

**SCRUTINY POLICY REVIEWS 2012/13:
RESPONSE FROM CABINET – 13 FEBRUARY AND 13 MARCH
2013****REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE****1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide feedback from the Cabinet meetings held on 13 February and 13 March 2013, regarding three of six of the first round of scrutiny policy reviews undertaken by scrutiny in 2012/13.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 Within the revised scrutiny arrangements, it is now the responsibility of the Committee to consider feedback from relevant portfolio holders on Cabinet's consideration of the policy reviews undertaken by the scrutiny panels and how it intends to deliver the recommendations of each panel.

2.2 Cabinet considered the Final Reports on 13 February and 13 March as follows:-

Scrutiny Panel	Policy Review	Portfolio Holder
Skills Economy and Regeneration	The Government's Work Programme (Appendix 1)	Leader of the Council
Children's Services	Improvement, Admissions and Planning; the Implications of the Education Act 2011 (Appendix 2)	Cllr P Smith
Public Health, Wellness and Culture	The Role of the Local Authority in Health Issues (Appendix 3)	Cllr J Kelly

2.3 This report provides feedback from the Portfolio Holders following Cabinet's consideration of, and decisions in relation to, each of the scrutiny panels' recommendations.

2.4 Following the Scrutiny Committee's consideration of feedback from Cabinet on each of the Policy Reviews of 2012/13, progress towards completion of the actions contained within each Action Plan will be monitored on an annual basis by the Committee.

3. RESPONSE FROM CABINET TO THE POLICY REVIEW

- 3.1 Following consideration of the Final Reports, Cabinet approved the recommendations in their entirety. Details of the Policy Review recommendations and proposed actions to be taken are provided in the Action Plans attached at **appendices one to three**.
- 3.2 Cabinet thanked the Scrutiny Lead Members, Scrutiny Panels and its officers for their hard work in undertaking the policy review and additional work.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 That the Committee:-
- (a) Notes the proposed actions detailed within the Action Plans appended to this report (**Appendix 1-3**) and seeks clarification on content where felt appropriate; and
 - (b) Refers each of the action plans to the relevant panels for further consideration.

5. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 5.1 The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:-
- (i) Cabinet Agenda; 13 February, 13 March 2013.

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Appendix 1

Skills, Economy and Regeneration Scrutiny Panel Work Programme: Policy Review recommendations 2012/13

Ref	Recommendation	Action	Owner	Due Date	Progress Commentary
(a)	That the Council and Work Programme providers continue to develop formal and informal channels of communication in order to inform and influence the delivery of the Work Programme for the benefit of Sunderland residents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council representatives will continue to participate in/provide input to the regional working group, facilitated by ANEC, which forms the primary link with the Work Programme prime contractors at a strategic level. • At an operational level, continue to maintain regular contact with prime contractors and their sub contractors, to provide intelligence on current and future job opportunities to inform Work Programme delivery. 	Karen Alexander, Employment and Training Manager	March 2013	Updates on all actions to be provided in a future report to the Scrutiny Committee
(b)	That the DWP be encouraged to produce regular and tailored performance data for the Council and its partner organisations at city-wide level and across Regeneration Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreement will be reached on the terms of the Data Sharing Agreement with the Work Programme prime contractors, Avanta and Ingeus. • Officers within Strategic Policy and Performance Management will incorporate Work Programme data returns within the Quarterly Performance Report for Aim 4 Group of the Economic Leadership Board.. 	<p>Karen Alexander, Employment and Training Manager</p> <p>Mike Lowe, Head of Performance, SPPM</p>	<p>Sept 2013</p> <p>Dec 2013</p>	

(c)	That Work Programme providers look to develop their role and involvement in local economic policy at a strategic level – for example through involvement in the North Eastern LEP, the development of Sunderland Economic Masterplan and the Local Strategic Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This recommendation be communicated to the providers Members of Aim 4 Group will consider how best to integrate the activities of the Work Programme prime contractors into strategic planning and the shaping of local economic policy, as part of the Employment Strategy. 	Karen Alexander, Employment and Training Manager Vince Taylor, Head of Strategy, Policy and Performance Management (via the Chair of Aim 4 group)	April 2013 July 2013	
(d)	That the Council examines ways of informing Work Programme providers of potential new investment in the city at the earliest possible opportunity in order that they are able to prepare for potential sectors of employment growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council officers will continue to participate in regular network meetings with Work Programme representatives where information about inward investment opportunities and growth sectors is cascaded. 	Karen Alexander, Employment and Training Manager	March 2013	
(e)	That the Council looks to continue to do everything in its power to maximise local employment opportunities through the operation of its procurement process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When relevant to the subject matter, social value benefits will be considered for services (specifically over the EU threshold) at the pre-procurement stage and during the procurement. A systematic tool to be developed to consider social value when setting evaluation criteria, contract scope and performance regimes. Colleagues within Business Investment and Corporate Procurement will work closely with commissioners to 	Karen Alexander, Employment and Training Manager	Sept 14	

