

## Priority One and Priority two:

**Encourage private landlords to become registered and, (priority two), bring empty properties back into use.**

### Key Facts

Evidence suggests that a clear link between Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) and a poor housing environment exists across all tenures. Where poor quality housing is evident, a higher than average level of ASB is likely to be experienced resulting in a poorer quality of life for all local residents. This is often exacerbated in areas of low demand where a high level of empty homes is apparent. Often poor quality housing in the private rented sector becomes the housing of last resort for the most vulnerable individuals in society.

Strategically, the Council and the Local Strategic Partnership have identified ASB, empty homes and poor landlord practices in the private rented sector as key issues requiring further intervention. This is highlighted in a number of local strategies including the Sunderland Strategy, Safer Sunderland Strategy, Empty Property Strategy and the Housing Strategy.

With regard to empty properties, it is recognised that long-term empty homes represent a wasted resource. As of August 2009, **2314 (2.5% of the total private stock in the Sunderland)** private properties were classed as long term (over six months) empty residential homes. On an area basis the breakdown is as follows;

North – 385 (2.1% of the private stock in that area)

East – 722 (3.6% of the private stock in that area)

West – 403 (2% of the private stock in that area)

Coalfield – 513 (3.3% of the private stock in that area)

Washington – 291 (1.7% of the private stock in that area)

Given that the national average for long term empty properties in the private sector is **1.3%** it is evident that all areas exceed this; over double in some areas.

In 2008/09, **406** empty properties across the City were brought back into use or demolished against a key PI target of 360 (339 were brought back into use and 77 were demolished as part of the Councils Area Renewal Programme).

A breakdown of those premises across the area committees is as follows:-

East Area	80
North Area	137 (77 demolitions)
Coalfield Area	55
West Area	112
Washington Area	22

As part of the Empty Property Strategy review, the Council is developing an Empty Property Action Plan which will detail how empty properties will be brought back into use and this plan will set targets for each local area.

Within Sunderland there are almost 125,000 homes, of which 91,000 or 73% are in the private sector. In the East this figure rises to 79%. Across Sunderland 6% of the stock is privately rented but in the East this figure rises to 11%.

In order to tackle problems associated with the private rented sector, the Council's Housing and Neighbourhood Renewal Team pro-actively engage with landlords, managing agents and tenants in the area to provide support, advice and guidance on health, safety and housing related matters. In addition, formal action is taken where both landlord and tenant fail to improve conditions.

With regard to ASB, the Team also hold the responsibility for investigating and resolving all such incidents in the private sector. The Anti-Social Behaviour Unit investigated approximately **500** cases during 08/09. On an area basis the breakdown is as follows;

North – 55

East – 148

West – 98

Coalfield – 57

Washington – 133

### **Current Activity**

Interventions currently in place to tackle problems associated with the private rented sector and empty properties include:

**Landlord Accreditation Scheme** – Currently there are limited powers to regulate the Private Rented Sector however Sunderland, along with other authorities, operates a voluntary Accreditation Scheme with the aim of promoting good landlord practices. 228 landlords are currently accredited, 81 of whom have property in the Hendon area. Landlords are vetted prior to being accepted as an accredited landlord. The Scheme operates across the city and is currently delivered by one Officer.

**Dedicated team to investigate cases of ASB within the private rented sector** - With regard to ASB, although the Council's Housing and Neighbourhood Renewal Team holds the responsibility for investigating and resolving cases across all housing tenures their main focus relates to the owner occupied and private rented sectors.

**Dedicated team to carry out enforcement activity associated with housing standards** – Where officers have been unable to resolve issues informally, formal action can be taken to ensure housing standards are improved. This can range from defective drains to dangerous conditions in the home. The team also inspect the City's 1500 Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) to ensure they provide a safe and healthy home for tenants. Over recent years the government has introduced mandatory licensing for larger HMOs and Sunderland currently licence 120 such properties. Licensing strengthens the authority's powers in relation to the management of such properties.

**Tenant/landlord vetting** - In addition, the team is responsible for carrying out 'vetting checks' on behalf of landlords who are members of the City Council's Voluntary Accreditation Scheme and on average almost 30 such requests are received each month.

**Dedicated Empty Property Officer** - The Empty Property Officer and a Private Sector Housing Officer work across the whole of the city to bring empty properties in the private sector back into use. This can be through working with owners to renovate and sell or rent out, use of enforcement powers, demolishing the most unfit housing or by working with the Housing Options Team to match homeless people with empty properties.

