

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

17 APRIL 2014

SCRUTINY POLICY REVIEWS 2013/14

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF SCRUTINY AND AREA ARRANGEMENTS

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide the Scrutiny Committee with the draft recommendations of the five remaining scrutiny policy reviews undertaken by the Scrutiny Lead Members and their supporting Panels.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The scrutiny commissioning model is now in its second year. As part of the arrangements the Scrutiny Committee commissioned the Lead Scrutiny Members along with their respective scrutiny panels to undertake up to two policy reviews during 2013/14, the topics having been brought forward from discussions at the Annual Scrutiny Debate in May 2013.
- 2.3 Detailed evidence gathering for the policy review has taken place since June 2013, with the scrutiny panel's agreeing the content, conclusions and recommendations of the final reports at meetings in March and April 2014. The final reports are attached **(Appendix A-E) as below:**

| Report | Panel | Policy Review Topic |
|--------|---------------------------------------|---|
| A | Health, Housing and Adults | Supporting Carers in Sunderland |
| B | City Services | Flood Risk Management |
| C | Responsive Services and Customer Care | Volunteering; Unlocking Capacity |
| D | Skills, Economy and Regeneration | Diversification of the Local Economy |
| E | Public Health, Wellness and Culture | Patient and Public Engagement in Health and Wellbeing |

- 2.4 In addition, in January and February 2014, the Responsive Services and Customer Care Scrutiny Panel completed a mini review into Hate Crime Reporting. Whilst not a full policy review, the Panel has recommended the Scrutiny Committee endorse the resulting recommendations for officers of the council **(Appendix F)**.

3. POLICY REVIEWS 2013/14 – PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS

HHAS Scrutiny Panel

3.1 The recommendations of the Supporting Carers in Sunderland Policy Review 2013/14 are:-

- (a) That the Adult Partnership Board through the Carers Implementation Group considers the development of the frontline councillor role to enable members to identify and signpost carers in their local communities to the appropriate support or organisation;
- (b) That the Adult Partnership board develops, with partners, an awareness raising strategy to ensure carers can be identified as early as possible and that the strategy also promotes the reduction of stigma celebration of the caring role within the City;
- (c) That the Carers Implementation Group investigates, through its stakeholder membership, methods to improve and maximise data collection from agencies and organisations relating to all carers in the city to build the information base and profile of carers across Sunderland;
- (d) That the Adult Partnership Board seeks to improve involvement with carers through providing the opportunity for carers to influence and comment on policies, strategies and service design and delivery;
- (e) That the Adult Partnership Board establishes links with Gateshead and South Tyneside Councils with the aim of sharing information, exploring approaches and developing resources based around best practice.

City Services Scrutiny Panel

3.2 The recommendations of the Flood Risk Management Policy Review 2013/14 are:-

- (a) That the council and partners continue to meet regularly to build on existing joint working in order to maximise the use of resources and share information;
- (b) That the council considers the long term resource requirements to develop the expertise, structures and procedures to carry out the new duties set out in the Flood and Water Management Act 2010;
- (c) That the Scrutiny Committee monitors the progress being made in relation to the establishment of a SUDS Approval Body for the city through its annual monitoring of performance against the delivery of the recommendations;
- (d) That the council investigates the approach to planning policy being taken by other local authorities in relation to water management and flood risk;
- (e) That action is taken to ensure that residents are made aware of the potential risk to them and their properties from all forms of flooding and encourage them to take responsibility to help reduce these risks by creating a flood plan for their households that compliments the actions of the other responsible agencies;
- (f) That the council looks further at developing new and innovative channels of communication to keep residents aware of potential flood risk event; and

- (g) That the recommendations of the Panel (listed a-f) be fed into the forthcoming Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.

Responsive Services and Customer Care Scrutiny Panel

- 3.3 The recommendations of the Volunteering; Unlocking Capacity Policy Review 2013/14 are:-
- (a) To revise and embed a Volunteering Strategic Framework which is owned and delivered by the Sunderland Partnership;
 - (b) To include in the Strategy a set of measurable outcomes of delivery against objectives;
 - (c) To develop a clear Volunteering Policy for the involvement of volunteers in council services;
 - (d) To incorporate into the Policy an approach to coordination of activity at area level;
 - (e) To support Elected Members to act as 'skilled connectors' in their communities and to provide them with the means to actively engage with the voluntary workforce;
 - (f) To promote and facilitate opportunities for council employees, including retiring council employees, to engage in volunteering; and
 - (g) To increase opportunities for raising the profile of volunteering including the use of existing and planned communication campaigns.

Skills, Economy and Regeneration Scrutiny Panel

- 3.4 The recommendations of the Diversification of the Local Economy Policy Review 2013/14 are:-
- (a) That the scrutiny function receive further progress on the role of the Local Asset Backed Vehicle and the Business Improvement District in delivering the regeneration of the city centre;
 - (b) That the Council continues to engage with the business community including Nissan to improve the transportation and energy infrastructure adjacent to the Nissan site;
 - (c) That the Council and its partners work together to seek to address the future skill requirements of each sector of the local economy;
 - (d) That the Port continues the expansion of its business and further develops its market in emerging sectors of the economy;
 - (e) That the Council continues to promote the development of the software sector in the city and continues to engage with them in order to keep them up to date with major planned developments in the city and assist them with marketing and support;

- (f) That the Council continues to promote the development of the creative industries sector in the city;
- (g) That the Council continues to work with the Sunderland Empire on its infrastructure requirements and its overall visitor offer.

Public Health, Wellness and Culture Scrutiny Panel

- 3.5 The recommendation of the Patient and Public Engagement in Health and Wellbeing Policy Review 2013/14 is to endorse the Patient and Public Engagement Framework as set out in Appendix 3 for forwarding to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Responsive Services and Customer Care Scrutiny Panel

- 3.6 The recommendations of the Hate Crime mini-review 2013/14 are:-
- (a) Representatives from partner organisations should continue to discuss how to work collaboratively to use the new system to best effect;
 - (b) Councillors should be made aware of the new system and how they can report issues themselves on behalf of their own residents at city or area level;
 - (c) Information should be shared with Community Leaders and with members of the public who should be encouraged to report incidents rather than keep them within the community and provided with reassurance where people may be afraid of repercussions.

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 It is recommended that the Scrutiny Committee considers and endorses the scrutiny policy review presented at **Appendix A-F**, and submits:
- (a) Policy Review Reports A-D to Cabinet at its meeting of 18 June 2014;
 - (b) Policy Review Report E to the Health and Wellbeing Board of 4 July 2014; and
 - (c) Review Report F to relevant officers of the council for action.

5. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Scrutiny Committee Agenda and reports: 13 June 2013

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