



Scrutiny Matters

Scrutiny Annual Report
2011/12

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Foreword



Councillor David Tate
Chair of the Management
Scrutiny Committee

I take great pleasure in being able to introduce Sunderland City Council's Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report.

The journey scrutiny has taken never ceases to amaze me. From those early formative years when scrutiny was new and looking to identify itself in a time of changing governance arrangements for local authorities, to now where it holds the City Council and its partners to account to ultimately improve public service delivery across the city. This report continues to evidence how far we have come on that journey and provides a snapshot in time of the work and achievements of the various scrutiny committees here in Sunderland.

Every year seems more challenging than the last, and this one has been no exception. The economic situation across the country continues to be a significant issue and this council continues to work to balance the delivery of quality services for local people against cuts to public spending. This means we, as scrutineers, must ensure that scrutiny adds value and plays its part in the improvement of public services this council and partner organisations deliver despite the financial pressures that exist.

This year has seen the seamless amalgamation of the Scrutiny and Area support functions into the new Scrutiny and Area Arrangements Service. This has partly been driven by the need to make the best use of resources while at the same time realising efficiencies, and ultimately to ensure that the governance arrangements are robust and provide political accountability.



The legislative landscape continues to change as the Coalition Government continues to implement reform and policy changes on key public services. A raft of new legislation including the Localism Act, the Health and Social Care Act and the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act all have implications for local government and its governance arrangements. The remit and focus of the scrutiny committees has allowed relevant committees the opportunity to look in greater detail at these bills as they have passed through the various parliamentary stages and into Acts.

The Annual Scrutiny Conference was again a successful event which helped to showcase the work of scrutiny as well as provide a focus for developing the scrutiny work programmes for the coming year. Once again we have had a good level of involvement from key partners across the city which helped to ensure that a broad range of issues and topics were again discussed. This has resulted in a number of influential reviews being undertaken by scrutiny committees including early intervention and locality based services, hospital discharge, community cohesion and low carbon vehicles in the delivery of public services.

Following on from last year, the level of involvement from key partners is reflected in the policy reviews undertaken. As always the scrutiny committees continue to use new and innovative ways of gathering evidence and this year has been no different with the promotion and involvement in a theatre production that highlighted the dangers and effects of becoming involved with loan sharks. The committees also continue to seek views from local Members of Parliament to add a further dimension to the reviews as a whole. All the scrutiny committees continue to seek, wherever possible, to involve the general public and gain the views of communities to ensure that reviews do reflect the voice and concerns of the public.

The next 12 months brings further significant challenge but I feel sure that with the cooperation of scrutiny Members and the support of dedicated officers we will grasp this challenge and move forward ensuring that scrutiny provides the requisite critical challenge and support to this council and partner organisations across the city.

Scrutiny arrangements in Sunderland

What is scrutiny?

Simply put, scrutiny committees ensure that the council and its partner organisations are accountable for their actions and promote open and transparent decision-making.

It aims to make sure that services and policies best meet the needs of the residents of the city. It does this through:

- Policy review and development;
- Holding the council's Executive and its partners to account;
- Investigating issues of local concern; and
- Working with our partners to improve services to the local area.

Scrutiny is not new and arrangements have now been in place in Sunderland since 2002. We are committed to an inclusive and effective process that represents the people of Sunderland and in doing so encourages the involvement of local residents and partner organisations.

Who does scrutiny?

Scrutiny Committee Members are Ward Councillors who are not Members of the Executive (Cabinet). Some Committees have a number of co-opted members, people (other than Councillors) who represent other authorities, organisations or groups.

How is scrutiny carried out?

Within Sunderland there are seven Scrutiny Committees which mirror the key priorities for the city, as laid out within the Sunderland Strategy 2008-2025.

