

## CONSULTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

### REPORT OF THE CITY SOLICITOR

#### **Strategic Priority 4: Learning City Corporate Improvement Priority: Delivering Customer Focused Services, Efficient and Effective Council**

#### **1. Why has this report come to the Committee?**

- 1.1 To notify the Committee about current government consultations and recent publications within the scope of the Review Committee.

#### **2. Background**

- 2.1 The annual work programme provides flexibility to respond to new developments including government consultation documents and new publications, and these are reported to Committee as appropriate.
- 2.2 A synopsis of current consultations is provided at Appendix 1.

#### **3. Conclusion**

- 3.1 This report is intended to keep the Committee apprised of new developments and provide background reading for items scheduled into the work programme.
- 3.2 There is also an opportunity to comment on live consultations. Members can respond individually to consultations documents or can:
- (a) Contribute a response by the closing date (via Children's Services)
  - (b) Seek guidance from Children's Services on current arrangements in Sunderland on the issues under consultation
  - (c) Have circulated the full consultation document for information
  - (d) Note the consultations and take no further action.

#### **4. Recommendation**

- 4.1 Committee is asked to note the information.

#### **5. Background Papers**

Full consultation documents.

### LATEST LIVE CONSULTATIONS

#### Young People and Alcohol Guidance

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The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families has launched a consultation on alcohol guidance, advice and information for parents, children, and young people. Views are invited from children, young people, parents, carers and those organisations and professionals working with young people in health, children's services and education settings.

**Launch Date:** Thursday 29 January 2009

**Closing Date:** Thursday 23 April 2009

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#### Ending Child Poverty: Making it Happen

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The Government wants to provide children and young people with the best start in life and break cycles of deprivation for good. The Government's ambitious pledge in 1999 to end child poverty by 2020 has already led to 600,000 fewer children in poverty in the UK. While good progress has been made, 2.9 million children remain in poverty. The Government is determined to tackle this. The Government is now consulting on legislative proposals prior to the introduction of a child poverty Bill in 2009. Legislation will require the Government to be accountable to Parliament on progress to end child poverty. As effective local action is critical, legislation will also provide a framework to strengthen approaches locally to accelerate progress across all our communities.

**Launch Date:** Wednesday 28 January 2009

**Closing Date:** Wednesday 11 March 2009

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#### Home Education – Your Views

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The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families has commissioned an independent review to assess whether current systems that support and monitor home education are the right ones. Views are welcome.

**Launch Date:** Monday 19 January 2009

**Closing Date:** Friday 20 February 2009

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