

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

28th January, 2008

PRESENT – Councillor Hughes (in the Chair); Councillors Armstrong, Francis, Galletley, Long, Richmond, A. J. Scott and Walker. (8)

STATUTORY CO-OPTEES – None. (0)

NON-STATUTORY CO-OPTEES – Mr. R. Egan and Mr. N. Rees. (2)

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – John Bosson, Policy Advisor, and Jenni Hopper, Investigation Officer, Policy Unit.

APOLOGIES – Councillors Davies, Lawton and Lister, Canon S. Bamber, Mr. M. Frank, Mr. T. Fisher and Mr. D. Moyes. (7)

ABSENT – Ms. S. Robinson and Mrs. H. Ellis. (2)

CYP37. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS – There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

CYP38. CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY – The Assistant Chief Executive submitted a report (previously circulated) to invite the views of Members of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on the Draft Darlington Sustainable Community Strategy, as part of the full consultation process.

The submitted report outlined the programme of consultation, the vision for Darlington, and the five themes of the strategy. A copy of the Draft Darlington Sustainable Community Strategy was appended to the submitted report.

Discussion ensued on the need to give greater prominence to lifelong and adult learning within the Strategy, the inclusion of the personal development agenda, the need to promote awareness of Arts and Culture, easing the transition between Primary and Secondary education, the concerns regarding the Schools Admissions policy, the importance of parental preference, the inclusion of civil societies and groups, the disparities in performance in secondary education and the possible reasons for this, the merits of SureStart, the practical application of such strategies, the provision for self analysis, and the mechanisms available to revise such strategies when required.

RESOLVED – That a written submission from the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee be drafted, reflecting the discussion of this meeting, and forwarded to the Policy Unit for inclusion in the consultation process.