The City wide target for 2009/10 is 375. This is a 'stretching' target given limited staffing resources and the length of time it takes to bring empty properties back into use. To the end of September 2009 there have been 117 properties brought back into use or demolished across the city. The breakdown is as follows:-

East Area	51
North Area	17
Coalfield Area	25
West Area	14
Washington Area	10

As part of the Empty Property Strategy review, the Council is developing an Empty Property Action Plan which will detail how empty properties will be brought back into use and will set targets for each of the 5 Area Committees. It is intended that the review will involve relevant partners and be completed before April 2010.

Previously a targeted approach was adopted in the Hendon area, when Back on the Map funded a dedicated Empty Property Officer for three years. This project terminated in March 2009 during which time 178 empty homes had been brought back into use. As part of this initiative a 'Smartwater' scheme was successful in protecting properties and their contents from theft.

If early intervention is not implemented and enforcement tools are not utilised, this can result in an area declining very rapidly and communities being destroyed.

**Area Renewal** – In certain areas it has been essential to provide additional support in relation to home and environmental improvements. These have been targeted schemes as part of a wider regeneration package. In particular landlords have benefited from participation in Block Improvement Schemes on the condition that the property is brought up to the Accreditation standard. Should participating Landlords allow their properties to remain empty for longer than 3 months they have to pay back their grant allocation in full.

Recently a pilot project was undertaken by the Housing and Neighbourhood Renewal Team which saw officers proactively tackling issues of empty homes, ASB and poor rented housing standards and management in two pilot areas. Initial feedback from residents welcomed this approach but more work to determine the outcomes, impact and hopefully the reduction in the fear of crime expressed by residents initially is required. Officers intend to return to the two pilot areas after 6 months to measure and learn from the exercise.

In addition, the team is currently finalising an application to the Secretary of State to introduce Selective Licensing in the Hendon area. Selective Licensing allows a targeted approach to be taken in a set geographical area that is suffering from low demand and/or ASB. All private landlords operating in the area are required to pass a 'fit and proper test' and be issued with a licence. Operating without such a licence is a criminal offence. Should Sunderland's application be successful it will be one of only 12 authorities in the country to have introduced Selective Licensing.

### **Gaps/Needs/General Comment**

With regard to empty properties, it is recognised that long-term empty homes represent a wasted resource and re-occupation results in the following mutual benefits: making a valuable contribution to meeting the housing needs of local people; generating additional revenue through Council Tax; preventing empty properties becoming the focus of anti-social behaviour and enhancing the appearance of the local environment.

As there are currently only **two** officers employed to reduce the number of empty homes across the whole of Sunderland, ensuring empty homes are secured against unauthorised access, free from anti social behaviour, vandalism and illegal dumping often takes resources away from the proactive work to bring those homes back into use.

There was a dedicated Private Sector Housing Officer that promoted the Voluntary Private Landlord Accreditation Scheme in the Hendon area, funded by Back on the Map for three years but this project terminated in March 2009.

With regard to ASB, there are currently only **three** Officers employed to cover the whole of Sunderland. Officers are committed to reducing the level of ASB within the private sector and regularly work outside of their contracted hours (9-5) to investigate cases and attend community

meetings. Given that approximately 76% or 210,000 of Sunderland's residents live in the private sector and that the majority of ASB occurs on evenings and weekends, difficulties can arise when trying to resolve cases.

### **Actions**

Lead: Sunderland City Council, Health, Housing and Adult Services

In addition to each of the Area Committees requesting information regarding the current position and work of the Council in tackling empty homes, anti social behaviour and the private rented sector, a similar request has been made by the Community and Safer City Scrutiny Committee in respect to the Council's role in tackling ASB issues..

A report is being prepared by the Executive Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services for submission to the Scrutiny Community this month. The report will not only set out details as described above, but will also detail the level of resource required to expand the existing minimal Council service.

### **Proposal**

Lead: Health, Housing and Adult Services

Committee is requested to note the contents of the information contained under priority one and two, and agree to accept a further report specifically focusing on private landlords, ASB and empty properties.

### **Priority Three:**

#### **Deliver activities along the river corridor**

#### **Key Facts:**

The riverbanks show evidence of past industrialisation, with former collieries, engineering works and dozens of shipyards. In their time, Wearside shipbuilders were some of the most famous and productive shipyards in the world.

The artist L. S. Lowry visited Sunderland repeatedly and painted pictures of the industrial landscape around the river. Three bridges cross the Wear in Sunderland: the Queen Alexandra Bridge to the west, and the Wearmouth rail and road bridges in the city centre.

