

***Scrutiny Annual  
Report 2017/18***



**SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF STRATEGY, PARTNERSHIPS AND TRANSFORMATION**

**1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To present the Scrutiny Annual Report which summaries the work of the Scrutiny Committees during 2017/18.

**2. Background Information**

- 2.1 The Annual Report provides an overview of the work of scrutiny throughout 2016/17, the contribution it has made to the good governance of the Council and the delivery of the city's priorities. It also looks at the how the scrutiny function will continue to develop and the challenges it faces in the year ahead.

**3. Operation of the Scrutiny Committee**

- 3.1 During 2015/16 the Chair of Scrutiny commissioned an independent review of the scrutiny function in Sunderland, which was subsequently conducted by the Centre for Public Scrutiny with the full cooperation of elected members and key stakeholders.
- 3.2 The outcome of this review resulted in a comprehensive remodelling of the scrutiny structure and the formation of one formal, overarching Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee and three themed scrutiny committees; namely the Children Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee, the Economic Prosperity Scrutiny Committee and the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.3 Scrutiny ensures that decision-making processes are clear, accessible and accountable. It also has an important role in driving improvement in services delivered to the people of Sunderland.

**4. Conclusion**

- 4.1 The four Scrutiny Committees have delivered demanding, varied and interesting work programmes in 2017/18 with 2018/19 promising to be another challenging year.

**5. Recommendation**

- 5.1 Members are asked to consider the operation, achievements and impact of the Scrutiny Committee during 2017/18 as outlined in the Annual Report.

## **6. Background Papers**

6.1 No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

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