Each Scrutiny Committee is responsible for a number of areas that are wide-ranging, some examples of which include:

- 1 Management Scrutiny Committee**
The role of this committee is to coordinate scrutiny business and manage the overall scrutiny work programme. It also considers the council's corporate policies, performance and financial issues.
- 2 Children Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee**
This committee considers issues relating to children and young people and life long learning including the health, safety and well-being of young people. It also considers adult learning and the library service.
- 3 Community and Safer City Scrutiny Committee**
This committee considers issues relating to community safety, including crime and anti-social behaviour, domestic violence, licensing and community inclusion and equalities.
- 4 Environment and Attractive City Scrutiny Committee**
This committee considers issues relating to environment including planning, local transport, roads, waste, recycling and grounds maintenance.
- 5 Health and Well Being Scrutiny Committee**
This committee considers issues relating to health and adult services, including scrutiny of health services, social care, public health and external inspections.

- 6 Prosperity and Economic Development Scrutiny Committee**
This committee considers issues relating to the economic prosperity of the city, including inward investment, the city centre, tourism and employability.

- 7 Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee**
This committee considers issues relating to sustainability and maintains an overview of each of the Sunderland Partnership's cross cutting priorities, including housing strategy, culture, arts, museums and heritage.

Scrutiny Committees call upon council officers, cabinet members, partners, expert witnesses and service users (members of the public) to answer questions and give evidence about the issue being investigated.

Committees will collate as much evidence as possible within the time available. Our committees will then produce a report containing our recommendations and any proposed improvements for the executive, full council and partner organisations to consider.

How does scrutiny make a difference?

Evidence shows that successful scrutiny has a positive impact for the people it serves - you! Indeed, we have local evidence of scrutiny having real outcomes for residents, for example in the case of the proposed Gillas Lane Primary School closure and parking issues around Doxford International Business Park.

Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee



Councillor Paul Stewart
Chair of the Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee

It is hard to believe that another year has passed for the Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee, and again we have delivered on a work programme that has proved to be varied and challenging for all the Members of the Committee.

The major policy review into Early Intervention and Locality Based Services was an important piece of work for the Committee to undertake. Early intervention for many young people and families can be a decisive factor in improving their quality of life and providing them with better outcomes than previously. The weight of importance can be highlighted by the volume of publications, reports and policy documents that have been produced over the last few years.

The Committee gathered a wide range of views and opinions through a diversity of means. The techniques used by the Committee vary greatly and are heavily influenced by using the best means possible to gather the information required. We have used focus groups, interviews, site visits and expert jury days all with the intention of gathering a wide range of opinions that can best provide a balanced view of the issue under investigation. The recommendations arising from this review are focused on removing barriers to the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) assessment process and ensuring that potential assessors have access to dedicated support should they need it at the pre-assessment stage. The review also recommends comprehensive training is made available around CAF thresholds and how locality teams can

increase their engagement with local partners. I feel sure these recommendations will help contribute towards the directorates continued development and progress around early intervention.

The Committee has also looked at the teenage pregnancy rates in Sunderland and it was acknowledged that there was a lot of good work being undertaken in this area, from the C-Card through to the new offer to schools in relation to sex education. Members also visited the Bumps to Babies project in Hendon and spoke with number of teenage mums. The Committee recognised that the local authority was conducting a lot of good work and had initiated a number of schemes and support but ultimately acknowledged that teenage pregnancy rates were extremely difficult to either influence or predict.

Looked after children have been a strong theme throughout the year and Members have discussed a number of issues including Looked After Children's attainment, the Leaving Care Service and the role of the council as a corporate parent. Again the committee, following initial concerns, has been extremely satisfied by what it has found and was reassured that in relation to looked after children we do look to ensure we provide the best possible outcomes for these young people.

The committee's work programme has seen Members look at a wide range of issues covering school performance, exam results, the library plan and youth commissioned contracts to name but a select few. This year also saw myself and the Vice-Chair travel to London to talk with the Department for Education around some of the issues from the previous policy review around apprenticeships and work based learning. I think it is important that we can put our case forward and speak with key government officers about issues that are relevant for people living in Sunderland, it can only strengthen the work we undertake.