The river is occupied by what remains of the Port of Sunderland. The River Wear flows out of Sunderland between Roker Pier and South Pier, and into the North Sea.

#### **Current Activity**

There are no known activities or events being delivered along the river on the East side. There is however a varied programme happening in the City centre.

#### **Theatre restaurant**

Is a unique venue in the North East of England, which combines a meal with an evening of entertainment. Performances change weekly. For further information log onto [www.theatrerestaurant.co.uk](http://www.theatrerestaurant.co.uk)

#### **Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens**

Deliver a varied programme of events, displays and workshops and increase activity during the school holidays.

#### **City Library and Arts Centre**

There are a range of permanent attractions, temporary exhibitions and useful resources that anyone can use, including the City's main library.

Sunniside Partnership is delivering a variety of free activities, for example, and outdoor 3D disco. Situated in Sunniside, is The Place, which incorporates business spaces and artists' studios, meeting rooms, performance space, a gallery and a café.

#### Sunderland Empire

Opened in 1907, the Sunderland Empire is the North East's largest theatre and a splendid example of Edwardian architecture. Following a £4.5million refurbishment in 2005, the Empire now boasts 21st Century facilities and is the only theatre between Manchester and Edinburgh capable of staging large West End productions.

#### **Gaps/Needs**

There are activities and events being held along the river corridor but these are held on the North side, e.g. St Peters Campus and the National Glass Centre. Currently Sunderland arc are currently implementing arc's Business Plan e.g. priority projects which have a link with the river corridor are Vaux, Farringdon Row and Stadium Village. Subject to funding this may also include high quality public realm and a new footbridge over the River Wear to link Stadium Village with the Vaux site and the City Centre.

#### **Actions**

Lead: Sunderland arc

As detailed development proposals evolve, ensure potential of river corridor is maximised and incorporate a high level of connectivity with city centre.

#### **Priority Four:**

#### **Promote and clean up the City Centre**

#### **Current Activity:**

Holmeside Development Agreement is completed, which will aid promotion of, and enhance the City centre as a retail destination. The Vaux scheme proposals designed to promote and create new business quarter in city centre. Arc are supporting Sunniside Business Forum to market and promote Sunniside area.

Sunderland City Council has introduced a significant level of job enrichment within Environmental Services to support the increased team of Environmental Enforcement Officers across the City to target litter, graffiti, etc.

City Centre Strategy Group are delivering the following projects which will benefits priority 4, 5 and 6:-

#### *Festival and Events:*

Develop, implement and deliver events throughout City Centre, including Christmas lighting.

#### *Street Scene Improvement:*

Identify limited number of key streets/routes that will benefit from basic improvements; including street cleaning; maintenance of the streetscape and other public realm, new street signing; de-cluttering where feasible and improve presentation.

#### *Marketing and Promotion:*

Improved approach to the marketing and branding of the City Centre.

#### *Response to Economic Downturn:*

Support city centre businesses, particularly independent retail sector. i.e. including car parking promotion and loyalty card scheme.

*Kwik Save Site:*

Temporary screening of a vacant site and visual improvement to the streetscene.

*Street Scene Audit:*

A pedestrian environment audit to be undertaken to provide the evidence base for the public realm strategy.

*Empire Fly Tower:*

Improve visual appearance of the fly tower.

*Market Square/Station Square Public Realm Improvement*

Public realm improvement scheme that involves the delivery of a comprehensive environmental scheme for Market and Station Square both of which adjoin Sunderland Station.

*Central Area Car Park:*

A Review of City centre parking

*Market Stalls Feasibility Study:*

Feasibility of the purchase of mobile market stalls to be used within the City Centre and city wide.

*Footfall Cameras Feasibility*

Install footfall cameras in strategic city centre locations to provide pedestrian flow data, to assist in strategic decision making for both the Council and City Centre retailers.

*City Library Development*

Arrivals Lounge on Fawcett Street Library, providing a welcoming and informative facility where people can find out more about the cultural heritage offer in Sunderland.

*Vacant Premises Utilisation*

Action required to tackle vacant premises and sites, work with owners to; bring buildings back into use, tidy up vacant sites and screen sites where possible.

Local Development Framework (LDF): The LDF is a suite of documents providing guidance and policies for meeting the community's economic, environmental and social aims the development of land in Sunderland for the next 10-15 years to ensure that sufficient houses of the right type and quality are being provided in the right place to meet the needs of the City's changing population. Consultation is now ongoing until early in the new year.