		<p>ensure a value for money approach is followed when assessing contract opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Led by the Aim 4 Group, steps will be taken to encourage other partners in the city to incorporate Social and Economic clauses in development contracts. 	Vince Taylor, Head of SPPM (via the Chair of Aim 4 Group)	Dec 2014	
(f)	That the Council as a major employer in the city continues to maximise the use of work placements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consideration will be given to how a greater number of work experience placements can be offered across all Council directorates, to benefit both NEET young people and unemployed adults, helping them to move closer to employment. Opportunities for work experience within the Council will be shared with Jobcentre Plus, so that suitable individuals can be identified to take up the placements. 	Dave Rippon, Head of HR and OD	June 2014	
(g)	That the Work Programme providers continue to develop their links with local businesses and look to work more closely with SMEs in the city.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council will continue to maintain an understanding of the Work Programme 'offer' for employers and will encourage the business community, particularly SMEs, to make contact with Work Programme providers in order to take up that offer. 	Karen Alexander, Employment and Training Manager	Feb 2014	

Appendix 2

Children's Services Scrutiny Panel Implications of the Education Act 2011: Policy Review recommendations 2012/13

Ref	Recommendation	Action	Owner	Due Date	Progress Commentary
(a)	That in further support to the one.education@sunderland project the local authority explores the development of a shared intelligence group with the aim of collating evidence based information from a number of key council sources who have direct contact with schools around 'soft' indicators that can chart and identify risks, key trends and areas of concern or intelligence about schools.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To reconstitute a Children's Services Shared Intelligence board to develop key trends and areas of concern or intelligence about schools and link this to the emerging school to school improvement models. Revisit the role of the one.education@sunderland Partnership Board 	A Parr B Scanlon	April 2013	Updates on all actions to be provided in a future report to the Scrutiny Committee
(b)	That in developing its middle tier role, the local authority looks to, in consultation with Members, Officers and headteachers, to develop a protocol that clearly outlines and establishes the council's role in terms of brokerage, support and intervention with schools and academies in relation to school improvement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A clear position statement on the role and responsibilities of the local authority to be produced. Develop and implement a Communications Strategy for schools, partners, Members and the wider community of interest. Agree clear and concise service level expectations for the School Improvement Team 	A Parr B Scanlon A Parr	By September 2013	
(c)	That the local authority provides clear, current and concise information to parents, in suitable formats, around admission arrangements for all types of schools in Sunderland and continues to develop a brokerage role in supporting the admissions process through its middle tier position.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that the co-ordination scheme for admission arrangements is reviewed annually and is in line with the Admissions Code 2012. Review the role of the School Admissions Forum to ensure that the Forum becomes a 	A Rowan	End July 2013	

		<p>champion for children, young people and families.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase the number of online applications for school admissions.			
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Appendix 3

Public Health, Wellness & Culture Scrutiny Panel

The Role of the Local Authority in Health Issues : Policy Review recommendations 2012/13

Ref	Recommendation	Action	Owner	Due Date	Progress Commentary
a)	All councillors to be fully engaged in the emerging public health agenda by being given both the skills and understanding of how to facilitate effective interventions in a public health framework.	People Boards to consider public health responsibilities, ensuring health inequalities and how these will be addressed at a local level. Consultation events held on development of Health Strategy priorities / Workshop held : improving life chances	Allison Patterson/ Nonnie Crawford Karen Graham	Feb 2014 Complete	Updates on all actions to be provided in a future report to the Scrutiny Committee
b)	Robust local accountability structures should be developed for all relevant aspects of health and wellbeing decision-making and delivery.	Amendments made to the Council Constitution to detail procedure rules for HWBB (March 2013) Ongoing dialogue re joint commissioning with CCG	Karen Graham / Rhiannon Hood	June 2013	
c)	The joint health strategy should demonstrate a tie in with community resilience at a time when our 'assets' are under serious threat of being destabilised by external factors.	The design principles of the Strategy have been closely aligned to the community resilience plan and will guide the support and development of assets to improve resilience in communities and individuals	Vince Taylor	Complete	
d)	The local asset base should be increased by growing the number of Health Champions and maximising the use of community assets and settings to deliver health and well-being services.	Develop and implement plan for expanding Health Champions in under-represented areas and in neighbourhoods of greatest	Gillian Gibson Graham	Feb 2014 Dec	

		need. Develop new service specifications for health and wellbeing services that maximise the use of community assets and settings	King/Gillian Gibson	2013	
e)	A protocol for working together should be developed between key stakeholders.	Public Health, Wellness & Culture Panel to develop	Karen Brown	June 2013	
f)	Public health and regulatory staff should work together to explore what the regulations will allow in terms of health benefits.	One public health transformation workshop has been held to examine joining up regulation and public health	Gillian Gibson/Tom Terrett	Feb 2014	
g)	Explore the integration of health impact assessments and equality analysis.	The Healthy Cities Phase 5 programme focuses on integrating health impact assessments	Gillian Gibson/Jane Hibberd	Feb 2014	