Again the Committee has had another active and meaningful year covering a wide array of subjects and priorities that reflect key principles from the Children and Young People's Plan that underpins the Committee's work programme. There are many challenges ahead for local government and I feel sure that the Committee can rise to the challenge and provide a valuable contribution to this local authority. It only leaves me to thank councillors and co-opted members serving on the committee for their continued hard work, support and dedication throughout the year.



Members of the scrutiny committee deliberate over their policy review

Environment and Attractive City Scrutiny Committee



Councillor Graeme Miller
Chair of the Environment and Attractive City Scrutiny Committee

This year the Committee looked at the use of 'Low-Carbon Vehicles in the Delivery of Public Services' as its main item of work. The initial driver for this review were the issues posed by climate change, and as we have progressed through the year it has highlighted the importance of this issue for Sunderland, environmentally, economically and financially.

The targets to reduce carbon emissions contained within the Climate Change Act 2008 are binding and there are major implications for non-achievement by 2050. The growth and development of the low-carbon transport industry as a means of reducing carbon emissions in the UK provides an excellent opportunity for us as a city, and as a region to develop our reputation and standing in this arena. Getting the greatest value for money has never been more crucial and public sector expenditure should have the maximum impact on job creation and economic development within the region, therefore it made sense to us as a Committee that a range of low emission vehicles are utilised by public sector bodies.

The Committee took a wide range of evidence for the review from sources including the city's MPs, the North East Purchasing Organisation (NEPO), NEXUS and the bus operators, the University of Sunderland and Gateshead College and several local and regional businesses working in the low-carbon transport sector. We were particularly pleased to work with Cenex, the UK's leading expert in low-carbon transport who was able to provide us with robust evidence to significantly influence and strengthen the overall review.



Members of the Committee take a look at a zero emissions vehicle

We concluded that the council should consider implementing targets to adopt electric cars into its fleet and that it should continue to keep a close eye on developments in low-carbon transport technologies. Driver training programmes in the use of electric vehicles will be crucial and we also feel a wide range of other measures should be explored to reduce the council's transport carbon emissions. Finally, we recommended that the council should 'lead the way' and do as much as it can to encourage other public and private sector organisations to take up low-carbon vehicles.

It has been a busy year in other areas of work too; we have successfully influenced some key plans for the city, including the Seaburn Masterplan and Design Code. We also worked closely with officers to develop a prioritisation scheme for traffic and road safety to enable the council to make the greatest impact and best allocation of resource on such an important topic for our residents. Finally, we were pleased to receive a positive update on future plans for

Fawcett St in the City Centre, a matter this Committee has long taken a keen interest in.

I would like to take the opportunity to give my thanks to colleagues, officers and partners for the ongoing enthusiasm and commitment they have shown whilst looking at issues that are important to the future of our city's development.

Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee



Councillor Peter Walker
Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

Our work programme this year has understandably been influenced by the restructuring of health services including the impact of economic constraints on health and social care services. Our work has included an overview of how the council is taking forward its efficiency and transformation agenda whilst maintaining a high standard of adult social care.

We have reviewed the impact on residents of the fluctuation in the residential care market, including the well publicised financial difficulties of Southern Cross. We considered what this would mean for the residents of the 14 homes in Sunderland to ensure continuity of care to residents and ensure that the amount of disruption was minimal.

Our main review this year was about rehabilitation and hospital discharge. Many people may need a stay in hospital at some stage of their lives, and we know that health and social care staff do their utmost to support each individual to rehabilitate. We have heard examples of a lot of good practice around smooth transitions of care but all too often the patients with complex post-hospital needs find themselves having to be re-admitted, often unnecessarily. Our aim has been to review the policies and strategies and to determine if they are fit for purpose with evidence focusing heavily on service user experience. From the evidence patients, families and carers have provided we hope to make improvements around some key areas. For example, we have emphasised the need for an integrated approach including a specific recommendation for jointly agreed protocols including with

the voluntary sector. We have suggested that research is carried out into which A&E admissions are avoidable. We have suggested improvements are needed at points of transfer of care to make sure, for instance, that patient records are available when needed. We were ably supported in this work by four coopted members who between them had a range of knowledge and expertise that we have found extremely valuable in pursuing this review.