**Gaps/Needs**

Arc: Ensure Holmeside scheme progresses in accordance with provisions of development agreement. Conclude developer appointment process. Endeavour to get Sunnyside businesses to take more ownership of Business Forum and become more self-sufficient (ie less dependent on public sector partners)

**Actions**

City Centre Strategy Group, **proposed future projects but funding needs to be identified:**

*Public Realm Strategy:*

The document will set key actions, tasks and a coordinated work programme for public realm works in the City Centre over the lifetime of the new Sunderland Strategy.

*City Centre Health Check:*

An update is required from 2006 baseline position. The health check will consider overnight accommodation, office accommodation, retail trends, housing, transport and perceptions.

*Sunderland Railway Station:*

Improve visual appearance for arrivals, City image and as a key gateway.

*High Street West/West Wear Street Junction*

Improve vehicular access to Sunnyside and reduce traffic delay, improve pedestrian crossing facilities.

Arc: Develop promotion strategy with Vaux developer to attract occupiers and investors to Vaux

Investigate the feasibility of establishing a Street Pastor scheme in the City centre and feedback into Area Committee: The scheme would support the Sunderland East Local Area Plan as well as a number of Safer Sunderland Partnership strategic priorities including:-

- Reducing alcohol misuse and the harm it causes, including alcohol related crime
- Reducing drug misuse and the harm it causes, including drug related crime

The Street Pastor act as eyes and ears in the City centre at night and will be able to feedback a range of useful information to agencies e.g. they would be able to provide intelligence on any changing patterns in the locations of rough sleepers, or information in changes in feelings of safety in the City centre from the general public’s point of view, etc. They would also be able to provide information to Environmental Services Teams on crime risks on the main walking routes home from the centre i.e. overgrown bushes.

Lead: Churches in Sunderland

**Proposals**

**Review:** Lead: City Centre Programme Board

To establish a two way communication process for the City Centre Strategy group and the City Centre Programme Board (*The Board has recently been set up to oversee the activity of the Strategy Group and other partners, e.g Nexus, Sunderland arc, Sunnyside Partnership, the University.*) to update Area Committee on development and vice versa, to complement each others work plans and priorities.

**Review:** Lead: Sunderland arc

Consider opportunities to support Holmeside developer in marketing the scheme/city centre.

**Review:** Lead: Sunderland arc

Monitor needs and effectiveness of Sunnyside Business Forum.

**Priority Five:**

**Celebrate our heritage**

**Key Facts:**

There are 175 listed buildings located with Sunderland East area, this means 48% of all the City’s listed buildings fall in the East area.

Scheduled Ancient Monument

Ryhope Engines Trust is the only one scheduled ancient monument in the East area and is one of the finest industrial monuments in the North East, a Grade II listed building. Two giant Woolf Compound Beam engines of 1868, plus 1908 Lancashire Boilers, blacksmith's forge, waterwheel, and numerous steam engines and pumps.

#### Register of Parks

A small number of parks or gardens are formally recognised on the national Register of Parks and Gardens of Historic Interest for their special significance. There are two Registered Parks in Sunderland, one of which – Mowbray Park – is in the East Area. Mowbray Park, first opened in the 1850s and originally known as the People's Park, is in the City centre and includes a number of Grade II listed structures, including fountains, memorials, statues and a footbridge.

#### Wearmouth-Jarrow candidate World Heritage Site

The focus of the Wearmouth site of the twinned monastery that is the UK's 2010 nomination for World Heritage Site inscription is St. Peter's Church, to the north of the River Wear. The "buffer zone" that has been identified to provide protection to the setting of the site, however, extends into the East Area, largely within the Old Sunderland Riverside Conservation Area.

#### Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens

Awarded second place in the Large Visitor Attraction category, Excellence in England awards, Sunderland's museum is hugely popular with visitors of all ages. A range of fascinating multimedia installations tell the city's story from its early foundations to the present day and one of the galleries boasts an extensive collection of paintings by LS Lowry, who considered Sunderland his 'second home'.

#### Current Activity

Conservation areas are defined as "areas of special architectural or historic interest the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance". There are 14 conservation areas in Sunderland, 8 of which are in the East Area. The Conservation Team is producing Character Appraisals and Management Strategies (CAMS) for the city's conservation areas.

