

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

29 September 2009

**SUMMARY OF THE SUNDERLAND STRATEGY AND COUNCIL'S
CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

Report of the Chief Executive and the Director of Financial Resources

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to raise the awareness of the Committee of the key priorities and plans for the city and the council through providing a summary of the Sunderland Strategy and the council's Corporate Improvement Plan (CIP).

2. Council's Vision

- 2.1 The Committee receives a range of reports in relation to governance, risk, audit and performance of the council. In order to contextualise these reports Members of the Committee have requested information in relation to the 'vision' of the council.
- 2.2 The key documents that contain the 'vision' for the city and the council are the Sunderland Strategy and the Council's CIP respectively. A brief description of each is provided below.

Sunderland Strategy (2008-2025)

The city's residents and businesses were asked for their views on the city and how they want to see the city develop in the future, and the strategy describes how partners will respond to those views. It also sets out what will be done to make Sunderland attractive to people coming to live in the city.

It is a strategy for everyone, produced by the Sunderland Partnership – the partners who work together to tackle the challenges the city faces.

The Sunderland Partnership vision is:

"Sunderland will be a welcoming, international recognised city where people have the opportunity to fulfil their aspirations for a healthy, safe and prosperous city."

As a member of the Sunderland Partnership the council subscribes to this vision.

The Sunderland Partnership is the city's Local Strategic Partnership (LSP). It brings together the public, private, community and voluntary sectors to work together to achieve success, encourage improvement, and tackle and overcome problems for the benefit of all citizens now and in the future.

Corporate Improvement Plan (2009/2010 – 2011/2012)

The Corporate Improvement Plan (CIP) 2009/2010 to 2011/2012 is the council's overarching plan for how it will deliver services and work towards achieving the vision for Sunderland - Creating a better future for everyone in Sunderland.

The full CIP combines the plans for each of the council's portfolios, including revenue budgets for the financial year and the capital programme for 2009/2010, detailing planned capital expenditure.

The CIP gives a broad overview of what the council is doing to achieve Sunderland Partnership Strategic Priorities as well as its own Corporate Improvement Objectives (together these are known as the Corporate Improvement Priorities) set out below. It details the actions each portfolio and service area intends to take over the financial year, and its plans for the next two years.

Strategic Priorities

Prosperous City
Healthy City
Safe City
Learning City
Attractive and Inclusive City

The Sunderland Strategy 2008-2025 also identifies four cross-cutting priorities – important issues and priorities that cut across everything that the Sunderland Partnership and its partner organisations do, these are:

Sustainability
Creating Inclusive Communities
Housing
Culture

These cross-cutting themes are considered in the development of improvement actions under each of the Strategic Priorities.

The council directs its contribution towards achieving the Partnership vision through four Corporate Improvement Objectives.

Corporate Improvement Objectives
Delivering Customer Focused Services
Being 'One Council'
Efficient and Effective Council
Improving Partnership Working To Deliver 'One City'

2.3 Summaries of both of the above documents are appended.

3. Recommendations

3.1 The Committee is asked to note the summary information.

