

COMMUNITY & SAFER CITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

AGENDA

Meeting to be held in the Civic Centre, Committee Room No. 1, on
Tuesday, 3rd April, 2012 at 5.30 p.m.

Membership

Cllrs Anderson, Copeland, Curran, Emerson, Essl, Forbes, T. Martin, Scaplehorn, Thompson,
D. Trueman and Wiper

ITEM		PAGE
1.	Apologies for Absence	
2.	Minutes of the last meeting held on 10th January, 2011 (copy attached)	1
3.	Declarations of Interest (including Whipping Declarations) Policy Review Items	
4.	Annual Report Report of the Chief Executive (copy attached)	6
5.	Development of Community Cohesion – Draft Final Report Report of the Chief Executive (copy attached)	10

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Information contained in this agenda can be made available in other languages on request.

Performance Items

6. **Performance Report Quarter 3 (October – December 2011)** 31

Report of the Chief Executive (copy attached)

Scrutiny Items

7. **Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 – Update** 38

Report of the Chief Executive (copy attached)

8. **Feedback From Visit to Control and Incident Suite, Civic Centre** 47

Report of the Chief Executive (copy attached)

9. **Work Programme 2011-12** 50

Report of the Chief Executive (copy attached)

10. **Forward Plan – Key Decisions for the period 1 February 2012 – 31 May, 2012** 53

Report of the Chief Executive (copy attached)

E. WAUGH,
Head of Law and Governance.
Civic Centre,
SUNDERLAND.

26th March, 2012

At a meeting of the COMMUNITY AND SAFER CITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE on TUESDAY, 21st FEBRUARY, 2012 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor T. Martin in the Chair

Councillors Curran, Emerson, Forbes, Scaplehorn, Thompson, D. Trueman and Wiper

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Anderson, Copeland and Essl.

Also Present

Councillor Tate – Chairman of Management Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 10th January, 2012

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 10th January, 2012 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest (including Whipping Declarations)

There were no declarations of interest.

Change in the Order of Business

The Chairman advised that the Show Racism the Red Card item would be considered at this time to enable the presenting officers to leave after the consideration of the item.

Community Cohesion Policy Review 2011/12: Show Racism the Red Card

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which allowed Members to receive a presentation from Show Racism the Red Card as part of the Committee's policy review into Community Cohesion.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

The Chairman introduced Craig Bankhead and Laura Pidcock from Show Racism the Red Card who would be presenting information on the work of Show Racism the Red Card.

Mr Bankhead informed the Committee that Show Racism the Red Card had been set up 15 years ago to tackle racism. It was targeted at racism within football as well as using football and footballers as a positive role model. The organisation did work within schools and other establishments and in the North East worked with 12,000 young people every year. Funding for the organisation came from local authorities and Sunderland was the first authority to provide funding to them.

There had been a lot of work done with people in Sunderland and Mr Bankhead circulated a report which detailed how many people had been involved and where the sessions had been held. Since July 2010 there had been 2,333 people who had received the anti-racism education.

There were a lot of incidents which were not reported and there was a need to tackle not only incidents but also racist attitudes. Racism in football was still a problem; there were still racist attitudes within stadiums however the advent of seat numbers and CCTV has meant that incidents have reduced.

There had been a session with a group of year 8 pupils at a school in Gateshead where the pupils had been asked to write down their thoughts. The comments were circulated to Members so that they could see the views of the young people. Some of the things they young people had written had been truly horrendous and there was a real need to tackle these racist attitudes at an early age. Children as young as 9 were making statements about people coming into the country and taking jobs.

There was a desire to work with the Council to provide localised working. It was hoped that there would be work with the local cohesion groups to help tackle the cohesion and inclusion issues within communities.

The Chairman stated that he had attended an event at the Raich Carter Sports Centre which had been a huge success and had attended the events last year at the Stadium of Light and Thornhill School which had also been a success. Councillor Copeland had asked him to ask whether there had been an increase in racism in football.

Mr Bankhead stated that there had been two footballers accused recently; this was out of around 500 players in the premier league alone. It was a rarity for there to be racist incidents.

Ms Pidcock stated that whenever there was a high profile incident there were always questions about whether things had changed. Through working in classrooms it had been identified that there had not been an increase in racist perceptions. There was a problem with television and films helping to compound the stereotypes such as thieving gypsies or black street gangs and this then lead to young people making comments which reflected these negative stereotypes. There were changes to the

groups who were targeted by racist stereotypes; years ago there had been Irish labelled as terrorists, it was now Muslims who were tarred with this label.

Councillor Curran stated that the football terraces in the 60s and 70s had been a terrible environment; there had been significant changes and it was much better than it used to be. He also commented that it was frightening to read the comments made by such young children.

Ms Pidcock stated that the young people were given the opportunity to write down whatever they felt in a safe and non-judgemental environment as this would help to tackle prejudices from a young age; there was work done with young people in prison, some of them were guilty of hate crimes and it was a shame that nothing had been done to address the prejudices of these young people before they ended up being burdened by these prejudices. Mr Bankhead added that the work was intended to reduce prejudices by addressing their fears and answering any questions the young people have. Young people had asked why they were no longer allowed to sing 'Baa Baa Black Sheep' this was due to the media and teachers being scared of being branded as racist. Teachers were often not educated properly on how to tackle racism or how to report incidents.

Councillor Forbes queried whether there were just former footballers involved or whether current footballers had become involved in the programme. Mr Bankhead advised that there were current footballers involved with the work. There were educational videos produced which had current players talking about their experiences. There were approximately 60 events a year held across the country.

In response to a further query from Councillor Forbes, Ms Pidcock stated that young people would never be denied the opportunity to express their feelings. It had been found that a lot of racist attitudes were as a result of young people being angry at their own situations and wanting a way to express these frustrations. Young people often had the feeling that racism against white people was not taken seriously however this was not true and if reported the authorities should take it seriously. The young people felt that nothing would be done however the incidents were not occurring and if they did were not being reported. 92 percent of the population was white and this meant that people from minority groups were 16 times more likely to be victims of racism.

Councillor Scaplehorn congratulated Show Racism the Red Card for their excellent work. He stated that young people may be making racist comments because they hear their parents making the same comments.

The Chairman asked whether the economic downturn had caused problems for funding. Mr Bankhead advised that they were a charity and had been hit by the downturn; last year there had been a £6,000 deficit. However over the last 15 years they had been prudent which had allowed them to build up a reserve which would allow them to continue doing their work. There was a Summit with the Prime Minister soon and it was hoped that funding would be secured to enable work to be done to tackle the problems caused by far right organisations such as the English Defence League.

In response to Councillor Forbes Mr Bankhead advised that the 'kick it out' campaign was working on getting racism out of football; the fines which were given to players by the Football Association for racist incidents was a pittance when compared with how much they earned.

Councillor Curran commented that two weeks wages for a footballer would fund a charity such as Show Racism the Red Card for a long time; he felt that their contracts should include clauses stating that they would be fined should they be found to be involved in any racist incidents.

2. RESOLVED that the report be given consideration as part of the policy review into Community Cohesion.

Community Cohesion Policy Review 2011/12: Evidence Gathering

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which allowed Members to receive further evidence in relation to the Committee's Policy Review for 2011/12 into the development of Community Cohesion in Sunderland.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Sarah Woodhouse, Senior Partnership Officer, presented the report and delivered a powerpoint presentation on the School Linking Network. She advised that the network was a national charity which had been set up in 2010 to support schools and organisations to explore identity, diversity, equality and community. There were 9 secondary schools across Sunderland involved in the scheme. A conference had taken place at the Stadium of Light in July 2011 with ambassadors from the different schools which had allowed young people to share their findings and consider common aspirations. There had been other organisations including Sunderland Youth Parliament, Interact, Young Asian Voices and the Children's University involved in the event. The work had helped to raise awareness of the increasing multicultural nature of the city; the similarities between the schools and how much work needed to be done to raise cultural awareness.

Councillor Curran stated that he liked the idea of the schools working together as it was a good way to bring together young people from across the city to discuss the different cultures which were present in the city. He felt that it would be beneficial for more work to be carried out within schools.

Ms Woodhouse advised that there was training for teachers to help them build confidence in dealing with cohesion related issues. The network had resources which could be used to help teachers and parents.

Councillor Emerson asked whether the work would be taking place in any out of school environments in addition to the work done within schools. Ms Woodhouse advised that the initial funding had been provided to enable work to take place in schools. There was partnership working through the young people's equality forum. It was intended that where possible other groups would become involved.

In response to a query from Councillor Thompson, Ms Woodhouse stated that most of the groups worked with children from as young as 8 and also worked with parents and carers.

The Chairman referred to the event at the Stadium of Light; at this event the young people had worked in groups with pupils from other schools; the XL Youth Villages also brought young people into contact with people from other schools. It was good to see that the barriers were being broken down. Ms Woodhouse added that it was assumed that there was territorial behaviour between the different schools however there were a lot of similar issues at the different schools and this work allowed the young people to see that; they had expressed an interest in working together again in the future.

3. RESOLVED that the report be given consideration as part of the policy review into Community Cohesion.

Work Programme 2011-12

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided, for Members information, the current work programme for the Committee's work for the 2011-12 Council year.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Jim Diamond, Scrutiny Officer, advised that the report on the Integration Strategy would be presented to a future meeting.

4. RESOLVED that the work programme be received and noted.

Forward Plan – Key Decisions for the period 1 February 2012 – 31 May 2012

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide Members with an opportunity to consider those items on the Executive's Forward Plan for the period 1 February 2012 – 31 May 2012 which relate to the Community and Safer City Scrutiny Committee.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chairman advised that there were no items on the current forward plan which fell under the remit of the Committee.

5. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

(Signed) T. MARTIN,
Chairman.

COMMUNITY AND SAFER CITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

3 APRIL 2012

ANNUAL REPORT

Report of the Community and Safer City Scrutiny Committee

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To approve the Community and Safer City Scrutiny Committee report as part of the overall scrutiny annual report 2011/12.

2. Background

- 2.1 In line with last years arrangements, the annual report will be a single combined report of all seven scrutiny committees. The annual report will outline the developments in the scrutiny function and provide snapshots of the outcomes achieved during the last 12 months.

3. Community and Safer City Scrutiny Committee 2011/12

- 3.1 The proposed Community and Safer City report is attached at appendix 1 for members consideration. The report provides a very brief snapshot of the some of the main work undertaken by the committee during 2011/12. It should be noted that the report is written from the perspective of the Chair of the Committee reflecting over the year.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 The Committee has delivered another successful work programme in 2011/12, which is reflected in the annual report. The Scrutiny Committee has worked well with Council Directorates, stakeholders and partner organisations to deliver the work programme. The Scrutiny Committee has tackled a number of key issues throughout the year and looked to work with officers and stakeholders to provide solutions and improvements to services delivered across the city.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 That Members approve the Community and Safer City Scrutiny report 2011/12 for inclusion in the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2011/12.