1. Central Sunderland (to be re-named Sunnyside). CAMS drafted, expect adoption at November Cabinet
2. Old Sunderland. CAMS under preparation, expected for adoption 2010-11
3. Ashbrooke. CAMS adopted in December 2004
4. The Green, Ryhope. CAMS under preparation, expected for adoption 2010-11
5. Old Sunderland Riverside. CAMS under preparation, expected for adoption 2010-11
6. The Cedars. CAMS adopted at time of designation (March 2008)
7. Bishopwearmouth. CAMS adopted March 2007
8. Silksworth Hall, Doxford ward, CAMS under preparation, public consultation Autumn 2009, expected for adoption at February Cabinet (2010)

#### Grant schemes - Sunnyside Commercial Property Grant Scheme

Sunnyside Partnership, working with the City Council, provides grants to the owners and tenants of existing buildings in Sunnyside who would like to improve their property in order to make their business more viable, or would like to bring an empty building back into commercial use. The grant scheme began in 2004 and is one of a number of ways that the Partnership and the Council are working to improve Sunnyside. So far 26 grants, totalling over £1 million, have been awarded. The grant has helped to attract 15 new businesses into the area and supported existing businesses. This has helped to create more than 70 new jobs as well as safeguarding the jobs of people already working in the area.

#### Old Sunderland Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI)



The THI is a match-funded grant scheme between the Heritage Lottery Fund and the City Council with a grant pool of £1.8 million. Offers of grant can be made to assist owners in carrying out works to enhance certain eligible buildings in the Old Sunderland and Old Sunderland Riverside conservation areas. The grant scheme will contribute to the regeneration of the area by securing the repair and restoration of historic buildings and bringing vacant or underused floorspace into use.

#### Sunniside

Public realm – early works focussed around Sunniside Gardens, now works commenced along St. Thomas Street and High Street West.

Further information on the outputs and targets of the Conservation Team can be found in the State of the Historic Environment Report 2009, accessible in hard copy from the Conservation Team, or online at [www.sunderland.gov.uk/conservation](http://www.sunderland.gov.uk/conservation)

SAFC Foundation in the past year have worked with a group of 11 young people who produced a touring exhibition called “Football: so what?” The exhibition focussed on the importance of football to the communities of Sunderland whilst also looking at the History of the City, the history of SAFC and the history of football. The exhibition toured to eight venues with over 32,000 visitors in a nine month period.

#### Culture and heritage

- Management and Delivery of Service Level Agreement with Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums covering Monkwearmouth Station Museum, Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens and Washington ‘F’ Pit.
- Sunderland Empire – management of agreement with Live Nation
- Local Studies Centre within the City Library and Arts Centre
- East End Study – Gill Cookson
- Sunderland Heritage Forum – working in partnership with officers from Sunderland City Council to apply for external funding for a Citywide Heritage Strategy
- City Centre walking map to include the East End (March 2010) – June Parker
- Events and heritage programme to promote Black History Month, Heritage Open Days, Holocaust Memorial Day, Local History Month and other relevant events
- Supporting the voluntary sector, including Living History North East, Friends of Sunderland Parish Church, Sunderland Old Township Heritage Society, Ryhope Engines Museum, Antiquarians, Sunderland Maritime Heritage as and when appropriate
- Developing information
- Website development – including Sunderland Then and Now photograph collection
- Promotion of heritage and the City across the City and Regionally at events/organisations

#### Gaps/Needs

Sunderland City Council are waiting to secure/confirm funding to carry out a city wide heritage strategy which will identify priorities for the city.

The Local Studies centre within the City Library and Arts Centre has high demand for usage with limited space and resources.

It is recognised that the Council need to develop further partnership work with under represented groups across the City with regards to heritage.

Although heritage events and activities are delivered successfully, the resources are limited, with increased resources they will be a greater potential for further development.

## **Actions**

Lead: Sunderland City Council, Corporate Communications

SAFC Foundation 'The Football: So What?' Exhibition is available to tour other venues and demonstrate the rich culture and heritage of the City using the power of football as a catalyst for the visitor experience. This should be promoted via the area newsletter and organisations should be encouraged to access this provision.

Lead: Sunderland City Council, City Services

Local Studies Centre – further scope for development and partnership working (currently subject to review by the sustainable community's scrutiny committee)

Maritime Heritage Mapping – funding bid to go forward for first stage of project proposal. If successful – further funding would need to be identified for second stage proposal.

Built Heritage – buildings which are currently not in use include the Synagogue which could be considered for future development and proposals.

Events and Activities and further partnership working (support to voluntary sector) – scope to deliver further programme and promotion, this could include a number of actions including a heritage/maritime festival focusing on the City's river and coastal heritage. Connection with priority three: 'Deliver activities along the river corridor'.

