

**14<sup>TH</sup> March 2012**

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**Process for the Review of Local Area Plans and Priorities for 2012**

**1.0 Why has it come to Committee?**

- 1.1 The report provides a proposed approach and timeline for the Area Committee to review its Local Area Plans and Priorities for 2012.

**2.0 Background**

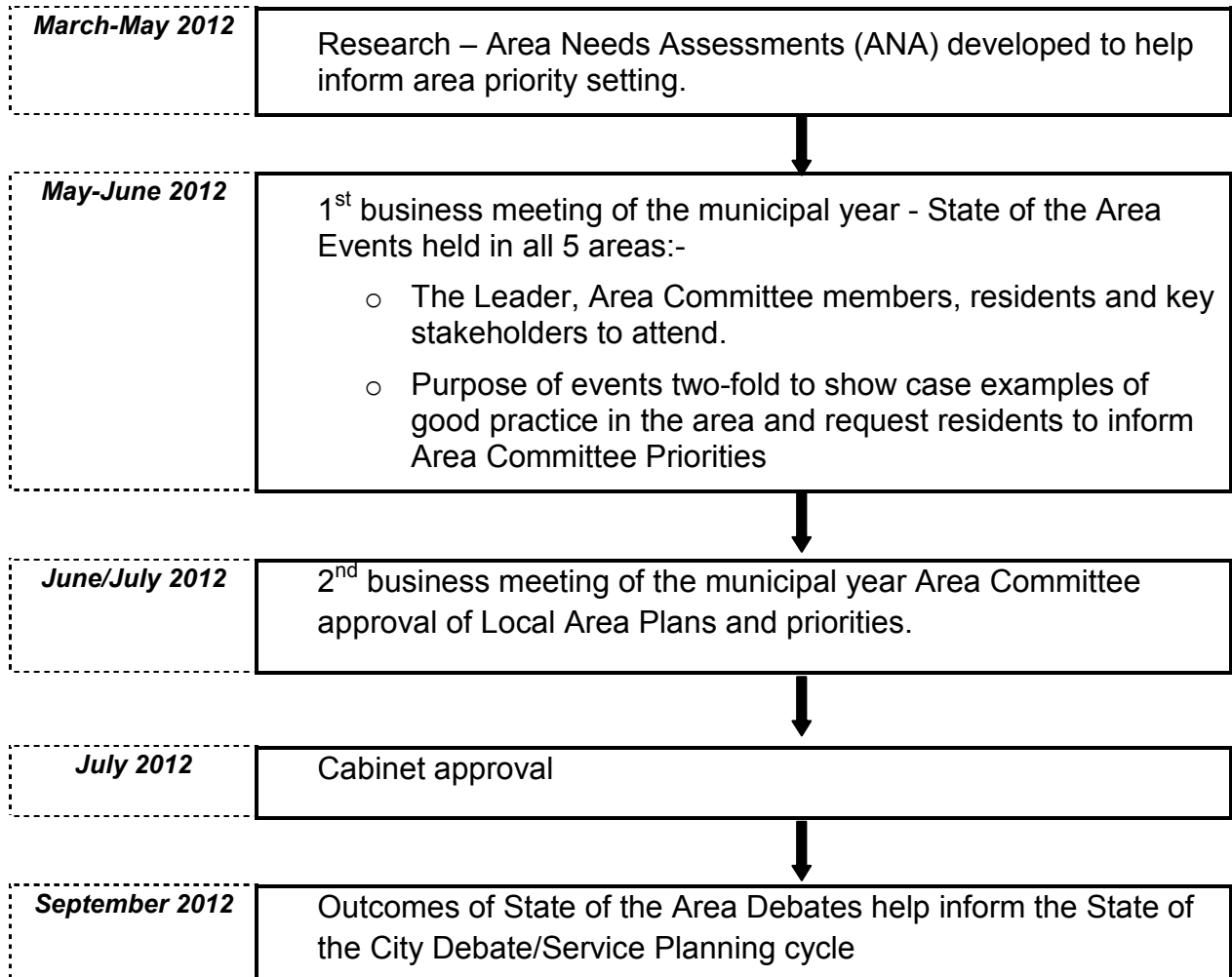
- 2.1 In February 2011 Sunderland Council agreed the approach to refresh the Sunderland Strategy, the purpose of which is to examine the robustness of the strategic framework for each Aim and identify ways to strengthen it, as well as the targets, milestones and delivery models, in addition to producing options for streamlined governance and a clear set of service delivery options for individual Aims.
- 2.2 The approach acknowledges it is vital that elected Members are central to the refresh of the Sunderland Strategy to ensure it reflects the needs of their communities, and that they, as community leaders, are able to identify and champion priorities to be addressed in their communities. As such it was agreed that the review and further development of Local Area Plans (LAPs) is integral to refreshing the Sunderland Strategy and would take place toward the latter stages of finalising the Sunderland Strategy refresh.

**3. Role of Area Committees in the development of the LAPs**

- 3.1 The role of Area Committee is to lead on the development and effective implementation of the Local Area Plan (as the local interpretation of the Sunderland Strategy, turning those priorities into reality and practical action for people in their area), Monitor the quality and effectiveness of services delivered by the Council and other main providers in the Area and actively encourage local residents to become involved in decision-making on matter which affect them.
- 3.3 The development of LAPs is a structured, evidence led approach to priority setting and problem solving at a local level. It supports the Area Committees in achieving an enhanced partnership/joint working approach in addressing issues at a 'grassroots' level, and informs the city's strategic framework. Providing for a more pro-active way of working with partners to address issues and grasp opportunities.

**4. Proposed Approach and timeline**

- 4.1 It is proposed that the initial desk top research commences in March and Area Needs Assessments are developed and used as the basis of Area Committee's further consideration and approval of priorities commencing late May through to July.



## 5. Recommendation

Committee is requested to:

- Consider and provide feedback on the information provided.
- Agree the proposed approach and timeline outlined in section 4.
- Continue to deliver actions against current workplans until approval of 2012 priorities.

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