Scope	The initial stage of the review identifies the background, issues, potential outcomes and timetable for the review.
Stage 2 Investigate	The Committee gathers evidence using a variety of tools and techniques and arranges visits where appropriate.
Stage 3 Analyse	The key trends and issues are highlighted from the evidence gathered by the Committee.

Stage 4 Clarify	The Committee discusses and identifies the principal messages of the review from the work undertaken.
Stage 5 Recommend	The Committee formulates and agrees realistic recommendations.
Stage 6 Report	Draft and final reports are prepared based on the evidence, findings and recommendations.
Stage 7 Monitor	The Committee monitors recommendations on a regularly agreed basis.

4. Overall Aim of the Scrutiny Policy Review

- 4.1 To look at issues relating to traffic and network management within the city, focusing on a number of key themes including, issues of road safety, parking strategy, school parking and traffic flows.

5. Proposed Terms of Reference for the Scrutiny Policy Review

- 5.1 The following Terms of Reference for the policy review are proposed:-
- (a) To consider issues relating to road safety including the Northumbria Safer Roads Initiative and 20mph speed limit zones outside schools and in residential areas;
 - (c) To examine car parking problems around schools and other hotspot locations and consider potential solutions;
 - (d) To investigate traffic flows through the city on major routes such as the Southern Radial Route, A19 Corridor and Chester Road.

6. Potential Areas of Enquiry and Sources of Evidence

- 6.1 The Scrutiny Committee can invite a variety of people, key stakeholders and interested parties to provide written or oral evidence in order that a balanced and focused range of recommendations can be formulated. A list of potential witnesses, though not exhaustive, is included for Members information:
- (a) Relevant Cabinet portfolioholders;
 - (b) Director of City Services;
 - (c) Head of Transport and Engineering;
 - (d) Representatives from Transport and Engineering and best practice in other local authorities;

- (e) Key Stakeholders and partner organisations (eg. Schools, Health, Police, Fire, Northumbria Safer Roads Initiative, Motor and Pedestrian Associations);
- (f) Local residents;
- (g) Representatives of minority communities of interest; and
- (h) Ward Councillors.

6.2 Community engagement plays a crucial role in the scrutiny process. Consideration will be given to how involvement can be structured in a way that the Committee encourages those views.

6.3 In addition, diversity issues have been considered in the background research for this enquiry under the Equality Standards for Local Government. As such the views of local diversity groups will be sought throughout the inquiry where felt appropriate and time allows. Consequently, consideration has been given as to how the views of people from minority communities of interest or heritage (for example, people with disabilities, people with learning disabilities, people with mental health problems, black and minority ethnic people, and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people), which may not be gathered through the usual community engagement routes, can be included over the course of the inquiry.

7. Funding from the Dedicated Overview and Scrutiny Budget

7.1 Consideration has been given, through the background research for this scoping report of the need to use funding from the committee's dedicated Overview and Scrutiny budget to aid Members in their enquiry.

7.2 At this stage it is suggested that funding may be necessary to support the following activities:

- (a) Key witnesses
- (b) Engagement with voluntary and statutory organisations
- (c) Delegates for expert jury, or a public event
- (d) General publicity
- (e) Visits (as necessary) to deliver effective scrutiny
- (f) Task and Finish activities

8. Proposed Timetable of the Scrutiny Investigation

8.1 The following scheduled meetings will include evidence gathering for the study:

Setting the Scene	September
Evidence Gathering	October
Evidence Gathering	November
Evidence Gathering	December
Evidence Gathering	January
Evidence Gathering	February
Consideration of Draft Final Report	March
Consideration of Final Report by the Scrutiny Committee	April
Consideration of Final Report by the Cabinet/Council (tentative	June

date)

8.2 Additional working group meetings are likely to be necessary to complete the evidence gathering.

9. Recommendation

9.1 Members are recommended to discuss and agree the scope of the Environment and Attractive City Scrutiny Committee's policy review for 2009/10 as outlined in the report.

Background Papers

Local Transport Plan 2006-11
Sunderland City Council Parking Strategy

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