## **Proposal**

Lead: Sunderland Heritage Forum

Review: To investigate and feedback the costs involved in developing a City Heritage Strategy, enabling the Forum and the Council to indicate a number of identified priorities which will need consideration on how they are taken forward.

## **Priority six:**

### **Improve recycling facilities.**

#### **Key Facts:**

Sunderland Strategy has clear targets regarding recycling. The Authorities Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy details 30% of all residual household waste will be recycled by 2010 and pushes even further by stating that by 2015, 45% of all domestic waste will be recycled and 2020 the target is 50%.

The Place Survey was carried out by all local authorities in England, as required by central government. It is a postal survey that was sent out to a random sample of 5000 households across Sunderland in late September 2008. Result show that perceptions from residents in the East area are less positive and more dissatisfied than the City average with regards to doorstep recycling.

#### **Current Services:**

Green-it

The Green-It, fortnightly green waste collection service is operated citywide for households with gardens. The service caters for the majority of green garden waste through the provision of wheeled bins.

Kerb-it

The Kerb-it service is a kerbside recycling service for dry recyclables such as newspapers, magazines, junk mail, telephone directories, glass bottles and jars, steel and aluminium cans and aerosols.. The material is collected directly from households in a box every two weeks.

#### Household Waste Reception and Recycling Centre

There are two facilities provided Citywide for a range of bulky materials. These cater for the following commodities: -

- Green Waste
- Timber
- Cardboard
- Paper
- Glass
- Cans
- Plastic bottles
- Cartons
- Oil
- Batteries
- Light bulbs and fluorescent tubes
- Large domestic appliances
- Televisions and monitors
- Scrap metal
- Soils and Rubble
- General Household Waste

Over 50% of the material delivered to this site is recycled.

#### Recycling Facilities

Additional facilities are provided at supermarkets and car parks through a variety of recycling banks , these include: -

- Paper Banks - newspapers, magazines, junk mail, telephone directories and all other white paper. .
- Glass Banks - all glass and jars except returnable milk bottles.
- Book and compact Disc Banks - any kind of book and cd.
- Shoe Banks - ALL types of shoes, boots, slippers etc.
- Can Banks - aluminium or steel, food and drink cans.
- Carton Banks - juice, milk and dessert cartons.
- Textile Banks - Suitable for old clothes, curtains, blankets, shoes, rags etc.
- Plastics Bottles - Mixed plastic bottles to include milk, water, flavoured and fizzy drinks, detergent, bleach etc.

Site Location in Sunderland East	Glass	Paper	Cans	Textiles	Books	Shoes	Cartons	Card board	Plastic bottle
Astral House, City Centre (residents use only)	*		*						
Asda, Leechmere Road	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*
Cherry Knowle Hospital, Ryhope		*							
D'Arcy Court, Hendon (residents use only)	*	*	*						
Hedworth Court, Hendon (residents use only)	*	*	*						
Londonderry/Lumley Towers, Hendon (residents use only)	*	*	*						
Lambton Tower, Hendon (residents use only)	*	*	*						

Morrisons, Doxford Park	*			*		*	*		
Planet House, City Centre (residents use only)	*		*						
Solar House, City Centre (residents use only)	*		*						
South Durham Court, Hendon (residents use only)	*		*						

## Actions

Lead: South Tyne and Wear Waste Management Partnership (STWWMP)

The Authority have been working in Partnership with South Tyne and Wear Waste Management Partnership (STWWMP) to progress the action plan within the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy in order to deliver a future sustainable waste management infrastructure to meet the targets details above. The STWWMP are progressing a major Private Finance Initiative exercise to provide a waste management treatment solution.

Lead: Sunderland City Council, City Services

In addition the partnership are looking at working together to provide a new fortnightly kerbside recycling service for dry recyclables. This service will be rolled out from April 2010 and will include the provision of a wheeled bin and caddy to all households on the kerb-it system to cater for paper, glass and cans, mixed plastic bottles and cardboard.

## Priority Seven:

**Improve public transport routes and walkability across the area.**

### Transport/accessibility

Overall there are relatively few areas within the Sunderland East Wards that have poor walking and public transport access.

The City as a whole has significantly more households without access to a car/van (39.9%) in comparison to the England and Wales average (26.8%). In Sunderland East over 45% of households do not have access to a car, which is the second highest proportion across the five regeneration areas. (Source: - Sunderland East Local Area Plan 2009 - 2011).