6. Background Papers

- 6.1 2011/12 Agendas

Contact Officer: Jim Diamond, Scrutiny Officer, 561 1396

Annual Report: Community and Safer City Scrutiny Committee 2011/12

It gives me great pleasure to present the annual report of the Community and Safer City Scrutiny Committee. Once again it has proved to be a busy year for the Committee and one in which we have looked to build upon the work and progress made in previous years.

For our policy review, the Committee agreed to focus on the development of community cohesion in the city. The Committee felt that it was important to look at this issue in view of the importance of community cohesion to the stability and sustainability of our local communities.

In the course of the review, the Committee consulted with a broad range of partners and viewed at first hand some of the initiatives being developed throughout the city. I think it is fair to say that we were all most impressed by the enthusiasm and commitment of everyone we spoke to and the very real impact their work is having. Our particular thanks to all of the officers of the Council and the LSP who supported us during the review and also representatives from Show Racism the Red Card and Wear Out who provided invaluable us with invaluable support and guidance.

I feel that the report has generated a number of far reaching recommendations that together can make a significant improvement to the development of community cohesion in the city.

Most importantly, we believe that community cohesion should be seen in its broadest context - not simply as an issue of race. The issues and challenges facing particular areas of our city are often varied and therefore require different approaches and solutions. We have therefore recommended that the Council should consider the ways in which we measure community cohesion at a more localised level in order to improve on the existing national indicators and to better reflect the fact that different areas of the city face different community cohesion challenges.

Also, in view of the broad range of factors influencing community cohesion, we feel that if we are to make a real impact, it is important to align and integrate cohesion with other Council strategies and plans including the emerging Community Resilience Strategy, Equalities Scheme Area Plans and wider partnership documents.

Based on our discussions, the Committee feel that one of the key factors in community cohesion revolves around the issues of deprivation and unemployment. We feel that action tackling poverty and unemployment are a major part to securing stable and cohesive communities. We therefore feel that it is important to closely monitor the implications of the Government's Welfare Reforms in order to understand and mitigate the potential effects on community cohesion in the city.

Furthermore, in order to help shape and inform our response to equalities issues, we feel that staff and Members should have an awareness of community cohesion issues and equalities legislation, particularly a knowledge and understanding of the challenges faced by people who suffer from discrimination.

Finally, as the Committee review was nearing completion, the Government announcement further details of its forthcoming Integration Strategy. As this will have significant impact on the future development of community cohesion policies, the Committee will continue to monitor and assess the implications to the city.

As well as our work on the development of community cohesion, the Committee has also closely monitored the progress of the Police and Reform Act and the implications for the city and its residents. With the elections for the new Police Commissioners scheduled for 23 November 2012 and

organisational changes to be in place in even earlier we feel that it is extremely important for members to closely monitor the situation in the year ahead.

In conclusion, I would like to thank my colleagues on the Committee for all their support and assistance during the year and also thank those officers and partners who have assisted the Committee in its work. I feel that a great deal has been achieved during the year and that this will place us in a strong position to face the challenges of the year ahead.

Cllr Thomas Martin
Vice Chair of the Community and Safer City Scrutiny Committee

COMMUNITY AND SAFER CITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 3 APRIL 2012

DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY COHESION – DRAFT FINAL REPORT

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: SP5: Attractive and Inclusive City

CORPORATE PRIORITIES: CIO1: Delivering Customer Focused Services, CIO4: Improving Partnership Working to Deliver 'One City'.

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 To receive the draft final report of the Committee's policy review into the development of Community Cohesion in Sunderland.

2 Introduction

2.1 On 7 June 2012, the Committee agreed to undertake a policy review into the development of community cohesion in Sunderland. The Committee felt that it was important to look at this issue in view of the importance of community cohesion to the stability and sustainability of our local communities.

2.2 This report sets out the draft findings and recommendations of the Committee. The report is submitted to this Committee for comment prior to its submission to the Cabinet in June 2012.

3 Terms of Reference

3.1 The Committee agreed the following terms of reference for the policy review:-

- (i) To consider the background and policy context for the development of community cohesion at a national and local level;
- (ii) To consider the policies and programmes of the Council, its partners and local voluntary and community sector organisations that can help bring people together across the city and build bridges between communities;
- (iii) To look at the range of interventions being taken to tackle tensions in the city;
- (iv) To consider the priorities for a future refresh of the Sunderland Partnership Community Cohesion Strategy;

4 Membership of the Committee

4.1 The membership of the Community and Safer City Scrutiny

Committee consisted of Councillors Florence Anderson, Thomas Martin, Rosalind Copeland, Barry Curran, Alan Emerson, Michael Essl, Margaret Forbes, Bernard Scaplehorn, George Thompson, Dorothy Trueman, John Wiper.

5 Methods of Investigation

5.1 The following methods of investigation were used for the review:

- (i) Evidence from relevant Council officers and our partner organisations;
- (ii) Visits to view at first hand individual projects.

6 Development of Community Cohesion – National Context

Background

- 6.1 As a starting point for the review, the Committee examined the origins and development of community cohesion at a national level before going on to look at how this came to be translated into the Sunderland context. In doing so, the Committee was assisted and advised by representatives of the Council's Strategy, Policy and Performance Management function and officers from the Sunderland Partnership.
- 6.2 Community cohesion is term which first came into use as a reaction to the disturbances in Bradford, Oldham and Burnley in 2001.
- 6.3 Indeed, it was in response to these disturbances, that the previous Government commissioned the Cattle report which was to prove the foundation stone of current thinking on community cohesion. In his report, Ted Cattle focused on the importance of developing a dialogue and understanding between members of different racial, cultural and religious communities and ensuring an open debate about issues such as identity, shared values and citizenship.
- 6.4 In response to the report, the Institute of Community Cohesion was established in 2005 to drive forward policy in this area and provide advice and guidance at a local level.

What Do we Mean by the Term "Community Cohesion"

- 6.5 In many ways, the meaning of the term community cohesion can be a difficult one to grasp and in the period following the riots of 2001, it was very much associated with the issue of race and race relations. However, there has been a growing acceptance that community cohesion in fact encompasses a much broader range of issues than purely ethnicity and faith, including the tackling of poverty and inequalities and developing people's understanding and tolerance of others. This in many ways reflected not only a growing recognition of

the complexity of the issue but also the fact that there is no one size fits all solution to the problems faced at a regional or local level.

6.6 More recently, the Institute for Community Cohesion has provided quite a broad definition of an integrated and cohesive community as one where:

- there is a clearly defined and widely shared sense of the contribution of different individuals and different communities to a future vision for a neighbourhood, city, region or country;
- there is a strong sense of an individual's rights and responsibilities – people know what everyone expects of them and what they can expect in turn;
- those from different backgrounds have similar life opportunities, access to services and treatment;
- there is a strong sense of trust in institutions locally to act fairly in arbitrating between different interests;
- there is a strong recognition of the contribution of both those who have newly arrived and those who already have deep attachments to a particular place;
- there are strong and positive relationships between people from different backgrounds

6.7 In summary, community cohesion is essentially about how well people in different neighbourhoods and across the city get on together, how well they support one another and how much they feel that they share an interest in what happens in the city.

6.8 The Committee recommends that community cohesion should be seen in its broadest context - not simply as an issue of race – hence it is important that action is taken to undertake a sophisticated analysis of local and area needs and align and integrate cohesion with other Council strategies and plans including the emerging Community Resilience Strategy, Equality Scheme Area Plans and wider partnership documents.

7 Development of Community Cohesion in Sunderland

Background

7.1 Over the course of the past decade, the Council has been working with the Sunderland Partnership has sought to develop and refine the city's approach to community cohesion in order to reflect the particular needs and circumstances of the city. A central theme of this has been the importance of viewing community cohesion in its broadest context to respond to issues that are pertinent to each locality, impact on the delivery of all Council services and integrated with other Council policies and objectives.

- 7.2 In many ways, it is the Sunderland Strategy that sets out the foundation of Council and LSP policy on community cohesion. In the Strategy, community cohesion is seen as a crucial aspect of the delivery of all the strategic priorities. A cross cutting Creating Inclusive Communities theme was also developed in order to ensure that key issues were addressed and progress monitored.
- 7.3 Aim 3 of the Sunderland Strategy has as its objective “to make Sunderland a place where everyone feels welcome and can be part of a safe and inclusive community, where people will feel secure and can enjoy life without worrying about becoming a victim of crime”.
- 7.4 While Aim 4 aims “to create a place with a thriving learning culture where everyone can be involved in learning in a cohesive and inclusive city that is committed to social justice, equality and prosperity; where creativity flourishes and where individuals can have all they need to thrive in the global economy”.

Institute of Community Cohesion Review 2007

- 7.5 It was in order to obtain a deeper understanding of the issues facing Sunderland that the Institute of Community Cohesion were invited to undertake a review of community cohesion in the city during 2007.
- 7.6 The review noted that while Sunderland had not experienced the kind of instability that had occurred in other cities, there were a number of features and priority areas for the Council to address:-
- 7.7 Tackling Deprivation: the Institute contended that available evidence pointed to community cohesion being lower in areas experiencing higher levels of poverty, deprivation and a lack of opportunities. With Sunderland comprising a number of areas in the top 10% most deprived in the country, it was considered important that initiatives were developed to help tackle deprivation.
- 7.8 Strength of belonging: the Institute found that within particular neighbourhoods there was a strong sense of community and community pride. However, it was argued that there was the potential for such communities to become insular and reluctant to work with other communities. It was therefore important to work to build on these strengths whilst also building local confidence for people to reach out to other parts of the city.
- 7.9 Intergenerational tensions: it was felt that there were some areas in the city where the relationship between people of different ages was a problem. The Institute suggested that initiatives needed to be developed which encouraged people of different age groups to work together.

- 7.10 Valuing diversity: the Institute noted that Sunderland was a city built by people from many different backgrounds and histories and its prosperity would depend on a diverse population working together for a shared future.

Sunderland Partnership Community Cohesion Strategy 2008-15

- 7.11 The Sunderland Partnership and the Council developed the Community Cohesion Strategy 2008-2015 in order to help address the issues highlighted in the report.
- 7.12 The Strategy approached community cohesion as being about how well people in different neighbourhoods and across the city get on together, how well they support one another and how much they feel they share an interest in what happens in the city. It also saw community cohesion as being about reducing inequalities, crime and levels of deprivation, increasing community engagement and promoting interaction between people.
- 7.13 The Strategy also sought to reflect and incorporate the range of legislation around community cohesion and equalities issues. The Disability Discrimination (Amendment) Act 2005, the Equality Act 2006, Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006 and the Equality Framework 2009 have all placed duties on local authorities to promote equality which have been reflected in the Community Cohesion Strategy. Although this legislation has now been superseded by the Equality Act 2010 and Public Sector Equality Duty, the focus on Community Cohesion remains through a duty to foster good relations between those who have a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 7.14 The Community Cohesion Strategy also reflected the importance of community development and engagement and ensuring that local residents were able to get involved in a wide range of activities, from information provision to consultation to direct participation in decision making. It would help local people to become more confident that they could influence what happens in their lives.

