

# **SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

17 APRIL 2012

## **DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE**

### **REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**Strategic Priorities: SP2 Healthy City; SP5: Attractive and Inclusive City.**

**Cross Cutting Priorities: Sustainability; Creating Inclusive Communities; Housing.**

**Corporate Improvement Objectives: CIO1: Delivering Customer focused services, CIO3: Efficient and Effective Council, CIO4: Improving Partnership working to deliver 'one city'.**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To approve the Scrutiny Committee report as part of the overall scrutiny Annual Report 2011/12 that is to be presented to Council.
- 1.2 In the first instance, the report will be submitted to the Management Scrutiny Committee on 19 April 2012. The report will then be incorporated into an Annual Scrutiny Report which includes the work of each Scrutiny Committee.

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 This will be the third year that the Annual Report will be a single combined report of all seven Scrutiny Committees. The annual report will outline the development in the scrutiny function and provide snapshots of the outcomes achieved during the last 12 months.
- 2.2 In June 2011, Members of the Scrutiny Committee agreed the annual work programme for the municipal year 2011/12. The Work Programme brought together the issues raised by Members as the major priorities and challenges facing the city for the year ahead.

#### **3. CURRENT POSITION**

- 3.1 The draft content of the annual report of the Committee is set out in Appendix 1.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 The Committee has delivered a busy work programme in 2011/12, which is reflected in the annual report. The Scrutiny Committee has

worked with Council Directorates, partner organisations and residents of the city to deliver the work programme and has tackled a number of key issues making suggestions for improvements to services delivered across the city.

## **5. RECOMENDATION**

- 5.1 Members are asked to consider and comment on the draft end of year report of the Committee.
- 5.2 The report, together with the comments of members, will be submitted to the Management Scrutiny Committee on 19 April 2012.

## **6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee Agendas 2011/12
- Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2011/12

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## **APPENDIX 1**

As ever it has been a busy year for the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee and we have continued to shape and refine our knowledge and understanding of the diverse range of issues within the Committee's remit.

Our main piece of work this year was 'Building a Sustainable and Lasting Legacy in Sport and Physical Activity'. Sport and physical activity is an inherent part of Sunderland's history and culture; improving health, tackling exclusion and isolation and bringing communities together. The hugely changing environment of sport and physical activity as well as the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games served to convince us that this was the right time to consider the future of sport and physical activity in the city.

We were very pleased to gain the views of local sport and physical activity providers and hear first hand some of the issues they face as well as schools who have overcome some of the barriers to enable community access to facilities outside of school hours. In addition representatives of the Active Sunderland Board and Sport England provided us with local and national context.

I would also like to acknowledge the vital role all Elected Members played in this review by providing intelligence around sport and physical activity at a ward level. The overall picture this generated provided a detailed insight into the level and diversity of provision in our city for the first time and proved to be invaluable.

Our recommendations focus on the development of the city's priority sports and physical activities in order to focus resource where it is most needed; increasing engagement with providers in the city, in part by utilising the knowledge, expertise and passion of Elected Members, working with schools to increase community access based upon local need, and developing a new strategy for sport and physical activity that reflects the changing landscape the council and partners are operating in.

Housing also continues to be a 'hot topic' for the Committee; we were pleased to influence the Housing Allocation Policy that we helped to shape in a previous policy review, and also the Low Carbon Social Housing Pilot. We have been keeping a close eye on issues that matter to residents, including private sector landlords, hostels and extra care schemes. The Committee has also taken a keen interest in national legislation including the Localism Act (2011) and the Welfare Reform Act (2012) and what this means for housing in Sunderland.

To conclude can I take the opportunity to thank my Committee colleagues for their support and enthusiasm in debating significant matters for the city, and also those officers and partners who have assisted and supported us.