

COMMUNITY AND SAFER CITY SCRUTINY 7 JUNE 2011 COMMITTEE

ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME AND POLICY REVIEW 2011-12

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: SP3: SAFE CITY

CORPORATE PRIORITIES: CIO1: Delivering Customer Focussed Services, C102: Being 'One Council', C103: Efficient and Effective Council, C104: 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, including 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 community safety and promoting a cohesive, integrated and inclusive community.

Remit: Safer Sunderland Strategy, Social Inclusion, Community Safety, Anti-Social Behaviour, Domestic Violence, Community Cohesion, Equalities, Licensing Policy, Community Associations, Registrars.

- 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:

Safe City: To make Sunderland a place where everyone feels welcome and can be part of a safe and inclusive community, where people will feel secure and can enjoy life without worrying about becoming a victim of crime.

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:-

- Alcohol, Violence and the Night Time Economy
- Fear of Crime
- Anti Social Behaviour

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.

Suggested Topics for Policy Review		
	Brief Description	Objective
1.	Violence against Women and Girls	To understand what we mean by domestic violence, why it happens and what is being done in the city to reduce and prevent this against a backdrop of national policy changes.
2.	The Changing Drug Scene	To explore the city's changing drug 'scene' and the effects of drug misuse on the community and the individual; as well as the services in place for drug users and what they should look like in the future, taking into consideration how national policy will impact on the city.
3.	Community Cohesion	To gain a better understanding of the term Community Cohesion. To explore the range of community cohesion issues in the city, such as the relationships between older and younger generations. To identify what the council and partners are doing in relation community cohesion and how national policy will impact on the city.
4.	Breaking the Cycle of Crime	To explore the reasons why people offend and why they go on to re-offend, the impact upon the city and the services in place to prevent re-offending.

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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