Measures of Community Cohesion in Sunderland

- 7.15 The Committee heard that from the emergence of community cohesion as a national issue, the Council had recognised the importance of obtaining a clearer picture of how cohesive communities were in Sunderland and whether they were becoming more or less cohesive as time went on.
- 7.16 While community cohesion can at first sight seem a difficult concept to measure, a number of techniques have been used to some effect. For example, the previous government introduced a number of indicators as part of the National Outcome and Indicator Set. These included:-

- how far people agree or disagree that in their local area people from different backgrounds get on well together;
- how far people feel that they belong to their neighbourhood;
- civic participation in the local area;
- how far people agree or disagree that they can, through their own actions, influence decisions in their local area;

- 7.17 In addition, the Council has also used its Annual Residents Survey and Government Citizenship surveys in order to gather more detailed and qualitative data.
- 7.18 Overall, these surveys have found that the majority of people in Sunderland remain positive about community relations in their local area. More and more residents are saying that people of different backgrounds get on well together in their neighbourhood – only one in five – disagree, which indicates the high level of social capital in our communities.
- 7.19 However, the surveys have also indicated that there exist different experiences and different concerns between the various areas that make up Sunderland. For example, in the East area, where most of our minority ethnic communities are concentrated, there are most concerns about race relations and inter-racial tension. In the North area concerns expressed have more to do with deprivation and a feeling of being marginalised, of others getting a better deal. On the other hand, in the Coalfields area there are more concerns expressed about the pressures that come from rapidly changing communities and the break down of older ways of life.
- 7.20 Taken together, these indicators and measures have helped the Council to better understand how cohesive our communities actually feel and to identify community concerns. However, such questions often tell an incomplete picture of what is actually happening in communities and neighbourhoods. There still exists a need for more intelligence and information.
- 7.21 The Committee therefore recommends that the Council should investigate the ways in which we measure community cohesion at a more localised level in order to improve on the existing national indicators and to better reflect the fact that different areas of the city face different community cohesion challenges.

8 Delivery of Community Cohesion Work in Sunderland

- 8.1 The Sunderland Partnership Community Cohesion Strategy sets out a structure for the delivery of community cohesion work across the city.
- 8.2 In order to achieve the aims of the strategy, delivery has been directed at two levels: firstly across the city as a whole and secondly in each

area of the city. This was to enable a more localised response to community cohesion issues where appropriate.

8.3 In order to obtain a better understanding of the delivery of community cohesion in the city, the Committee looked at the roles, responsibilities and actions of a number of the key delivery bodies including the Inclusive Communities Partnership, the Community Cohesion Networks and the Equality Forums (formerly the Independent Advisory Groups). The Committee then went on to look in greater detail at a number of the initiatives and interventions operating in the city including:-

- the ARCH hate reporting scheme
- the School Linking Network Programme
- youth provision and engagement
- Show Racism the Red Card
- Contribution of Gentoo

Inclusive Communities Partnership

8.3 The Inclusive Communities Thematic Group is charged with overseeing the implementation of the Creating Inclusive Communities cross-cutting theme within the Sunderland Strategy. This group comprises representatives of partner organisations and also representatives of the City's Equality Forums. The Group reports to the Sunderland Partnership Board and is chaired by the Sunderland Partnership Manager.

8.4 The Group provides direction and coordination to the delivery of community cohesion activities and interventions and is also responsible for monitoring progress.

Community Cohesion Networks

8.5 The Community Cohesion Networks were established to bring together representatives from local organisations, projects and groups to share information on cohesion concerns, possible tensions, inequalities and social welfare issues and to address the issues raised. The establishment of the area based networks reflect the very different community cohesion issues facing different communities.

8.6 The Community Cohesion Networks consist of a wide range of partners including police, housing, schools, youth providers, relevant Council services etc. The chair of each Cohesion Networks links with Local Agency Multi Agency Problem Solving Groups (LMAPS), Area Committee and the Area VCS Networks.

8.7 The Cohesion Networks aim to:-

- Increase opportunities for integration between people of different

ages, from different backgrounds, in different situations etc in order to build trust and understanding;

- Increase levels of engagement and involvement through the building of longer term positive relationships
- Increase opportunities to help vulnerable people to get the support, advice and information they may need to help improve their own lives
- Increase the flow of timely and useful information about threats to cohesion and the needs of communities
- Carry out this work in context with, and link to the needs and priorities of other area based groups i.e. Area Committee, Area Network, LMAP's.

8.8 Each of the Community Cohesion Networks feed into the Sunderland Partnership Structure via the Inclusive Communities Partnership. Issues are logged and progress monitored through the Inclusive Communities Partnership's Issues Log and when necessary taken through the wider partnership structures.

8.9 These Networks also link into the LMAPS which are locally based groups looking at issues and problems and deciding upon appropriate ways of tackling these. The LMAPS therefore provide a key part of the tension monitoring network across the city thereby ensuring that link into regional intelligence sharing networks and delivery of the national Preventing Violent Extremism agenda.

Delivery at City Wide and Area Level

8.10 As mentioned previously, delivery of the community cohesion agenda is directed at two levels - firstly across the city as a whole and secondly in each area of the city. The Committee was provided with examples of the work of the Community Cohesion Networks across both levels.

8.11 At a city wide level issues and activities include schemes such as the School Linking Network (SLN), work on financial inclusion and community philosophy. The work of the SLN will be considered in greater detail later in the report.

8.12 The Committee also heard about the different background and approaches being taken at the local level – in particular the experiences of the East Area Community Cohesion Network and the Coalfield Community Cohesion Network.

8.13 In terms of the East area, it was noted that this had been initially established in response to escalating racial tensions with young people. However, the scope had been widened and membership increased to represent the wider East area and other cohesion concerns for example; eg family tensions and Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual (LGB) issues.

- 8.14 Examples of the kind of work underway in the East area included the Hendon Youth Initiative at Thornhill School. This was an innovative project designed to take youth work into the school environment.
- 8.15 The East and West Community Cohesion Networks have also developed a collaborative project to challenge community tension in the Eden Vale and Millfield areas.
- 8.16 In terms of the Coalfield Area Community Cohesion Network, the Coalfields area contains a relatively small Black and Ethnic Minority (BME) population. There was also a demand for youth provision and to combat this, the XL Youth Villages had been brought to the area. The ARCH scheme was also supporting work to raise awareness among young people on how to report a hate crime. Initiatives had also been undertaken to encourage discussions and interactions between people of different generations. In Peat Carr and Moorsley the Network in partnership with Groundwork North East is delivering a Neighbourhood Challenge project which aims to stimulate community activity; using innovative methods such as Challenge Prizes.

Equality Forums

- 8.17 The Equality Forums grew out of the Independent Advisory Groups which were established in 2006 in partnership with Northumbria Police. based on the legal strands of BME, Disability, Gender, Faith, Sexuality and Age.
- 8.18 The Independent Advisory Groups were set up initially to provide a single point of contact for engaging with groups who may have previously found it difficult to make their voices heard. It also provided a forum to raise issues that can be taken to the Sunderland Partnership through the Inclusive Communities Partnership.
- 8.19 The refreshed Equality Forums provide a vehicle for gathering intelligence on some of the short, medium and long term threats to equality and cohesion in Sunderland and have represented themselves on a number of issues to generate change. However enabling these groups to become independent of Partnership Team support has raised more challenging issues in terms of the confidence and capacity of some of the groups. In addition, there is a need to develop a common understanding of purpose and reassuring that the Forums were not intended to replace existing groups or organisations in the city.
- 8.20 Nevertheless, the Forums have proved useful in building up trust and working relationships between residents and the council and its partners. This was helped by some successes of the group as a vehicle for change and some commitment from the council and partnership to the work. For example, the Council joining Stonewall, the appointment of a dedicated co-ordinator to support development of

the groups and the willingness from key individuals to give their time and energy to progress groups.

8.21 As the Forums have progressed there have also been a number of innovations to promote their effectiveness. These include the establishment of an Issues Log to track progress of issues raised by the groups, regular progress reports to the Sunderland Partnership, the development of a wider range of methods for people to get involved or informed, i.e. web pages, social networking sites, newsletters and the development of an extensive contact database, building a network of links to other relevant social or interest groups across the city. Each Forum has also actively reviewed its membership and made changes to broaden this where necessary.

8.22 In terms of progress, the Committee was informed that some of the Forums had developed at a faster pace than others and some were at different stages of development. This is summarised below:-

- Gender – this was the first group to try a more informal approach, utilising different methods to identify topics of interest for women and men and then to come together and plan a response in relation to those topics;
- BME – this group decided to split the face to face group into two elements, one for practitioners and organisations with a particular interest in BME equality and one for members of the public only;
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans (LGBT) – Due to the difficulty of establishing a group for LGBT people, a group was established for organisations with an interest in LGBT equality. Led by Wear Out and fostering strong links with Sunderland Pride, the group continues to build links with LGBT people. An electronic network remains for residents;
- Faith – this group has gone through a period of review and is taking a new approach being led by people of faith and based on the interests of people of faith. The Group beginning to attract new members from people of different faiths in the city and engaging successfully for the first time with the Sikh and Muslim communities;
- Disability – the existing group to continue more formal face to face meetings, also new more informal ‘drop in’ group has been established initially from adult social care service users;
- Younger People – has made much of utilising on-line methods in particular to provide a regular communication route for young people, perhaps those not engaged through mainstream youth provision and work involving Sunderland’s Youth Parliament.
- Older People – a specific group has not been established due to existing network of 50+ Forums, led by Age UK. However links to this network are being strengthened.

