

**ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME AND POLICY REVIEW 2011-12**

**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 For members to determine the Annual Work Programme for the Scrutiny Committee during 2011-12 and the main theme for a detailed policy review.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 The Scrutiny Committee is responsible for setting its own work programme within the following remit:

*General Scope: To consider issues relating to environment, neighbourhoods and sense of place*

*Remit: Place shaping; Building Control; Unitary Development Plan and the documents comprising the development plan; Local Transport Plan; Coast protection; Cemeteries and Crematorium; Grounds Maintenance; Flood Risk; Highways services and Streetscene; Waste and Recycling; Allotments*

- 2.2 The council's Scrutiny Committees are aligned to the relevant priorities of the Sunderland Strategy. This allows each Scrutiny Committee to focus on the priority areas and targets in the Sunderland Strategy and for the work of all Scrutiny Committees to consistently address those areas of performance requiring detailed examination.
- 2.3 This approach, linked to strategic priorities, is proposed to allow a clear themed focus on the outcomes for the people of Sunderland, and allow for cross-cutting examination of issues, with potential for linking areas of knowledge and expertise that would not ordinarily be brought together, so increasing the likelihood of the committees identifying novel approaches and solutions to the issues they consider.

- 2.4 The most relevant Sunderland Strategy priority for this committee is:

*Attractive and Accessible City - creating a city that celebrates and protects its natural and built environment, a place that is recognised inside and outside the city as an attractive and accessible place to live, work, study and visit. The physical environment will support everyone in the city to achieve their aspirations, now and in the future.*

- 2.5 All Scrutiny Committees will take a role in the scrutiny of partnership and area issues and have a role in engaging with partners, external scrutiny, community and public engagement, engaging with media and area scrutiny.

### **3. Policy Review**

- 3.1 Policy review is the process of maintaining an overview of council policies and will usually examine whether the council and its partners intended policy outcomes have been achieved. The process will also explore issues such as the perspective of residents affected by the policy.

- 3.2 Policy reviews are project planned with appropriate methodology applied to investigate the chosen topic. This may include meetings, site visits, surveys, public meetings or analysis of comparative practice in other local authorities.

- 3.3 Previous reviews carried out by this Scrutiny Committee have included:

Sunderland 'the Place'; Traffic Issues (with a focus on parking issues); Highway and Network Management (with a focus on 20mph zones); Allotment Provision; Public Realm and Streetscene; Carbon Management; Child Pedestrian Accidents and Road Safety; Development of Cycling within the city; City Centre Traffic Management and Recycling.

All previous reviews are available at:-

<http://www.sunderland.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=3420>

- 3.4 Following the selection of a topic for review, the Committee will receive a report setting out a possible approach to the review. This will include the terms of reference, definitions, links to corporate goals, partnerships, the national and local context, and proposals for gathering evidence.
- 3.5 The shortlist of topics for 2011-12 is listed below. The Committee is recommended to select one topic from this shortlist for an in-depth review. The list includes topics suggested as priorities at the discussions between

members, officers and partners at the Annual Scrutiny Conference on 19 May 2011.

<b>Suggested Topics for Policy Review</b>		
	<b>Brief Description</b>	<b>Objective</b>
1.	Sustainable Council Transport	To explore sustainable modes of council transport in delivering services, how services are currently delivered and should be delivered in the future and look at the potential benefits to adopting more sustainable modes of transport, linking with the city's aim of being a 'Low Carbon' city.
2.	The Management of Coastal Areas	To explore the different services currently deployed across the council to maintain the coast line and ensure the coastal areas are developed to their full potential.
3.	Accessible City	To explore the issues around how disabled people move around the city and how accessible buildings, shops and public transport are for disabled people.
4.	Land Management	To explore environmental arrangements and better working arrangements with land owner partners, to include the issues that occur when there are several land owners on one site.

3.6 Two further scrutiny topics suggested included the Coast and River and 'Selling Sunderland' have been passed to the Prosperity and Economic Development Scrutiny Committee as those issues pertaining to tourism falls within the remit of that Committee.

#### **4. Work Programme**

4.1 A draft work programme for 2011-12 is attached as Appendix A. The work programme will be populated with items agreed by members at this meeting and submitted to the July meeting.

4.2 The work programme can be amended during the year. Any member of the Committee can add an item of business to an agenda (see Protocol 1 Overview & Scrutiny Handbook).

#### **5. Conclusion & Recommendation**

5.1 The Committee is asked to

(a) Consider the draft Annual Work Programme for 2011-12 and indicate any additions or amendments

(b) Consider the list of suggestions for policy review and determine one topic for review.

5.2 Subject to any amendment at this meeting, the work programme will be submitted to the Management Scrutiny Committee in its coordinating role.

## **6 Background Papers**

None

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