## Public transport

### Key Facts:

More residents in Sunderland East are satisfied with the local bus service than the City average (62%) in addition the satisfaction with local transport information is also higher than average (55%). (Source: - Place Survey 2008, currently being updated for 2009).

Generally public transport access to the area is good in terms of service provision, frequency of service and waiting times, which is on average 9% above the overall City average. Journeys take longer from Doxford and for the Ryhope ward the travel time is quite high in comparison to the distance from the City Centre. However, travel times to the City Centre from Silksworth, Tunstall Bank and Ryhope have improved since the completion of the Southern Radial Route. (Source: - Sunderland East Local Area Plan 2009 - 2011).

## Current Activity:

The Local Area Agreement delivery plan 2008/09 – 2010/11 identified as one of its priorities the National Indicator NI 175 – Access to services and facilities by public transport, walking and cycling. The Attractive and Inclusive Delivery Board, as part of their role in the City Partnership, are overseeing the performance targets which are set out below: -

Definition	Baseline	2008/09 target	2009/10 target	2010/11 target
Access to services and facilities by public transport, walking and cycling				
(i) % of households within 20 mins of closest secondary school	<b>100%</b>	100%	100%	100%
(ii) % of households within 20 mins of closest primary school	<b>100%</b>	100%	100%	100%
(iii) % of households within 30 mins of closest (A&E) hospital	<b>88.2%</b>	88.2%	88.2%	88.2%
(iv) % of households within 20 mins of closest GP surgery	<b>99.8%</b>	99.8%	99.8%	99.8%
(v) % of households within 40 mins of specific employment sites				
(ii) Doxford	<b>86.9%</b>	86.9%	86.9%	86.9%
(iii) Nissan	<b>70.8%</b>	70.8%	70.8%	70.8%
(iv) Pattinson	<b>83.7%</b>	83.7%	83.7%	83.7%
(v) City Centre	<b>89.7%</b>	89.7%	89.7%	89.7%

Source: Local Area Agreement

The above table indicates the retention of relatively high levels of accessibility. Accessibility to employment sites, particularly for the Doxford and City Centre locations, remain relatively high.

In March 2009 Nexus, commercial operators and local councils in Tyne and Wear published a Bus Strategy setting out a three year action plan to further improve punctuality, accessibility and customer satisfaction. This included proposals for a Bus Network re-design to improve accessibility for local residential areas.

The overall network design consultation process by Nexus will be undertaken in three stages: -

- Leader/Elected Mayor and Cabinet (January 2010)
- Elected members (February 2010)
- Public (March – May 2010)

Culminating in a presentation of the final network to the Leader/Elected Mayor and Integrated Transport Authority and then to the Elected Members will take place in July 2010.

The district-level service frequency targets and the district-level accessibility targets for Sunderland's Bus Network Design project included in the Tyne & Wear Bus Strategy are set down below: -

**Table 6.** Sunderland Network Design Project Targets

		Current Daytime	Proposed Daytime	Current Evening	Proposed Evening
Within 30 mins	Main Centres	62%	75%	56%	65%
	Local Service Centres (including GP surgery)	97%	100%	90%	93%
	3 Key Employment Sites	59%	75%	35%	50%
	Royal Hospital	53%	75%	33%	50%

Source: The Tyne & Wear Integrated Transport Authority and Nexus Bus Strategy – Chapter 6 “Bus Network Design Project”

- Meeting the accessibility and frequency targets set out in the district specific tables;
- Re-focusing the expenditure of public money on bus services, on the achievement of ITA, Local Authority, and central government objectives.

The indicators are designed to reflect access to a variety of key services within 30mins travel time by public transport, including an element of walking and waiting time.

Within 400m of a 10 minute bus service	77%	85%	28%	35%
Within 400m of a 15 minute bus service	86%	95%	67%	75%

The above targets highlight access to the following key services:

- Sunderland City Centre
- Key local service centres (including the significant local shopping areas at Ryhope, Doxford and the City Centre).
- Major employment sites employing at least 2000 people.
- Sunderland Royal Hospital.

In addition to existing commercial and supported bus services, the Hendon and East End Traveller Shuttle Bus Service, supported by "Back on the Map", runs from Asda at Grangetown, through Hendon, down to the East End and into the City Centre. The service operates hourly between 8am and 4pm Monday to Friday, and between 9am and 12 noon every Saturday. There are a number of designated bus stops on the route although on some stretches of the route operate as a 'hail'n'ride' where you can stop the bus at any safe and convenient point. Funding for this project continues until March 2010.