- 8.23 In order to learn more about the experiences of the people involved in the Groups, the Committee met with Mr Kris Heskett of the Wear Out project.
- 8.24 Mr Heskett noted that research had shown that in Sunderland there were 17,250 people who were LGBT. It had been found that a lot of LGBT people in Sunderland were likely to leave the city for places such as Newcastle or Manchester as these cities provided for the community more than Sunderland.
- 8.25 Mr Heskett advised that there was a gay night in the city centre pubs and clubs on a Tuesday night, however there was only a small proportion of the community who made use of this night. He felt that there was a need for more people to be open about their needs and the visibility of the LGBT community needed to be increased.
- 8.26 Mr Heskett felt that there was a need for people to try to better understand the needs of the different people who made up the city and to engage with the different communities within the city.
- 8.27 In terms of the overall progress of the Forums as a whole there had been a number of achievements:-
- the Sit And Knit a Bit event which was used as a method of attracting women to learn about and get involved in International Women's Day, leading to over a hundred women and men willing to get involved in the future;
 - supporting the development of a Family Friendly Venues leaflet for Sunderland;
 - development of LGBT services flyer for Sunderland produced and distributed at Sunderland Pride
 - the bringing together of Muslim and Christian women for shared prayer - something never done before in the North East.
 - Annual State of the City Debate will have a live sign language interpreter included in the event from 2012 due to interventions of the disability group
 - considerably more BME people completed the 2011 Census after the involvement and support of the BME group.
 - a number of groups were involved in the development of equality aspects of the Sunderland Compact

ARCH Hate Reporting System

- 8.28 ARCH is part of a Tyne and Wear network, with all 5 local authorities using the ARCH system to monitor hate incidents and community tensions in their local areas. Over 20 partner agencies from across the statutory, voluntary and community sector were now part of the ARCH Partnership. These agencies act as reporting centres, referral agencies or both.

- 8.29 The Committee heard that the ARCH hate incident reporting system had been operating in Sunderland since November 2007. The system allowed members of the public to report hate incidents through the internet or over the phone. Victims are offered support and action taken against perpetrators. ARCH also allows the spread of racially motivated incidents across the city to be monitored. Where instances of community tension are present there is an opportunity for Police and partners to intervene.
- 8.30 The Committee heard that there had been 971 hate incidents reported to ARCH from November 2007 – August 2011. Around 75% of incidents reported involved verbal abuse and 38% threatening behaviour. These include the types of incidents reported by shopkeepers or takeaway workers who are often verbally abused by customers; people being verbally abused or feeling threatened in the street or at/outside their on home. Attack on person (17%) and attack on property (11%) together make up nearly a third of incidents reported. These range from unprovoked attacks in the street to repeated damage to homes or businesses.
- 8.31 The Committee also heard that while there had been increase in reporting year on year, there was anecdotal evidence to suggest that many incidents still go unreported, particularly by people experiencing hate incidents on a daily basis. ARCH intends to put more work into encouraging victims and witnesses to report hate incidents in order to build up a better picture of what is happening in local areas. There are a number of reasons why people do not report harassment, including not knowing what a hate incident is, what happens once it is reported or what support is available.
- 8.32 The recent Equality and Human Rights Commission's (EHRC) inquiry into disability-related harassment suggested that disabled people were disproportionately affected by antisocial behaviour and were more likely to be harmed by it.
- 8.33 The evidence suggests that young people who are victims of hate incidents are also particularly under represented in the statistics.
- 8.34 A number of key actions had been identified for the future. These included:-
- Work with communities and vulnerable groups around their understanding of what a hate incident is; what happens once it is reported; what support is available to victims of harassment and the importance of reporting for intelligence information;.
 - Increase reports made by witnesses of hate incidents;
 - Increase reports of disability hate incidents (launched Nov 2011);
 - Roll out ARCH into schools and youth projects.
 - building upon partnership working success by involving more

organisations in the reporting, recording and challenging of hate based harassment, including the private sector.

- 8.35 Members of the Committee felt that it was shocking to hear that there were hate incidents against people with disabilities. The Committee felt that everyone had a responsibility to report any hate incidents they were victims of or witness to. It is vitally important that people are encouraged and aware of how to record an incident of hate and crime and an understanding of equalities legislation.
- 8.36 The Committee recommends that the Council ensures its staff and Members have an awareness of the equalities legislation, including the challenges faced by people who may be discriminated against and enhance their understanding of issues that effect community cohesion.

School Linking Programme (SLN)

- 8.37 In 2010, the Council secured national funding to develop a SLN in Sunderland. The aim of the SLN was to develop links between schools in order to work to improve relations. The programme also seeks to develop the confidence and self esteem of young people and identify leadership and interpersonal qualities that the schools can focus on and develop. Other aims include raising awareness of:-
- the increasing multi cultural nature of the city;
 - the similarities between the schools;
 - how difficult some young people find mixing with others;
 - how easily some people can make friends;
 - how much work needs to be done on raising cultural awareness;
 - how keen some young people are to participate in community issues.
- 8.38 The work of the programme has been directed at secondary school level. To date nine secondary schools have been involved including Academy 360, Farringdon Community Sports College, Hetton School, Houghton Kepier Sports College Monkwearmouth School, Sandhill View School, Thornhill School, Venerable Bede and Washington School
- 8.39 In July 2011, "Ambassadors" from eight of the secondary's came together at the Stadium of Light. Activities included:-
- Sharing their research findings and considering common aspirations
 - Workshops looking at living in Sunderland now and a vision of the city in 2012
 - Sunderland Youth Parliament, Interact, Young Asian Voices and the Children's University were involved and the Mayor and other local dignitaries were presented with feedback from the young people.

8. 40 It is considered that the SLN programme has been successful during its first year and there were plans to expand the network to include links to the college and university and to include young people who were at risk of becoming NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training).
- 8.41 The Committee was most impressed by the work being undertaken by the School Linking Programme and looked forward to its development into the future.

Show Racism the Red Card

- 8.42 Show Racism the Red Card is an educational charity established in 1996 which aims to combat racism through role models, who are predominately but not exclusively footballers, to present an anti-racist message to young people and others.
- 8.43 The organisation works with schools throughout the North East and East and South East of England to deliver anti-racism workshops to more than 10,000 young people every year. The aim is to:-
- educate young people about the causes and consequences of racism and to explore the various forms racism can take.
 - empower young people to challenge racism in the communities in which they live, providing them with relevant knowledge and information to enable them to do this.
 - help young people prepare to play an active role as citizens in an increasingly multi-cultural society.
 - enable young people to develop good relationships and respect the differences between people, regardless of their ethnicity, faith, culture or nationality.
- 8.44 As part of our review, the Committee visited one of their educational sessions for school children from the city. The Committee also invited Craig Bankhead to speak to the Committee about their work.
- 8.45 As a Committee we were most impressed by the work of Show Racism the Red Card and the drive and enthusiasm of staff delivering the programmes. We feel that Show Racism the Red Card represents an excellent way of raising awareness of racism and equality issue with young people.

Youth Work and Engagement

8.46 The Committee also received information on the work going on to engage with young people within our local communities.

8.47 The Committee heard that within the Council there exists a commitment to provide all children, young people and their families every opportunity to engage in decisions that affect them by the development of the participation and engagement framework. This builds on the existing Children and Young People's Participation Strategy 2008- 2013.

8.48 Examples include:-

- A strong and established Youth Parliament which is locally and nationally recognised
- A democratic election process for the Youth Council that runs bi-annually
- Young People's Annual State of the City Event which is seen as revolutionary on a European level
- Young people are involved in the evaluation and consultation on the development of the annual Sunderland Young Achievers Awards
- Children and Young People fully participate and enjoy National Takeover Day annually.
- City wide parent forums held in each locality area giving parent/carers the opportunity to have their say and influence decisions
- Use of Viewpoint electronic questionnaires
- An annual parent/carer event for parent/carer of family members of disabled children.
- The development and creation of a DVD about the XL Youth Villages by young people.

8.49 In terms of developing their work into the future, the Committee is encouraged to learn that future plans include;

- re- establishing the Children's Trust shadow board of children and young people from across the city.
- establishing 'service user commissioning groups' of children, young people and parent/carers as in Sunderland we understand the vital role they can play at every stage of the commissioning process including reviewing and inspecting services
- Creating a XL forum of young people who attend the XL Youth Villages to formally get involved in the decision making processes of the villages.

Gentoo Group

8.50 The Committee also heard from Ian Porter, Managing Director of gentoo group about their approach to promoting cohesion in the city. Lento manage 29,000 homes in Sunderland and have 70,000

customers. The properties are divided across 98 different neighbourhoods and it was recognised that each of these areas had different needs which needed to be carefully addressed. Therefore, each neighbourhood had its own Neighbourhood Plan which detailed the issues in the area and how they could be tackled.

- 8.51 Mr Porter confirmed that gentoo was an active participant on the Sunderland Partnership Inclusive Communities Group. It had also developed a comprehensive Equality and Diversity Strategy and Customer and Community Involvement Strategy which guided their approach.
- 8.52 There existed a broad range of schemes designed to help improve community cohesion which involved working with the different groups of people who were residents of the estates including young people; old people; the unemployed; and those with drug, alcohol or mental health issues.
- 8.53 Mr Porter advised that the main issue faced was engagement and that the majority of the work which was carried out was people related rather than buildings related.
- 8.53 After considering the range of activities going on in the city, the Committee recommends that the Council carry out a review of Council activities and structures that support the involvement of communities and VCSOs in identifying, shaping and delivering local priorities

9 Future Challenges

- 9.1 The Committee also took the opportunity to highlight two issues that we feel will impact on community cohesion in the city during the years ahead – namely the implications of Welfare Reform legislation and the Government’s recently published Integration Strategy – “Creating the Conditions for Integration”.

Welfare Reform - Impact of Deprivation

- 9.2 As mentioned earlier, the Institute of Community Cohesion report on Cohesion in Sunderland (2008) suggested that there exists a strong correlation between community cohesion and deprivation. In view of this and the potential impact of the Welfare Reform legislation, the Committee invited Fiona Brown, Head of Transactional Services, Commercial and Corporate Services to outline the nature of these changes and the potential implications for the city.
- 9.3 Clearly, the Government Welfare Reform legislation represents the biggest change in welfare system for 60 years and will have a considerable impact on the financial circumstances of many households in Sunderland. These include:-

- capping the total amount of benefits that can be claimed by a household at £26, 000;
- reassessing Incapacity Benefit claimants under Employment and Support Allowance rules, thereby increasing the number of claimants found fit for work;
- replacing the current Disability Living Allowance with Personal Independence Payments which will entail a new, more restrictive assessment process to reduce the number of claimants;
- cutting Housing Benefit for working age tenants who under occupy their homes;
- reducing the Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rate from the 50th to the 30th percentile of rent levels;
- extending the LHA Shared Room Rate restriction which applies to single claimants under 25 years of age to single claimants under 35 yrs of age;
- up rating benefits and Tax Credits by the Consumer Price Index instead of the Retail Price Index thereby reducing their value;
- freezing Child Benefit and reducing the percentage of childcare costs paid through Working Tax Credits.

9.4 With a quarter of households currently in receipt of Housing Benefit and a third of households receiving Council Tax Benefit, these changes will have a serious impact on the city as the shortfall in rent could increase rent arrears and lead to increased levels of eviction and homelessness.

