

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

AREA COMMITTEES ANNUAL REPORT 2011/12

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To present the first combined Area Committees Annual Report which summaries the work of the five Area Committees undertaken during 2011/12.

2. Background Information

- 2.1 This Annual Report provides an overview of where Area Committees have helped to ensure the delivery of good quality public sector services that meet the needs of the residents of Sunderland at a local level. It summarises where Area Committees have both influenced service delivery and delivered activities utilising their own resources and in line with their area priorities during 2011/12. It also outlines the development of the Area Arrangements for the year ahead for 2012/13.

3. Operation of the Area Committees

- 3.1 The Area Committees are appointed by the Council to ensure improved service delivery at a local level in the context of value for money and more efficient, transparent and accountable decision making. They deliver this role through:-
- (a) leading on the development and delivery of Local Area Plans (which are subject to Cabinet approval) and identifying all main priorities for the improvement of an area;
 - (b) monitoring the quality and effectiveness of services delivered by the council and other main providers in the area, and
 - (c) Actively encourage local residents to become involved in decision making on matters which affect them.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 During 2011/12 the Area Committees have been involved in shaping and delivering a wide range of activities against key priorities in order to meet the needs of local communities. 2012/13 will see their role strengthen further and Area Committees will have direct local influence over the design, delivery and review of a number of place and people based services.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 Members are asked to consider the achievements and impact of the work of the Area Committees during 2011/12 as outlined in the Annual Report.

6. Background Papers

- 6.1 All 5 Area Committee Annual Reports for 2011/12.