The NHS reported a variety of consultations to health scrutiny including reconfiguration of children's heart surgery, the campus closure programme for people with learning disability, reviews of end of life facilities and in-patient beds for those with learning disabilities, and new services for acutely sick children.

Local authority services were scrutinised including the implementation of personalisation whereby individuals choose how they meet their own care needs through use of a personal budget. We considered the review of the current charging regime for adult social care to support personalisation. While being aware that the council needs to bring social care contributions into line with national trends and policy developments it was important that we scrutinised the process to ensure the system is open, fair, transparent and easy to understand.

The Committee has taken an overview of the strategic plans of all organisations and we look forward to being involved in the development of the new health strategy. At a regional level I represented the council on the regional health committee where we considered issues across local authority boundaries including children's heart surgery and reconfiguration of ambulance services.

The transfer of public health responsibilities to the council is imminent and scrutiny will have an 'overview' of health improvement. The council's public health responsibilities will extend to wider determinants of health including leisure, housing, transport and employment. Scrutiny will need to play a role in starting to develop new relationships and new ways of working to assist the council to self-regulate its own performance in addressing health inequalities. All providers of NHS services will be subject to scrutiny, irrespective of the sector to which they belong. This would represent a significant enlargement of the health scrutiny role as it now stands.

This has been a challenging but exciting year and with the council's increased role in public health, new scrutiny powers and different relationships, the year ahead promises to set new challenges.



Public and Professionals at the Community Event Day

Management Scrutiny Committee



Councillor David Tate
Chair of the Management Scrutiny Committee

The end of another municipal year and it is satisfying to report that the Management Scrutiny Committee has again tackled a demanding work programme which has seen the committee undertake two quite differing policy reviews. The Committee's wide ranging remit always ensures that the work programme is interesting and varied from financial performance to corporate policy performance through to its overall co-ordinating role.

The Coalition Government is committed to greater local public accountability and continues to scale back on inspection and assessment. Despite the level of scaling back there is still an expectation that councils can evidence the delivery of priorities and outcomes, and this is to be achieved largely through self regulation. The Committee has held a series of workshops that looked at a number of key themes around the self regulation agenda. Self regulation is a new and emerging approach and the policy review recognises this, it also acknowledges how scrutiny is well placed to play a hand in driving forward stronger local accountability. The policy review and its recommendations aim to help promote, support and develop self regulation within the City Council.

The Committee also conducted a policy review around illegal money lending and high cost credit within Sunderland. This review was a direct result of the national illegal money lending team beginning to work and gather information about activities taking place in the area. The review has gathered evidence through a variety of methods including focus groups, sites visits and even the



performance of a hard hitting play illustrating the methods and repercussions of lending money from a loan shark. The Committee also looked at the rise and proliferation of payday loan companies and high cost credit and received responses from local MPs' on this particular issue.

It is a positive move to have the illegal money lending team operating in Sunderland and this can only help to remove unlicensed credit operators from our local communities. It is fair to say that as a committee we cannot solve many of these deep seated and financially influenced issues, but the review does highlight a number of common themes that, working with our partners, can help to improve the outcomes for local people and communities.

The Committee has also throughout the year received a variety of reports, policies and strategies as part of our work programme. The Committee has looked at and discussed a range of issues including Apprenticeships and Early Retirements, the Welfare Reform Bill and looked at the Localism Act. It is through the reporting to Committee that Members can provide challenge to policies and strategies which can help directorates and service areas to further develop such documents.