9.5 The Committee was told of the actions being taken to respond to the changes with a Task Group being established comprising the council, stakeholders and partners. Impact assessments were being compiled for the range of potential vulnerable groups and the potential financial impact analysed. Work was also going on with Landlords via the Landlords Forum and preparations made with regard to Housing Options and Homelessness support.

9.6 The Committee was impressed with the thorough preparations and partnership working in evidence in the Council's response to the Welfare Reforms.

9.7 However, the Committee has concerns about the potential impact of the changes on the people of the city and the potential impact of the changes on community cohesion and stability. We therefore feel that it is important the Committee continues to closely monitor the impact and implications of the Welfare Reform legislation and the Council response to it.

Integration Strategy – Creating the Conditions for Integration

9.8 On 21 February 2012, the Government published the document "Creating the Conditions for Integration". This sets out the Government's strategy or approach for achieving a more integrated

society..

9.9 The Strategy sets out the Government's approach to addressing five key factors that contribute to integration and enable local response:

- reinforcing a sense of shared aspirations, core values and common ground;
- promoting a strong sense of personal and social responsibility;
- supporting social mobility and enabling people to realise their potential;
- empowering everyone to participate in local and national life;
- tackling intolerance and extremism.

9.10 At the time of this review, the implications of the Strategy were not yet clear. However, the Strategy is seen as being consistent with the Government Localism agenda, with integration seen as a predominately local issue. The main themes include:-

- integration should be regarded as a local priority with actions focused at communities rather than individuals – place is a key factor;
- local leadership is of fundamental importance in shaping integration and local authorities well-placed to take a local lead, working through existing partnerships with the police, other agencies and the business and voluntary sectors;
- the emphasis is on things 'in common' rather than difference, enabling bridges across and between different groups and communities
- everyone, from individuals to organisations and across sectors, has a contribution to make;
- socio-economic factors are of crucial importance – creating barriers to integration and facilitating divisions capable of exploitation (by extremists in particular) – and, therefore, require address.

9.11 In view of the potential impact of the strategy on community cohesion work in Sunderland, it is recommended that the Committee continue to monitor and assess the implications of the Strategy for the city.

10 Conclusion

- 10.1 Sunderland is a city of diverse and distinct communities, with their own history and identities. The unique nature of our communities mean that particular interventions will be appropriate for some neighbourhoods at particular times, while for other neighbourhoods different forms of support may be more appropriate. We need to recognise the distinct nature of each community and shape our response accordingly. Therefore we need to combine a clear national agenda and central support with very specific and local approaches.
- 10.2 Community cohesion does not just happen. We need to work at it continuously at a local level. While much progress has been made over the last decade we still have too many incidents of hate crime, some areas disadvantaged and some areas disengaged.
- 10.3 Community cohesion is not just about diversity – it is about the division between those who have a stake in society and those who feel they do not. This can express itself in a variety of ways – across all equality characteristics.
- 10.4 We need to deepen our understanding of the quality of life and service provision in a local area and identify the strengths, vulnerabilities and priorities of different communities. It is important to ensure that people are able to get involved at the level to which they choose to and to include those people who can often be marginalized or are vulnerable.
- 10.5 We need to ensure that we listen to, understand and respond to people's concerns as well as their hopes and ambitions, to make sure that those people who want to cause divisions and strife cannot make headway in the city. We need to seek to increase the number of people participating in their community, increase targeted interventions to promote a sense of place, develop opportunities for mutual aid, support good relations within and between communities.
- 10.6 Despite the creation of jobs in recent decades, unemployment remains high and the number of people claiming out of work benefits is increasing. The Committee felt that employment and economic well-being are key factors in securing a cohesive community. Employment is the way out of poverty and access to job opportunities provides people a chance to participate in and contribute. We need to support individuals into work as one way of reducing the number of children and families living in poverty and those children who could potentially move into poverty.
- 10.7 It is important to bear in mind that periods of economic turmoil have the potential to divide communities. History had shown that during difficult times people often looked for something or someone to blame as a way of relieving their frustrations. This frustration is likely to be

heightened during periods of very high youth unemployment when the opportunity to work is limited. It is therefore important that we continue to closely monitor any tensions that may potentially develop in the city.

- 10.8 Despite the need to mention potential future tensions, as mentioned above community cohesion in the city remains strong. The majority residents are positive about community relations in their local area and there feel that there is a strong sense of community. More and more residents are saying that people of different backgrounds get on well together in their neighbourhood, which indicates the high level of social capital in our communities.
- 10.9 Nevertheless we must not be complacent particularly at time of economic problems and the increasing strain experienced by many – particularly the most vulnerable in our local communities.

11 Recommendations

The Scrutiny Committee has taken evidence from a variety of sources to assist in the formulation of a balanced range of recommendations. The Committees key recommendations to the Cabinet are as outlined below:-

(1) that community cohesion should be seen in its broadest context - not simply as an issue of race – hence it is important that action is taken to undertake a sophisticated analysis of local and area needs and align and integrate cohesion with other Council strategies and plans including the emerging Community Resilience Strategy, Equality Scheme Area Plans and wider partnership documents;

(2) carry out a review of Council activities and structures that support the involvement of communities and VCSOs in identifying, shaping and delivering local priorities

(3) that the Council should consider the ways in which we measure community cohesion at a more localised level in order to improve on the existing national indicators and to better reflect the fact that different areas of the city face different community cohesion challenges

(4) that the Council ensures its staff and Members have an awareness of the equalities legislation, including the challenges faced by people who may be discriminated against and enhance their understanding of issues that effect cohesion;

(5) that the Committee continue to monitor the implications of the Government's Welfare Reforms in order to understand and mitigate the potential effects on community cohesion in the city;

(6) that the Committee continue to monitor and assess the implications to the city of the Government's recently launched Integration Strategy.

3RD APRIL 2012

PERFORMANCE REPORT QUARTER 3 (OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2011)

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide Community and Safer City Scrutiny Committee with a performance update for the period October to December 2011.

2.0 BACKGROUND

Performance reports provided to Scrutiny Committee prior to March 2011 were based on performance indicators from the previous government's national indicator list, with a particular focus on those prioritised within the Local Area Agreement. In October 2010 the Coalition Government announced the deletion of the National Indicator set and also announced that from April 2011 there would no longer be a requirement for council's to produce an LAA. Both announcements signalled a move towards self regulation and improvement with more flexibility to report against local priorities using a set of locally determined measures.

For 2011/12 and beyond the Council's aim is that performance reporting should be focused on the key priorities for the people, place and economy of Sunderland. This new approach will be reflected in the performance reports and evolve and develop over 2011/12. Performance reports will include former national performance indicators reported to scrutiny committee adopted into the local performance framework for 2011 – 2012 (and those that continue to provide performance reporting relevant to the key issues and priorities for Sunderland will continue be part of the reporting framework for 2012 – 2013). In addition as part of the Council's annual planning arrangements, consideration is also being given to identifying new localised performance measures which will also be needed to support a robust performance framework tailored to local needs. These will be reported to the relevant scrutiny committee as appropriate and some of these new measures will be reported in 2011/12, where information is available and adds value to the review of performance. Members should also be aware there are also some former national indicators that are no longer available and have therefore been removed from the performance framework.

Attached at Appendix 1 is an extract of the basket of indicators that the Council has identified within the self-regulation performance framework for 2011-2012 that demonstrate progress against priorities that fall within the remit of this committee.

3.0 PERFORMANCE UPDATE

The following section contains a summary of performance in relation to anti-social behaviour, crime, reducing re-offending and perceptions of crime (feelings of safety).

Anti-Social Behaviour

3.1 There were 4514 anti-social behaviour incidents during quarter 3 of 2011/12.

This is an improvement on the previous quarter, down from 4929 and a reduction of 415 incidents. There has been a significant fall in anti-social behaviour for year to date (April-December), down from 20356 to 14515, a reduction of 29%. There were 671 Alcohol related ASB incidents during Qu3 of 2011/12, a rise from 636 in the previous quarter. The highest number of incidents took place in December, with more occurring during the Christmas period. A number of anti-social behaviour initiatives have contributed to these reductions in anti-social behaviour. These include:-

- A 25% reduction in ASB fires during Bonfire Night in November 2011 achieved through partnership activity including poster campaigns, uplifts of bonfire materials, comprehensive schools education programme and the promotion of legal organised bonfires.
- Partnership work with Balance (the North East Alcohol Office) during Alcohol Awareness Week in November which included promoting the e-petition and the 'Sam's campaign' key messages around availability, accessibility and affordability of alcohol.
- New tactics to help tackle motorcycle disorder including intelligence gathering via residents, targeted operations and positive marketing of the outcomes, education in schools and education / awareness raising through posters in targeted areas as well as literature for parents and young people.
- Deployment of resources to ASB hotspots based on intelligence gathering from regular meetings between police, Gentoo, the council's ASB team and the Youth Development Group.
- The implementation of Operation Choice in 2011, (following on from the successful Operation Horizon in Washington) that involved the deployment of the Horizon teams and youth workers to tackle youth related disorder with a focus on primary and secondary school engagement. To date compared to the same period last year youth related anti-social behaviour has further dropped by 16%.
- The Middle Hendon and Long Streets Selective Licensing Scheme has helped tackle tenants causing anti-social behaviour. Since July 2010 there have been 105 requests for service of which 68 cases have been resolved and 37 are being actively pursued.
- Continued partnership activity through LMAPS and Area Committees such as the Phoenix project and Kickz.

3.2 Despite a fall in anti-social behaviour incidents in the quarter, young people drinking/being rowdy was a key concern raised by residents in the Safer Communities Survey for the same period (see section on perceptions of crime). There were 197 youth related alcohol incidents during quarter 3 October-December, which is a reduction on the previous quarter down from 266, and a 26% fall. 73% of respondents of the survey thought that the Police and Council were dealing with ASB and crime issues that mattered in their

area (the same as the force average, with no significant change from the previous survey). This has remained the same as the previous quarter.

Crime

- 3.3 Total crime for the quarter October– December 11 stood at 4471, down 1% on the previous quarter. There has been a 5% reduction for the year to date (April-December 11); down from 14226 to 13534, this is against a target of 2%. Sunderland currently has the 3rd lowest crime rate (out of 15 partnerships) within its peer group of similar community safety partnerships (iQuanta).
- 3.4 Many crime types have fallen during October to December 2011. Violent crime has fallen by 11% compared with the previous quarter and is down 14% for the year to date (April-December 11), down from 3051 to 2616. Criminal damage has also fallen by 11% for the year to date, down from 3228 to 2876. Assault with less serious injury has fallen by 21% during the quarter, down from 390 to 308.

