

# Washington Area Committee

2<sup>nd</sup> July 2009

## Report of the Chief Executive

### Strategic Investment Plan (S.I.P.)

#### 1. Why has it come to committee?

1.1 To provide Area Committee with details of the proposed SIP as a delivery mechanism for achieving the long term ambitions of the area in order to improve the quality of life for residents and communities as encapsulated within the Sunderland Strategy, the Local Area Agreement, CAA and Local Area Plans.

1.2 To discuss how best to allocate SIP across the Washington area.

#### 2. Background

2.1 SIP was approved at Cabinet in March 2008. Included within the plan was an additional one-off allocation of £1.426m to Area Committees. The amount allocated to each Area Committee was the same as Strategic Initiative Budget (SIB) allocation for 2008/09. This equates to £262,461 for the Washington Area.

2.2 Throughout 2008/09 an extensive consultation programme was held with Councillors, partners, voluntary and community groups and local residents to discuss and debate the priorities within the Washington area, the outcome of which has been captured in the Local Area Plans (LAPs).

#### 3. SIP governance and principles

3.1 The governance of SIP will be identical to the SIB process. It is proposed that SIP be allocated to deal with specific priorities in the local area plans which require a one off allocation of resources that demonstrate long term improvements to address identified needs of a community.

3.2 It covers two financial years and is available to allocate up until March 2011 for capital projects. All applications to access SIP funds will be presented to Area Committee as the decision making body to approve, defer or rejection applications. Once allocations are approved by Area Committees progress will be reported through to Area Committees at regular intervals.

#### 4. Recommendation

4.1 There are two options for Area Committee to debate and agree:

##### Option One

SIP is allocated as a total of £262,461 across the area to project where the area need is higher, with Area Committee being responsible and accountable for its expenditure against the LAP priorities.

## Option Two

SIP is split across the five wards of the area, totalling £52,492 per ward, with local ward Councillors and service delivers being responsible and accountable for its expenditure against the LAP priorities, with proposed projects being presented to Area Committee for a final decision.

### **5. Background papers**

- Cabinet report
- Local Area Plans

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**Annex 1:** Financial Statement