One of the key roles of the Management Scrutiny Committee revolves around the City Council's budget process and we continue to examine the budget. The Committee has also responded to a number of financial reports brought to the committee with our comments reported back to Cabinet or Full Council respectively. In a change to previous years the Management Scrutiny Committee held an informal meeting with Cabinet Portfolio Holders as part of the budget consultation process for 2012/13. This more informal setting worked well and allowed for a greater interaction between Scrutiny and Cabinet and it is hoped that we can continue in this way in future.

The coming year will no doubt be equally challenging and demanding on both Members and officers but I know that as a local authority we will continue to deliver quality services to the residents of Sunderland. I continue to attend the various scrutiny committees at regular intervals throughout the year and offer my appreciation to the level of commitment shown by each individual committee in the work that they have undertaken. Finally I would like to thank my member colleagues who sit on the Management Scrutiny Committee for their hard work, dedication and commitment to Scrutiny, the local authority and the residents of Sunderland.

Prosperity and Economic Development Scrutiny Committee



Councillor Michael Mordey
Chair of the Prosperity and Economic Development Scrutiny Committee

At the start of the year when the Committee was considering which issues to include in its work programme, we had pretty much unanimous support to focus on what we considered to be two of the key priorities for the city; namely the progress being made on Aim 1 of the Economic Masterplan – the development of a new kind of University City and the work and challenges facing the North Eastern Local Enterprise Board.

The Committee's review of Aim 1 of the Masterplan set out to examine the measures being taken by the council, the University and all of our partners to support the development in Sunderland of a new kind of University City. The review also looked at the influence and impact that the University has on the city's economy at the present time and the potential for this to be increased. The Committee examined the way in which the council and the University can more fully integrate the University into the city's economy, including business start up and growth; the development of workforce skills through education and retention and the potential for research to support business growth through innovation, graduate placement and management and staff development.

As part of its evidence gathering process, the Committee undertook a visit to the University of Sunderland to examine at first hand the kinds of projects and initiatives being developed and to speak to the academic, staff and students involved. We also visited Sheffield Hallam University in order to consider and contrast the approach of another University.

In our work, we were supported throughout by staff and academics from the University and we would particularly like to thank the University's Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive, Deputy Vice Chancellor and Deputy Chief Executive and the Assistant Director for their support and guidance during the review.

The Committee's report includes a number of significant recommendations. Firstly, that the Council and University should continue to investigate means of developing partnership working around Aim 1 of the Economic Masterplan in order to coordinate work on business growth and economic development and to make the most of available resources. We also consider that the University should look to further develop its links with the city's business community and increase its understanding of the needs of local businesses and the ways in which it can respond with appropriate expertise, support and guidance including through a large scale networking event or a high profile trade fair. We suggest that the University and council should continue to work together to ensure that business advice and guidance is provided in a coordinated and complementary manner along the lines of a one stop shop approach.

We consider that there is scope for the University to further promote its profile in the city and better publicise and market its considerable strengths and successes including through the development of a promotional document summarising its contribution to the local economy and

economic regeneration in the city and the region. We consider it important that the University conduct further research into the factors surrounding the levels of retention of students; including the influence of the local jobs market and job opportunities and continue to work with partners in order to monitor and react quickly to help meet local skills requirements and to continue to develop links with local Further Education Colleges and schools. Finally, we think that the council and the University should work closely together to develop ways of linking and integrating the city campus to the rest of the city and improve the quality of the public realm.

The other main issue examined by the Committee during the year involved examining the aims and progress of the North Eastern Local Enterprise Board. To consider this, the Committee arranged a special meeting which was open to all members of the council and involved the Leader of the council, LEP board members and contributions from a Lecturer from the University of Birmingham. I think that the special meeting proved a great success; allowing members of the council to consider and discuss the important work of the LEP and its implications for the future economic prosperity of the city.

All in all, it has been another very busy and productive year for the Committee. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking my colleagues for all their hard work and enthusiasm and I feel sure that the progress we have made can be built upon in the year ahead.