The Safer Sunderland Partnership continued to support to Northumbria-wide 'Keys, Money, Phone Plans to get Home' campaign throughout December to promote the personal safety messages for young women in the night time economy (plus additional messages targeted towards men around staying in control of your night out). Added value partnership activity included funding additional radio coverage (for SunFM), social media, use of the Digivan, and posters were displayed in pub washrooms. Free radio advertising was also secured with Spark FM. External evaluation of the campaign has shown excellent recall of the safety messages by the target audience.

A range of initiatives operate in the city centre which help to tackle alcohol-related crime and disorder. These include the Best Bar None scheme, Sunderland Street Pastors and the Taxi Marshalls. The Street Pastors have helped hundred of people who have found themselves in difficulty or vulnerable in the city centre after a night out. The marshalled taxi ranks help reduce the number of incidents of disorder and queue jumping.

- 3.5 There are some crime types that have seen increases in the current quarter. Serious acquisitive crime has seen a rise of 17% during the current quarter; however for the year to date there has been a small decrease of 1% down from 1830 to 1809. Most serious violence has also seen an increase for the current quarter, but a decrease of 20% for year to date down from 161 to 129. Vehicle crime has also increased in the current quarter from 332 to 432 crimes; however there has been a 4% decrease for year to date down from 1204 to 1155 crimes. Quarterly performance is shown in appendix 1. Changes from quarter to quarter can be a result of seasonal fluctuations and thus comparison is given in the appendix with the same period in the previous year.
- 3.6 Table 2 shows a summary of performance against the main recorded crime categories.

Table 2: Sunderland Crime April to December 2011			
Actual vs. Previous YTD			
Measure	Actual	Previous YTD	% Variance
Total crime	13,534	14,191	-4.6%
Violent crime (excluding PNDs)	2,532	2,950	-14.2%
• Violence against the person	2,353	2,776	-15.2%
• Violence against the person - With injury	1,166	1,566	-25.5%
• Most serious violence	129	157	-17.8%
• Violence against the person - Without injury	1,187	1,210	-1.9%
• Robbery	80	79	+1.3%
• Sexual offences	183	182	+0.5%
Vehicle crime	1,155	1,202	-3.9%
• Vehicle interference	65	116	-44.0%
• Theft From Motor Vehicle	843	782	+7.8%
• TWOC	247	304	-18.8%
Burglary	1,483	1,540	-3.7%
• Burglary dwelling	639	665	-3.9%
• Burglary OTD	844	875	-3.5%
Criminal damage	2,902	3,264	-11.1%
Drug Crime	859	781	+10.0%
Other Crime	4,519	4,367	+3.5%
Shoplifting	1,635	1,506	+8.6%
Theft from the person	83	84	-1.2%
Serious acquisitive crime	1,809	1,830	-1.1%
Racially and religiously aggravated crime	78	94	-17.0%

Reducing Offending and Re-Offending

- 3.7 The reductions in the numbers of children and young people aged 10-17 offending for the first time (first time entrants) has been maintained in quarter 3. There were 58 young people who were first time entrants to the youth justice system between October and December 2011. This is consistent with the numbers of first time entrants (58) in quarter 3 of 2010 and a maintained low rate compared to previous years where the numbers of first time entrants was 81 for quarter 3 (October to December) of 2009 and 153 for quarter 3 of 2008. A key initiative that is considered to have contributed to sustaining a lower rate of first time entrants is the Arrest Diversion scheme, a partnership between Sunderland City Council, Northumbria Police and other partners under the Sunderland Youth Offending Service partnership. The scheme is delivered using national funding attracted as a result of the success of the former Youth Support in Custody and Triage schemes. It combines referral onto appropriate services through early identification of need with diversion from the youth justice system through the use of restorative justice.
- 3.8 In relation to re-offending, from April 2012 a new measure will be reported on based on new data published by the Ministry of Justice that aligns statistics on

youth and adult re-offending. The previous national indicator for youth re-offending (former national indicator 19) as measured by the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales has now been discontinued. The latest available data for the former national indicator (previously reported to scrutiny) relates to the end of March 2011. Over a three year period of 2008 – 2011 there was 17.3% reduction in youth re-offending against the national three year target of 10.1%. It is expected that scrutiny will be provided with an overview of the first quarterly performance for youth re-offending for the new measure at the end of quarter 1 of 2012-2013 (April to June 2012).

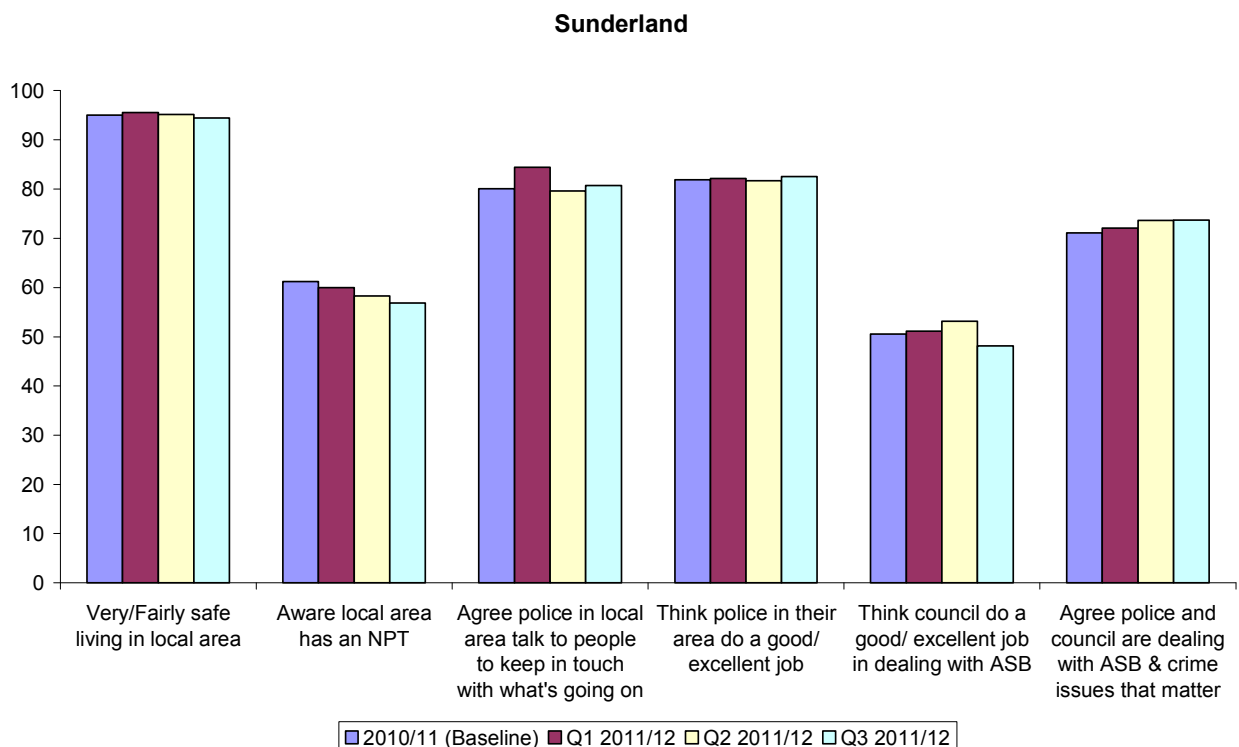
- 3.9 The former national indicator for adult re-offending (former national indicator 18) remains a current national measure of adult re-offending till end of March 2012. For the 12 month rolling period ending September 2011 Sunderland is performing well. The rate of re-offending rate was 15.92%. This is -0.33% below baseline. A number of interventions have contributed to the improvements in adult re-offending these include;
- The establishment of the Integrated Offender Management Unit (IOM) which utilises a multi-agency approach to target and support the most prolific and complex offenders. There was a reduction of 18% in total crime for the IOM cohort (drug or alcohol cases) between January 2010 and January 2012 and a reduction of 35% in total crime for PPOs between January 2010 and January 2012.
 - Stronger links have been developed with the prison service including Durham and HMP Northumberland to target short term prisoners and address the issue of the revolving door between custody and the community.
 - Relationships have been developed with housing officers, job centre plus and Sunderland University, to help improve housing, employment and training opportunities for offenders
 - Transitional pathways between the youth justice system and adult criminal justice system are being strengthened through the secondment of a Youth Offending Service Officer within the Integrated Offender Management Unit and two Youth Offending Service staff based within the probation service.
 - Community Payback continues to grow from strength to strength with adult offenders in 2010/11 completing 35,603 hours of payback the equivalent to providing £211,131 of unpaid labour invested in Sunderland communities.
- 3.10 There was a 12.9% repeat incident rate for Domestic violence cases reviewed by MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference - a victim-focused meeting where information is shared on the highest risk cases of domestic abuse between criminal justice, health, child protection and housing practitioners). Alcohol related domestic violence has risen for the year to date from 251 to 289, representing a rise of 15%. A task and finish group has been established to improve information sharing; identify domestic violence and alcohol misuse issues; and improve referrals to appropriate support for victims, perpetrators and problematic alcohol users. A problem profile detailing alcohol related domestic violence will be produced with key actions developed between the alcohol delivery network and the domestic violence partnership.

Perceptions of Crime (Feelings of Safety)

3.11 95% of respondents of the Safer Communities Survey felt very or fairly safe living in their local area of Sunderland. This is comparable to the Northumbria Force average of 96%. Results were lower when respondents were asked how safe they felt their council area as a whole. 77% of respondents thought Sunderland was very or fairly safe, this was lower than the force average of 86%. Other key findings were:-

- Residents of Sunderland are more likely to feel that crime and anti-social behaviour have fallen in the last 12 months.
- However, they are also more likely to perceive young people being drunk/rowdy as a problem – this issue has seen an increase this year both at an area command level and specifically in Houghton.

3.12 Following the last report to scrutiny a query was raised regarding comparisons with other areas. A response was circulated that confirmed the only comparison available was with other Tyne and Wear authorities. Both Sunderland and Gateshead were below the Tyne and Wear average for feelings of safety in relation to the council area as a whole. Once a full year's worth of data has been collated, it is intended that further analysis will be done on reasons for the higher feelings of safety at a local level.



3.13 The chart above demonstrates that across the six measures, resident's perceptions in Sunderland have shown minor fluctuations over the last three quarters. The fluctuations across these measures in Sunderland are similar to those observed at a force level.

Other

- 3.14 There were no fire fatalities during quarter 3 of 2011/12, this compares with 1 in quarter 1 (April to June 2011) and 1 in quarter 2 (July to September 2011). Both of these were a result of accidental fires in dwellings.
- 3.15 The speed at which abandoned vehicles are removed continues to perform well, with 100% of vehicles removed within 24 hours. Similarly, the speed in which abandoned vehicles are investigated has increased from 92.65% in December 2010 to 97.18% in December 2011 and is ahead of the 90% target for the year end.
- 3.16 87% of food establishment premises were broadly compliant with the local authority's standards as at the end of December 2011, which is an improvement on 84% recorded last year. It is considered that the National Food Hygiene Rating system introduced in 2011 has influenced businesses to improve.

