

# **ENVIRONMENTAL AND PLANNING REVIEW COMMITTEE**

**14 July 2008**

## **POLICY REVIEW 2008-09**

### **REPORT OF THE CITY SOLICITOR**

**Strategic Priorities : Attractive and Inclusive City and Prosperous City  
Corporate Improvement Objectives: CI01, CI04**

#### **1. Why has this report come to the Committee?**

- 1.1 To consider a topic for policy development and review as part of the Committee's work programme for 2008/09.
- 1.2 The work of the Committee in delivering its policy review will support the Council in achieving its Strategic Priorities of an Attractive and Inclusive City and a Prosperous City as set out in the Sunderland Strategy 2008-2025 and the Local Area Agreement 2008-2011.

#### **2. Background**

- 2.1 At the meeting of the Review Committee held on 16 June 2008, the Review Committee considered and agreed its work programme for the year ahead. The work programme of the Committee sets out the key issues to be addressed during the year and a timetable of work.
- 2.2 In agreeing its work programme, the Committee agreed to defer for further consideration the topic it wishes to focus upon for policy development and review. Members were also invited to forward to the Review Coordinator any suggestions they may have for a suitable topic.

#### **3. Current Position**

- 3.1 Policy development and review is a central component of the work of the Council's Review Committees.
- 3.2 Policy development and review studies provide an opportunity for the Review Committee to assist the Council and Cabinet in the development of future service policy. It also provides an opportunity for examining issues of direct concern to the local community, encouraging public and service user engagement and building on existing partnership arrangements.

- 3.3 Based on the priority issues raised during the Scrutiny Workshop held on 20 May 2008 and the suggestions generated by members summarised in the attached appendix, the Committee is invited to consider the study area it wishes to examine in the current municipal year.
- 3.4 At the Scrutiny event, Members also expressed discussed new ways of working, such as increased use of task and finish groups. Members may wish to consider where the use of such groups could make a significant contribution to the work of the Committee.

#### **4. Conclusion**

- 4.1 Policy development and review is a central component of the work of the Council's Review Committees. The reviews provide an opportunity for the Review Committee to assist the Council and Cabinet in the development of future service policy.

#### **5 Recommendation**

- 5.2 That the Committee identify an area to examine as part of a policy review and development.

#### **6. Background Papers**

- 6.1 briefing note for First Annual Scrutiny Workshop held 20<sup>th</sup> May 2008  
6.2 MORI survey

#### **7. Glossary**

n/a

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