Sunderland University

Community and Safer City Scrutiny Committee



Councillor Thomas Martin
Vice Chair of the Community and Safer City Scrutiny Committee

It gives me great pleasure to present the annual report of the Community and Safer City Scrutiny Committee. Once again it has proved to be a busy year for the Committee and one in which we have looked to build upon the work and progress made in previous years.

For our policy review, the Committee agreed to focus on the development of community cohesion in the city. The Committee felt that it was important to look at this issue in view of the importance of community cohesion to the stability and sustainability of our local communities.

In the course of the review, the Committee consulted with a broad range of partners and viewed at first hand some of the initiatives being developed throughout the city. I think it is fair to say that we were all most impressed by the enthusiasm and commitment of everyone we spoke to and the very real impact their work is having. Our particular thanks to all of the officers of the council and the Sunderland Partnership who supported us during the review and also representatives from Show Racism the Red Card and Wear Out who provided invaluable us with invaluable support and guidance.

I feel that the final report has generated a number of far reaching recommendations that together can make a significant improvement to the development of community cohesion in the city.

Most importantly, we believe that community cohesion should be seen in its broadest context - not simply as an issue of race. The issues and challenges



facing particular areas of our city are often varied and therefore require different approaches and solutions. We have therefore recommended that the council should consider the ways in which we measure community cohesion at a more localised level in order to improve on the existing national indicators and to better reflect the fact that different areas of the city face different community cohesion challenges.

Also, in view of the broad range of factors influencing community cohesion, we feel that if we are to make a real impact, it is important to align and integrate cohesion with other council strategies and plans including the emerging Community Resilience Strategy, Equalities Scheme, Area Plans and wider partnership documents.

Based on our discussions, the Committee feel that one of the key factors in community cohesion revolves around the issues of deprivation and unemployment. We consider that action tackling poverty and unemployment are a major part to securing stable and cohesive communities. We therefore feel that it is important to closely monitor the implications of the Government's Welfare Reforms in order to understand and mitigate the potential effects on community cohesion in the city.

Furthermore, in order to help shape and inform our response to equalities issues, we recognise that staff and Members

should have an awareness of community cohesion issues and equalities legislation, particularly a knowledge and understanding of the challenges faced by people who suffer from discrimination.

Finally, as the Committee review was nearing completion, the Government announced further details of its forthcoming Integration Strategy. As this will have significant impact on the future development of community cohesion policies, the Committee will continue to monitor and assess the implications to the city.

As well as our work on the development of community cohesion, the Committee has also closely monitored the progress of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act and the implications for the city and its residents. With the elections for the new Police Commissioners scheduled for 15 November 2012 and organisational changes to be in place even earlier we feel that it is extremely important for members to closely monitor the situation in the year ahead.

In conclusion, I would like to thank my colleagues on the Committee for all their support and assistance during the year and also thank those officers and partners who have assisted the Committee in its work. I believe that a great deal has been achieved during the year and that this will place us in a strong position to face the challenges of the year ahead.

Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee



Councillor Susan Watson
Chair of the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee

As ever it has been a busy year for the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee and in doing so 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.

The year ahead

This Annual Report is one way in which the scrutiny function can reflect on the year passed and provide a snapshot of the various committees work and achievements. The collaborative work of Members, officers and partner agencies is one of the key principles of effective scrutiny and this report clearly illustrates how well this works in Sunderland.

Another aim of the Annual Report is to look ahead and focus on some of the key challenges that face scrutiny and the council. Throughout this report we continually use the word challenge and in looking ahead we again face considerable challenges including further financial constraints which will influence the operation of the council. The council

continues to look at using resources to best effect, ensuring that frontline services are still delivered to the highest standard for the people of Sunderland.