Appendix 1 provides an overview of all performance measures collected within Community and Safer City.

4. Recommendation

That the committee considers the continued good progress made by the council and the Sunderland Partnership and those areas requiring further development to ensure that performance is actively managed.

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COMMUNITY AND SAFER CITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

3 APRIL 2012

POLICE REFORM AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT 2011 - UPDATE

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: SP3: SAFER CITY

CORPORATE PRIORITIES: CIO1: Delivering Customer Focussed Services, C102: Being 'One Council', C103: Efficient and Effective Council, C104: Improving partnership working to deliver 'One City'

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide an update on the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 and its implications for the Council.

2 Background

- 2.1 In setting its work programme for the year, the Committee requested that it receive regular progress reports on the implementation of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.
- 2.2 Stuart Douglass has been invited to the meeting to provide an overview of the current position with regard to the Act and the implications for the Council.
- 2.3 This will include the Home Officer document "Police and Crime Commissioners – What Partners Need to Know". There will also be feedback on a Home Officer Road Show on the role of Police and Crime Panels that took place on 6 March 2012.
- 2.4 A copy of the Home Office document is attached for information.

3 Recommendation

- 3.1 That the report be noted.

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONERS

What partners need to know



Police and Crime Commissioners – What you need to know

Police and Crime Commissioners will be elected for every police force area in England and Wales outside London in November 2012. They will be at the vanguard of the Government's crime and policing reforms and are part of a programme of work to decentralise control and to put the public in the driving seat. This note explores the implications of these landmark policing reforms for other local leaders with whom Commissioners will need to work in partnership.

The Commissioner

The first elections will take place on 15th November 2012, with elected Commissioners taking up office a week later. Police and Crime Commissioners will have responsibility for:

- Appointing the Chief Constable and holding them to account for the running of their force
- Setting out a 5 year Police and Crime Plan based on local priorities (developed in consultation with the Chief Constable, communities and others)
- Setting the annual local precept and annual force budget
- Making grants to organisations aside from the police (including but not limited to Community Safety Partnerships)

Working in partnership

Commissioners will be new entrants to a complex local leadership landscape and will need to work collaboratively. Collective local leadership on crime, justice and community safety will be the key to cutting crime and improving outcomes for local people.

The mechanisms and practices of partnership working are complex and have developed over time. A Commissioner new to criminal justice (or perhaps new to the public sector altogether)

might be impatient with this complex landscape. The reforms may provide an opportunity for local leaders to review the current partnership landscape (where this is not already underway) with a view to simplifying and streamlining ways of working together.

Police and Crime Commissioners will need to work with a broad range of organisations and local authorities will be vital partners. In addition to a focussed role in scrutinising the Commissioner through Police and Crime Panels, local authorities and elected members will need to work closely with commissioners as partners. They will share an interest in improving outcomes and services in a range of areas from community safety and youth justice to health, safeguarding and civil contingencies.

The Government will be consulting on a potential future role for Commissioners in relation to support services for victims.

Commissioning

As well as their core policing role, Commissioners will have a remit to cut crime, and will have commissioning powers and funding to enable them to do this. Commissioners will need to work with each other and to have regard to cross border and national issues but, critically, they will need to work effectively with other local leaders in their police force area. This will include work to influence how all parties prioritise and bring together their resources to find local solutions to meet local problems and priorities. Strong partnership working, as well as exploring new working arrangements, will be central to success.

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 provides powers for Commissioners to award grants to any organisation or body they consider will support their community safety priorities. Commissioners will receive some consolidated grants made up of funding currently provided to a range of organisations and may decide to use them on projects that support their community safety objectives. Commissioners will be free to pool funding with local partners and will have flexibility to

decide how to use their resources to deliver against the priorities set out in the Police and Crime Plan.

In order to minimise bureaucracy and prevent disruption to programmes, Ministers have decided that existing arrangements for community safety and partnership funding will continue during 2012-13. In 2013-14, in addition to the main police grant and precept, Police and Crime Commissioners will also receive funding from the Community Safety Fund which will support local priorities which might include tackling drugs and crime, reducing re-offending, and improving community safety.

As Police and Crime Commissioners will be commissioning services to cut crime, the right connections will need to be in place with other local strategic and commissioning frameworks. For instance, new health commissioning arrangements are being introduced in England on a similar timetable. Health and Wellbeing Boards will be vital partners for Commissioners given their role in determining joint needs assessments against which services will be commissioned. Commissioners will need to develop common cause with partners on a range of crime and health issues and they will need to find the best ways to engage and influence, locally. This influencing role will be particularly critical with local authority and health partners and in Wales, with the Welsh Government, who will also have considerable spending power. Commissioners may wish to explore how innovative financial models such as payment by results or community budgets could operate and be used to transform how local services are designed and delivered to meet local needs.

For bodies hoping to be directly commissioned by the new Commissioners, including those who have historically been centrally funded, there is much that can be done to prepare. Ahead of the arrival of Commissioners in November (and, importantly, ahead of candidates declaring themselves over coming months) service leaders will want to ensure that the business case for existing programmes, or proposals for new approaches are robust. This could include considering the evidence base and value for money of programmes as well as

considering the fit between current partnership priorities, the needs of individuals and the potential interests of the Commissioner. This will apply equally to the statutory and voluntary sectors. Many areas are already initiating discussion amongst partners about the changes and how best to make the reforms work in their areas. In some places this includes considering how local leaders could support commissioning across multiple partnerships, agencies and areas or looking at driving better value for money providing a potential platform for work with the new Commissioner.

Cooperative duties

Police and Crime Commissioners will provide strong local leadership (underpinned by their democratic mandate) in the drive to cut crime and keep communities safe across a range of agencies and partnerships. Commissioners will need to work with other local leaders to improve outcomes for communities, and ensure that local resources are used effectively and efficiently. This could include channelling collective local efforts to join up the criminal justice system, drive out waste or streamline partnership arrangements. They could be a catalyst for partnership work to cut crime, encouraging joint planning, commissioning and prioritisation.

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 puts in place a flexible framework for partnership working between the Commissioner and their community safety and criminal justice partners. This includes two interrelated, reciprocal duties to cooperate (outlined at Section 10 of the Act) that will bind together the responsible authorities who work in partnership to deliver safer communities, as well as the partners across the criminal justice system. In Wales, these duties do not apply to functions devolved to the Welsh Government, although Commissioners and local partners should consider how their full range of functions and priorities can be aligned.

Though the two partnership duties are worded slightly differently, their intention is the same – to ensure that local leaders work together in the

public interest in order to maximise their collective impact. The **community safety duty**, specifies that a Commissioner must “in exercising its functions, have regard to the relevant priorities of each responsible authority”, referring to the authorities named in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and its amendments (Probation, Health, Local Authority, Police and Fire). It further specifies that the Commissioner and responsible authorities “must act in co-operation with each other” in exercising functions conferred by the 1998 Act. Commissioners will also have some specific powers in relation to community safety, which previously resided with the Home Secretary as they will be able to require a report from the responsible authorities on an issue of concern and to merge community safety partnerships with the consent of the authorities themselves. Regulations will also give Commissioners a new power to call the responsible authorities from the various community safety partnerships together to discuss issues affecting the whole police area.

The **criminal justice duty** states that the Commissioner and criminal justice bodies in that police area, “must make arrangements (so far as it is appropriate to do so) for the exercise of functions so as to provide an efficient and effective criminal justice system for the police area.” The criminal justice bodies included within this duty are those which currently comprise Local Criminal Justice Boards (Police, Prosecution, Courts, Youth Offending Teams, Prisons and Probation). This duty is framed in different terms to the community safety duty so that there can be no suggestion of Commissioners influencing decisions taken by criminal justice partners in individual cases – in particular, the independence of the judiciary and prosecutors is preserved.

The statutory duties are deliberately broad and flexible, to allow working arrangements to develop in a way that is most meaningful locally, and to leave room for innovation. Though their wording differs and there is overlap between the bodies named, the intention of both duties is the

same. They aim to ensure that the investment and prioritisation decisions taken by both Commissioners and their partners are made with a full understanding of the implications for partners on whom they are mutually dependent.

Relationship with the public

Police and Crime Commissioners will be directly elected by the public and will be subject to a duty to consult with victims and the wider community, but will need to maximise their understanding of the needs of local people. The Government has signalled its interest in getting neighbourhoods engaged with their public services (for example through beat meetings) and how victims are treated is essential to maintaining public trust and being able to police effectively. This is why the Act requires Commissioners to consult with victims in setting policing priorities in their local area.

Other local service leaders in the public and voluntary sector will also have mature public engagement mechanisms and may be able to make a valuable contribution to helping Commissioners to engage with and understand community concerns. Community safety partners have a duty under the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act to engage with communities and have much experience in this area. Equally criminal justice agencies have done a great deal to amplify the voice of victims and communities. Public and voluntary sector leaders could also provide Commissioners with the means to engage with potentially marginalised groups, such as young people or black and minority ethnic communities.

What can you do to prepare, locally?

Central Government has put in place a flexible framework for partnership working between Police and Crime Commissioners and their community safety and criminal justice partners. There are a range of actions that local leaders may wish to take to ensure that they are best prepared. Some of these are outlined within this note and include:

- Initiating early discussion amongst partners about the changes, seeking their views and agreeing how best to make it work
- Evaluating your partnership-working arrangements and the need and scope for simplification or clarification
- Considering current partnership priorities, and the potential involvement and interests of the Commissioner
- Marshalling the evidence base and value for money of your current programmes to support Commissioner investment decisions
- Understanding how the arrival of the Commissioner may affect your current programme and funding arrangements
- Discussing how you could support commissioning across partnerships and agencies, or across the police force area
- Considering how you can help Commissioners to understand the needs of local people, using existing engagement mechanisms.

Where to go for further information

Sector leaders are providing support to implement these changes in a number of ways, as it is local leadership which matters most in making the reforms a reality. Nationally, the Home Office has established a PCC website which contains information on the key issues relating to this reform programme at

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/police/police-crime-commissioners/

You can read the latest updates on transition work via regular bulletins at

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/police/police-crime-comms-bulletin/

You can also sign up for regular bulletins at the same address, or by emailing

PCCPartnersEnquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Annex – The role of the Police and Crime Commissioner

The Police and Crime Commissioner role will involve working with the public, the police and local partners to ensure effective policing, as well as contributing to national requirements.

Commissioners will provide strong local leadership on a range of priorities that extend beyond core policing to crime, justice and community safety. They will be part of a collective group of community

leaders who will need to collaborate in order to meet shared community outcomes and who will need to ensure that local resources are used effectively and efficiently in pursuit of those shared outcomes.

