

SUNDERLAND EAST AREA COMMITTEE

25 OCTOBER 2010

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

COMMUNITY ACTION IN SUNDERLAND EAST: IDENTIFYING NEW ISSUES AND AGREEING ACTIONS (2010/11 WORK PLAN)

1. Why has it come to Committee?

- 1.1 To enable the future development of area based working, the Area Committee requires detailed information to be freely available from a number of different sources. An “intelligence hub” has been established that will act as a repository for information available. Officers will have access to relevant up-to-date information required to make effective decision making at an area level, and provide Area Committees with the detailed analysis required to identify key priorities and future waves of Responsive Local Services activity.
- 1.2 Information has been sourced from other Committee meetings, Community Leadership Programme, Responsive Local Services, which includes the Customer Service Network, the Area Co-ordination Team, Members Query Management System, Questions to Area Committee, Safer Communities Team and the Consultation Team, including resident surveys. Additional links have also been made with the Local Multi Agency Problem Solving groups (LMAPs), in particular the Data Analyst Team from Northumbria Police.

2. New Issue

Ryhope Beach Access/Egress Background

- 2.1 In the 1970's the Council constructed a structure at the seaward end of Ryhope Beach Road that served the dual functions of protecting a Northumbrian Water (NW) sea outfall and providing access/egress to and from the beach via concrete steps and a ramp. At the time the Council acted as an agent for NW, with the works being jointly funded. This arrangement was terminated in 1997, and responsibility for public sewer issues subsequently reverted to NW. It should be noted that the structure was not a coastal defence structure.
- 2.2 The Council's adopted policy for this length of the coastline (The Shoreline Management Plan) is currently one of allowing retreat through natural coastal erosion. Given this erosion and a lack of maintenance over a number of years, the condition of the access structure deteriorated and became unsafe.
- 2.3 In March 2008 Cabinet agreed to remove the access structure at Ryhope Beach Road and provide a new point of public access/egress. Detailed proposals for the removal of the structure were dependent upon information regarding the NW outfall within the structure. Information was not readily available and whilst investigations were ongoing the structure continued to deteriorate. In December 2009 the condition of the structure reached a point where, it was considered to be in a dangerous condition and emergency demolition works were undertaken. This left a section of the NW outfall exposed and unsupported above the beach.

- 2.4 Access to and from the beach at this location has remained closed in the interests of safety pending the provision of revised access/egress arrangements.

Current Position

- 2.5 It is not practicable to undertake access works without taking due regard of NW proposals for their outfall and discussions between the Council and NW are ongoing.
- 2.6 In September 2010 NW submitted a planning application for works to replace and lower the outfall over the foreshore and beneath Ryhope Beach Road. Their proposals also provide a concrete surround to the outfall with a view to affording future protection given the ongoing erosion of the area.
- 2.7 Works to re-grade the cutting slope to the south of Ryhope Beach Road to allow safe access and working have commenced by NW. It is understood that they intend to lower the section of their outfall beneath the beach by the end of November 2010. Thereafter they will lower the outfall beneath Ryhope Beach Road for a distance of approximately 30m.
- 2.8 Further technical details have been sought from NW in order to allow options for pedestrian access/egress to be considered. Agreement in principle to the Council and NW working together to provide a new pedestrian access/egress has been made. Details are being formulated, but most likely this will provide steps/and or ramp. It is proposed that this will be undertaken as part of the outfall works, with the Council making an appropriate contribution.

3. Hendon Beach Progress Briefing

Railings Remedials

- 3.1 The remedial works to Hendon Beach railings consist of removal, refurbishment and re-erection by Marshalls of their Llanelli Post and Rail System, the works commenced on Wednesday 18th August 2010. At the start of October it was observed that some of the railings re-erected to date were showing signs of rusting. Marshalls are currently reviewing their method of sealing of the rails in order to prevent water ingress and will replace the railings affected. Refurbishment works are on hold until a satisfactory solution is found.
- 3.2 The provision of the railings on the Northern and centre ramp is still under review. The Council is working with Marshalls to arrive at a more robust solution. Some of the temporary railings installed on the centre ramp were damaged during the storm conditions experienced in mid-September and these have now been replaced. Additional railings in front of the car park area have now been installed. It is intended to install additional railings on the Southern ramp by the end of the November 2010.

Cleansing

- 3.3 Under the Responsive Local Services priority, litter bins have now been installed along the promenade and an agreed cleansing regime is now in place for removal of litter and for removal of algae from the ramps.

Signage

- 3.4 An audit of signage at this location has been completed and additional signs are currently on order.

4. Recommendations

Committee are requested to:

- Request NW and Officers provide regular progress reports to local Ward Councillors.
- Consider publicising the joint initiative at the appropriate time.

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