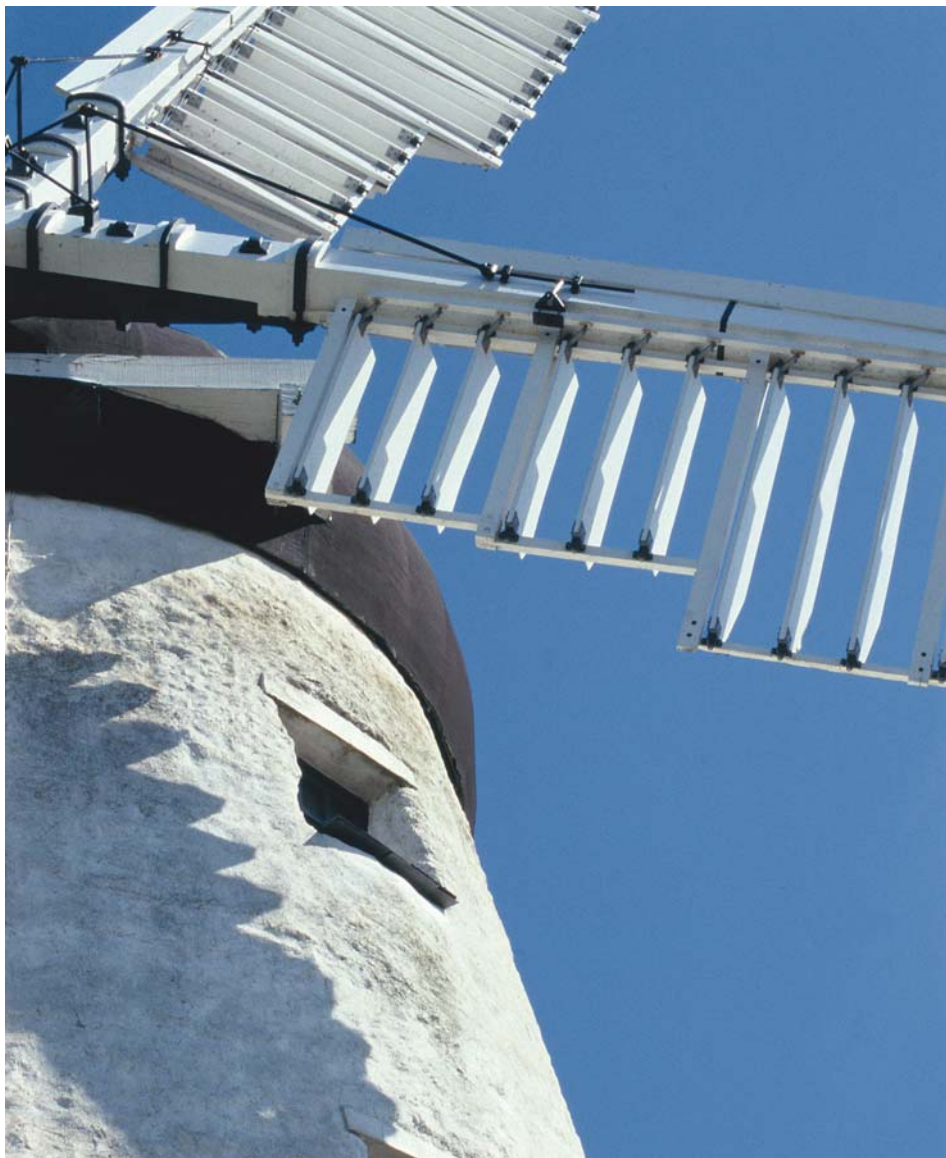
Scrutiny will continue to play an important role in helping the council to achieve this goal; by actively contributing to the good governance of the city. However, with diminishing budgets and limited resources there is always the need to look at how as a function we can operate more effectively, more innovatively and more efficiently while still maintaining that important contribution to governance arrangements. Scrutiny members and officers working together will always ensure that the function provided is fit for

purpose and provides the City Council and partner organisations with a robust scrutiny arrangement that as well as providing value is also valued.