The scope of the PCC role is summarised in the table below:

<p>Setting the strategic direction and accountability for policing</p>	<p>Being accountable to the electorate.</p> <p>Setting strategic policing priorities.</p> <p>Holding the force to account through the Chief Constable, and consulting and involving the public.</p>
<p>Working with partners to prevent and tackle crime and re-offending</p>	<p>Ensuring that the police respond effectively to public concerns and threats to public safety.</p> <p>Promoting and enabling joined up working on community safety and criminal justice.</p> <p>Increasing public confidence in how crime is cut and policing delivered.</p>
<p>Invoking the voice of the public, the vulnerable and victims</p>	<p>Ensuring that public priorities are acted upon, victims are consulted and that the most vulnerable individuals are not overlooked.</p> <p>Complying with the General Equality Duty under the Equality Act.</p>
<p>Contributing to resourcing of policing response to regional and national threats</p>	<p>Ensuring an effective policing contribution alongside other partners to national arrangements to protect the public from other cross-boundary threats in line with the Strategic Policing Requirement.</p>
<p>Ensuring value for money</p>	<p>Responsible for the distribution of policing grants from central government and setting the precept raised through council tax.</p> <p>Responsible for setting the budget, including the police precept component of council tax, and deciding how it should be spent.</p> <p>Commissioning services from partners that will contribute to cutting crime.</p>

COMMUNITY AND SAFER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

FEEDBACK FROM VISIT TO CONTROL AND INCIDENT SUITE, CIVIC CENTRE

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

CORPORATE PRIORITIES:

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To receive feedback following the visit to the Control and Incident Room at the Civic Centre.

2. Background

- 2.1 On 11th December 2011 Committee received a report on Emergency Planning and felt that it would be useful to view the facilities at first hand.
- 2.2 The purpose of the visit was to view the facilities at first hand and have a chance to ask questions about its function
- 2.3 The programme of the visit was designed to provide:-
 - an overview of the running and function of the control and CCTV room
 - an overview of the running and function of the Incident room and its Emergency Planning Team
 - a chance for Committee Members to ask questions about the facilities visited
- 2.4 The visit took place on 21st February 2012. Members of the Committee in attendance included Councillor Curran, Councillor Emerson, Councillor Forbes, Councillor T Martin, Councillor Scaplehorn, Councillor Thompson, Councillor D Trueman, and Councillor Wiper. Members were accompanied by: Barry Frost (Security & Emergency Planning Manager) Kevin Liddle (Emergency Planning & Response Co-ordinator) Jeanette Williamson (Business Continuity Officer) Steve Eagling (Assistant Security Officer) and Neil Hogarth (Control Centre Facilities & Marketing Manager)

3 Current Position

- 3.1 Members were provided with a tour of the Control Room & Incident Suite at the Civic Centre and an opportunity to ask questions.

3.2 Control Room

Members were provided with an overview of the running and function of the control and CCTV room and were given the chance to ask questions about the facilities. Neil Hogarth, the Control Centre Manager explained in detail how the CCTV cameras worked, what areas they covered and who was responsible for the monitoring of the cameras around the City. He also explained that they are responsible for the Council's out of hours services which include lone working arrangements, tracking of Council Vehicles, and sending council cleaning services out to road traffic accident's to clear debris from the road, to arranging for premises to be secured i.e. schools or council buildings if a break in has occurred.

- 3.3 The Control Room is also partnered with another City control room and in the event of our control room being shut down in an emergency or incident, they would take over the running of our centre and vice versa.
- 3.4 The team have developed an excellent working relationship with other partner agencies which include Northumbria Police and Nexus and how they share information on a daily basis. The control room also has direct communication links to both the Police and Nexus control rooms so they can advise them of any incidents that they see on the CCTV
- 3.5 The Control Room can be made functional at very short notice. It is self contained and capable of being occupied for a longer stay if required. It has stand alone computer equipment and back up communications systems and also its own back up generator. Staff could be drawn in depending on the nature of the emergency. This could include a member of the finance team for the authorisation of emergency payments and a member of the communications team. The severity and nature of any incident would also be the main determinant of who took command in an emergency situation.
- 3.6 The Emergency plans are regularly tested to ensure that they are adequate

3.7 **Incident Room**

Barry Frost and Kevin Liddle explained the role of the Incident Room and the Emergency Planning Team and advised members of the process if an incident or emergency was confirmed.

- 3.8 The suite itself has its own entrance and car parking and houses a kitchen, rest area, TV and various other communication tools. Members were advised of the importance of having a TV within the centre so the reporting of incidents could be monitored and the team can be alerted to how quickly a situation could be changing.
- 3.9 Barry Frost informed members that an incident is broken down into two categories, silver and gold and it is the decision of the Police to call an incident. A silver incident is local controlled at Gillbridge along and the Civic Centre, but a gold incident which is more serious would be controlled by the Chief Constable from Northumbria Police Headquarters at Ponteland. After any incident the Council has the responsibility for any clean up's such as cleaning debris from a highway etc in the case of a fire or serious road traffic accident.

3.10 Members discussed what was classed as an incident. Barry Frost explained that incidents varied nationally to locally. A national incident could be a possible terror threat, where as planning for an incident at a local level could include an accident at the International Air Show which is hosted annually in Sunderland, localised flooding as we are a coastal area, to a business or house fire where residents need to be evacuated from their homes due to the possibility of gas cylinders exploding. If this occurs the Council's Emergency Planning Team along with the emergency services would be responsible for evacuating local residents from their homes and finding alternative accommodation and catering etc for them until the incident is over.

3.11 **Business Continuity Team**

Members were also given an over view of the function and role of the Business Continuity Team which falls within the remit of Emergency Planning Team. Their role is to plan and put continuity plans in place for any disruption or stoppage to any of the services provided by the council in the event of an incident or emergency.

Tour of Control and Incident Room

3.12 In conclusion, Barry Frost and his team, provided members with a tour of the Control and Incident Suite at the Civic Centre.

4. Recommendation

4.1 Committee as asked to note the information

5. Background Papers

None

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COMMUNITY AND SAFER CITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

3 APRIL 2012

WORK PROGRAMME 2011-12

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Strategic Priorities: SP3 – Safer City

Corporate Priorities: CIO1: Delivering Customer Focused Services, CIO4: Improving partnership working to deliver 'One City'.

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 The report attaches, for Members' information, the current work programme for the Committee's work during the 2011-12 Council year.
- 1.2 The work of the Committee in delivering its work programme will support the Council in achieving its Strategic Priorities of Safer City, support delivery of the related themes of the Local Area Agreement, and, through monitoring the performance of the Council's services, help the Council achieve its Corporate Improvement Objectives CIO1 (delivering customer focussed services) and C104 (improving partnership working to deliver 'One City').

2. Background

- 2.1 The work programme is a working document which the Committee can develop throughout the year. The work programme allows Members and officers to maintain an overview of work planned and undertaken during the Council year.

3. Current position

- 3.1 The work programme reflects discussions that took place at the 7 June 2012 Scrutiny Committee meeting. The current work programme is attached as an appendix to this report.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 The work programme developed from the meeting will form a flexible mechanism for managing the work of the Committee in 2011-12.

5 Recommendation

- 5.1 That Members note the information contained in the work programme and consider the inclusion of proposals for the Committee into the work programme.

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COMMUNITY AND SAFER CITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2011/2012

REASON FOR INCLUSION	JUNE 07.06.11	JULY 19.07.11	SEPTEMBER 06.9.11	OCTOBER 18.10.11	DECEMBER 06.12.11	JANUARY 10.01.12	FEBRUARY 21.02.12	APRIL 03.04.12
Cabinet-Referrals and Responses			Response to the 10/11 Policy Review – Alcohol, Violence and the Night Time Economy (JD)					
Policy Review	Annual Work Programme and Policy Review 2011/2012 (JD)	Policy Review into Community Cohesion - Scoping Report (JD)	Policy Review into Community Cohesion – Scene Setting (JD)	Policy Review into Community Cohesion - Evidence Gathering (JD) Visit to Durham Prison (JD)	Policy Review into Community Cohesion – Evidence Gathering (JD)	Policy Review into Community Cohesion – Evidence Gathering (JD)	Policy Review Progress Report (JD)	Policy Review: Final Report (JD) Development of Community Cohesion – Draft Final Report (JD)
Performance			Performance Report (Gillian Robinson) Progress on Past Recommendations (JD)		Performance Q2/ Policy Review Progress (Mike Lowe)			Performance Q3/ (Mike Lowe)
Scrutiny	Food Law Enforcement (Norma Johnston) Forward Plan (SA)	Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill - Update (Stuart Douglass) Drug Misuse – Update (Leanne Davis) Work Programme (SA) Forward Plan (SA)	Work Programme (SA) Forward Plan (SA)	Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 Work Programme (SA) Forward Plan (SA)	Emergency Planning (Barry Frost) Neighbourhood Helpline (LSL) Work Programme (SA) Forward Plan (SA)	Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (Stuart Douglass) Work Programme (JD) Forward Plan (JD)	Work Programme (JD) Forward Plan (JD)	Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (Stuart Douglass) Emergency Planning – Feedback from Visit (Louise Preece) Work Programme (JD) Forward Plan (JD)
CCFA/Members items/Petitions								

**COMMUNITY AND SAFER CITY
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

3 APRIL 2012

**FORWARD PLAN – KEY DECISIONS FOR THE PERIOD
1 APRIL 2012 – 31 JULY 2012**

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide Members with an opportunity to consider those items on the Executive's Forward Plan for the period 1 April 2012 – 31 July 2012 which relate to the Community and Safer City Scrutiny Committee.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Council's Forward Plan contains matters which are likely to be the subject of a key decision to be taken by the Executive. The Plan covers a four month period and is prepared and updated on a monthly basis.

- 2.2 Holding the Executive to account is one of the main functions of Scrutiny. One of the ways that this can be achieved is by considering the forthcoming decisions of the Executive (as outlined in the Forward Plan) and deciding whether Scrutiny can add value in advance of a decision being made. This does not negate Non-Executive Members ability to call-in a decision after it has been made.

- 2.3 Members requested that only those items which are under the remit of the Committee be reported to this Committee. The remit of the Committee covers the following themes:-

Safer Sunderland Strategy; Social Inclusion; Community Safety; Anti Social Behaviour; Domestic Violence; Community Cohesion; Equalities; Food Law Enforcement; Licensing Policy and Regulation; Community Associations; Registrars

- 2.4 In the event of Members having any queries that cannot be dealt with directly in the meeting, a response will be sought from the relevant Directorate.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 Members are asked to note that there are no items in the current Forward Plan relating to the remit of this Committee.

4. Background Papers

4.1 There were no background papers used in the preparation of this report.

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