Sunderland Strategic Transport Corridor - This is a key element in the regeneration of the riverside area between the A19 Hylton Bridge and the Port of Sunderland providing a new river crossing serving vehicular (including public transport), cyclist and pedestrian traffic and will provide a new gateway into Sunderland city centre helping to ease congestion. A planning application for the bridge is now being developed and is to be submitted later this year. Subject to funding and approvals, work will begin in 2012 with completion in 2014.

## Walking and cycling

### Key Facts:

The Sunderland East Area demonstrates high walking accessibility, in terms of the number of facilities (leisure, retail, employment etc.) that are within relatively easy walking distance (800m being generally considered the appropriate measurement). Overall walking accessibility is 10% above the City average. (Source: - Sunderland East Local Area Plan 2009 - 2011).

Data extracted from the City of Sunderland Resident's Survey 2008, has indicated that residents in the Sunderland East Area were ranked highest, compared to the other areas within the City, for satisfaction with footpath maintenance. In general this was 9% above the overall City average.

The majority of SEA resident's indicated that they were satisfied with the standard of footpaths and pedestrian areas in the City Centre. In general this was 6% above the overall City average.

The safer routes to school programme involves 24 Local Education Authority schools in the SEA in the implementation of School Travel Plans (STP). These plans are a series of practical steps aimed at encouraging children, parents and staff to walk, cycle or use public transport to travel to and from school. It is also aimed at improving the safety of children and staff on their journey to school. Progress to date is as follows: -

- 11 Schools have completed and implemented a STP;
- 5 schools have prepared draft STP's, which are currently being assessed;
- 8 schools are still in the early stages of producing the plans.

The “Walk Wise” pedestrian skills training scheme for year 1 & 2 pupils and the “Right Track” cycling awareness practical training course for year 5 & 6 pupils are currently implemented in 23 and 22 of the schools in the SEA respectively.

All street lighting columns in the PFI core investment programme in the Sunderland East Area have now been replaced. Consistent lighting levels, in line with EU lighting standards, have now been achieved. This has involved replacing approximately 5,625 lighting units with costs in the region of £4.8 million.

There are several cycle routes running through the Sunderland East Area including two major cycle routes including parts of the national Cycle Network Route 1 and the Regional Cycle Network Route 20, the latter which runs through Ashbrooke and parts of Millfield.

### **Current Activity:**

The allocation of funding for the Footway/Footpath Maintenance programme (2009/2010) in the Sunderland East Area (SEA) is in the region of £200K. A further £380k has been allocated for the road maintenance programme for this area. The highway maintenance programme, which includes footways, is being progressed.

Requests for additional facilities for the mobility impaired, including dropped kerbs and tactile paving, are investigated and prioritised and actioned.

Through input into the Development Control process facilities for pedestrians and cyclists are included where appropriate in development proposals.

Options for developing further multi-user access to and along the coast south of Hendon are being explored extending the Hendon Promenade regeneration scheme. The improvements could include pedestrian access to the coast and beach at Grangetown, Salterfen Lane, Ryhope Beach Road and Ryhope Dene linked by a north-south multi-user route. An application for an ‘Access to Nature’ grant is being progressed with Natural England, and an allocation from the LTP cycle budget in 2010-2011 is planned.

The Safer Routes to Schools programme is being progressed. The Government has recommended that all schools implement a School Travel Plan by March 2010, which should be achieved.

### **Gaps/Needs:**

- Demand responsive transport e.g. taxi bus type services
- Hendon and East End Traveller Shuttle Bus “Back on the Map”
- Multi-user access to and along the coast South of Hendon

### **Actions:**

The following details ongoing actions: -

- Key dates from Communication Strategy for Network Redesign.
- Assist with the rolling implementation of the Tyne and Wear integrated Transport Authority and Nexus Bus Strategy over the next three years.
- Co-ordinate cycling expenditure and infrastructure development in line with the Cycling Strategy and Local Transport Plan (LTP) for Tyne and Wear.
- Safer Routes to Schools – School Travel Plans, Walk Wise and Right Track training schemes to be progressed.
- Footway/Footpath maintenance programme to be continued.
- Further requests for pedestrian facilities for the mobility impaired to be investigated.

## **Proposals**

Lead: Area Committee

Members are asked to identify opportunities for further potential improvements to public transport routes and walking access across the area, and to receive a further report to a future meeting of the Sunderland East Area Committee.