A year is often described as a long time in politics and this adage is also true of local government. The landscape is constantly changing and there is a perpetual drive to adapt and change to emerging new legislation from central government, the changing needs of the people we serve and to ensure resources are utilised to maximise outcomes. The Scrutiny function through its in-depth policy review work will continue to help and drive improvements, service delivery and outcomes that will have real benefits for the council, partner organisations, communities and individuals.

Looking ahead is something that this council does very well and will continue to do so and there is much to be excited about including the introduction of a new scrutiny operating model for the 2012/13 Municipal Year, which will provide a more responsive scrutiny function. This new scrutiny model will have the ability to act and respond to emerging and developing issues through the commissioning of in-depth but time managed policy reviews, and work is currently underway between Members and officers to develop realistic procedures to enable this new model of working.

Times may seem challenging but it is in challenging times that this council looks to thrive and excel. In recognising that scrutiny will look very different in 2012, with a new operating model, Scrutiny Members will continue to build on the effective working relationships that have been developed with cabinet colleagues, partner organisations and council officers to ensure that these new arrangements work well, provide an effective challenge and ultimately results in contributing to the improvement of public services for the residents of Sunderland.



The scrutiny team

Located within the Scrutiny and Area Arrangements Function, the Scrutiny Team provides independent and professional support and advice to the City Council's Scrutiny Committees and consists of:



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Membership of scrutiny committees 2011/12

Management Scrutiny Committee

Chair: Cllr David Tate
Vice Chair: Cllr Kathryn Rolph
Cllr Florence Anderson
Cllr Graeme Miller
Cllr Michael Mordey
Cllr Robert Oliver
Cllr Paul Stewart
Cllr Peter Walker
Cllr Susan Watson
Cllr Amy Wilson
Cllr Peter Wood

Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee

Chair: Cllr Paul Stewart
Vice Chair: Cllr Anthony Morrissey
Cllr Richard Bell
Cllr Steven Bonallie
Cllr Doris MacKnight
Cllr Tom Martin
Cllr Robert Oliver
Cllr Dennis Richardson
Cllr Lynda Scanlan
Cllr Derrick Smith
Cllr Linda Williams

Co-opted members:

Church of England Diocese: Vacant
Roman Catholic Diocese: Ann Blakey
Free Churches' Council: Vacant
Parent Governor: Rose Elliott
Teacher Representative: Howard Brown
City of Sunderland College: Suzanne Duncan
University of Sunderland: Ken Morris
Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust: Vacant
Chairman of Governors of a school maintained by the council: Vacant
Diversity and Inclusion: Vacant
Non-teaching employees in schools and social care: Vacant

Community and Safer City Scrutiny Committee

Chair: Cllr Florence Anderson
Vice Chair: Cllr Tom Martin
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Cllr Alan Emerson
Cllr Michael Essl
Cllr Margaret Forbes
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Cllr Dorothy Trueman
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Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

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Cllr Bob Francis
Cllr Anne Hall
Cllr Paul Maddison
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Cllr Neville Padgett
Cllr Dianne Snowdon
Cllr Debra Waller
Cllr Norma Wright

Co-opted members:

Victoria Brown	Age UK
John Dean	Sunderland Link
Ralph Price	Sunderland Link
Eibhlin Inglesby	Carers' Centre

Prosperity and Economic Development Scrutiny Committee

Chair: Cllr Michael Mordey
Vice Chair: Cllr Dianne Snowdon
Cllr Ellen Ball
Cllr Richard Bell
Cllr Stephen Foster
Cllr John Gallagher
Cllr Peter Gibson
Cllr George Howe
Cllr Lilian Walton
Cllr Amy Wilson

Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee

Chair: Cllr Susan Watson
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Cllr David Errington
Cllr Thomas Foster
Cllr Iain Kay
Cllr Paul Maddison
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Cllr Lisa Smiles
Cllr Colin Wakefield



This information can be made available in large print, Braille, audio and other languages. Please contact the Scrutiny Team on 0191 561 1230 or email overviewandscrutiny@sunderland.gov.uk for help.

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