

**1 FEBRUARY 2012**

**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CITY SERVICES**

**COMMUNITY ACTION IN COALFIELD – PROGRESS REVIEW**

**Progress Report on 2011/12 Workplan: Heritage Priority**

**1.0 WHY HAS IT COME TO COMMITTEE?**

1.1 The report provides an update on progress against agreed actions in the Coalfield Area work plan in relation to delivering Heritage priorities.

**2.0 BACKGROUND**

2.1 Heritage was agreed as one of the Coalfield Area Committee main priorities as part of setting its annual work plan in July 2010. In addition a full audit and report was undertaken by North of England Civic Trust (NECT) and a work plan was produced that identified a list of priorities in relation to delivering the Heritage agenda in the Coalfield area. In order to develop and agree the work plan a task and result group was established, which consists of Members, Officers and members of the voluntary sector. The Coalfield Heritage work plan was agreed by Committee in June 2011.

2.2 In order to deliver the priorities identified it was agreed that a Community Heritage Development Officer (CHDO) be employed to deliver the necessary outcomes.

2.3 To maximise resources and achieve value for money it was agreed that the CHDO would be appointed via the City Council's SWITCH project with a full time post being created to work between the North and Coalfield areas of the City. As part of the actual appointment process undertaken it was later agreed that two full time officers be appointed to work across both areas. Due to utilising SWITCH there was no additional cost to the project budget.

2.4 The funding of the current posts is being supported jointly through SIB (£10,000 allocation), and the City Council's SWITCH project. The CHDOs will as part of their role continue to look for external funding opportunities to support the future sustainability of the post following completion of the project in November 2012. Following on from this further discussions with the Area Committee will continue to assess the success of the project and the future direction of heritage as a priority for the Committee.

**3.0 COMMUNITY HERITAGE DEVELOPMENT WORKERS**

3.1 The two full-time Community Heritage Development Officers will be in post until October 2012. The officers (Ian Bower and Phill Connolly) will provide the staffing resources required to enable a range of the projects identified in the Coalfield Heritage Action Plan to be investigated and delivered. The officers will also be working on heritage projects in the North Area of the city during this period.

3.2 During the first weeks of the project, officers have initiated research based on the already identified work plan and a number of meetings have also taken place with colleagues across the City Council including a range of potential partners from community based heritage groups.

3.3 Given the project will be for a period of one year, it will be necessary to focus work on an identified number of priorities. The CHDOs will work with the Area Committee and the Coalfield Area Heritage Task and Result Group and other partners to deliver the identified priorities over this time. The outcomes will be measurable and sustainable and will be aligned to achieving corporate outcomes including wellness, social inclusion and promoting opportunities for volunteering.

#### **4.0 HERITAGE PRIORITIES WORKPLAN**

4.1 Below is a summary of work plan priorities agreed by the Task and Result Group and Area Committee with progress to date:

### Coalfield Heritage Action Plan

Action Required	By Who	By When	Progress made	Next Steps
Appoint consultants to carry out audit and produce proposed action plan	Vicki Medhurst (VM)(Cultural Heritage Manager)	November 2010	Appointment led by Vicki Medhurst. Steering group of Susan Brown, Councillor Rolph, Councillor Ellis and VM will work with consultants (NECT). Audit complete and presented to Task and Result group and Area Committee.	Complete
Employ a Heritage Community Development Worker	VM/ Task and Result group	Sept 2011	2 Workers in place for 12 months	CHDOs working to deliver actions within the plan.
Gazetteer to be developed, updated and available on line (with summary hard copies in key locations)	NECT	May 2011 produced Oct 2012 online	Draft gazetteer provided – needs to be taken forward now the CHDO is in post.	As part of the initial audit that was carried out by NECT a gazetteer was produced electronically as a database for information relating to Heritage across the Coalfield area. The gazetteer lists full details of groups, organisations, collections and information relating to heritage in the area and the CHDOs are currently investigating the best method of communicating and regularly updating the information to interested groups, such as developing a heritage based website for the Coalfield area.
Learning materials and resources for schools to be delivered with a budget of £5,000	CHDOs	July 2012		<p>The two CHDOs will be liaising with Susan Brown, Area Community Co-ordinator Coalfield, to arrange visits to local schools to identify their heritage learning resources requirements. Once the initial consultation has taken place a small working group will be established to take this work forward.</p> <p>Funding has been allocated through SIB to support this project and there will also be opportunities for working in partnership with educational providers to deliver informal community based heritage learning which will be further investigated.</p>

Action Required	By Who	By When	Progress made	Next Steps
Collections management training to be given to local groups and interested parties with a budget of £5,000	CHDOs	Aug 2012	Citywide funding has enabled the provision of two free Collections Management Training Sessions in January and February 2012. These will take place at Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens and will be delivered by Tyne & Wear Archives and Museums. The CHDOs have contacted local heritage groups to make them aware of this learning opportunity.	<p>The CHDOs will also be liaising further with Tyne &amp; Wear Archives Service after the events to discuss the delivery of sessions tailored to the specific requirements of Coalfield community heritage groups. They will also be investigating the feasibility of providing access to ICT resources including a scanner and a laptop / PC for dedicated use by community groups, for which SIB funding has been set aside.</p> <p>Opportunities to use the Libraries Information Access Zone mobile ICT vehicle to provide access to ICT resources and training for community heritage groups is also being investigated.</p>
A pilot 'village atlas' project will be commissioned using Penshaw or Hetton as the subject area. This will then be developed into an ongoing programme, producing documents for each of the 'villages' in the Coalfield area (depending on the success of the pilot and funding available).	Mark Taylor, Senior Conservation Officer	Aug 2012	<p>£6,000 allocated from heritage budget to deliver project.</p> <p>A Limestone Landscapes project is currently being delivered by Durham County Council which will enable the development of a Village Atlas for the Hetton area. Mark Taylor will continue to liaise with the Project Manager, Ken Bradshaw, who will be invited to attend the next meeting of the Coalfield Task and Result Group.</p>	Mark Taylor, Senior Conservation Officer, from the Planning Implementation Section will develop a brief for the development of the Old Penshaw Village Atlas. The tendering process will begin in January 2012 and it is hoped the contract will be awarded in February 2012.
Heritage trails should be explored and developed by the Wellness Team.	CHDOs/ City Council Wellness Team	Oct 2012	The CHDOs are currently undertaking an audit of the walks and trails that have been produced to date for the Coalfield area. They have contacted staff in the Council's Planning and Countryside sections to support this exercise.	Once completed the audit will establish what resources are already available and inform how the remaining SIB budget can be maximised. The CHDOs will also be liaising with the Wellness team when the audit has been completed to explore the potential use of these resources in delivering community based walking activities.

Action Required	By Who	By When	Progress made	Next Steps
Coalfield Community Challenge - Engage community groups and residents to work together to deliver heritage activities. Project to be delivered with VCS Network	Susan Brown/VCS Network	Oct 2012	The Coalfield Community Challenge project has already raised the awareness of heritage in the area with 18 local groups currently engaged. A heritage 'steering group' made up of local organisations and historians has produced a calendar of 2012.	CHDOs to work with VCS to continue to deliver heritage based projects.
Event Delivery	CHDOs	Nov 2012		The CHDOs will identify and support the delivery of a range of community based cross generational heritage events. This will be achieved by working with a range of partners and community groups to source internal and external funding streams. The officers will also work to provide a range of guidelines and support materials to provide a framework for the future provision for events and activities beyond the life of the project.

Updated January 2012

## **5.0 SUMMARY OF OTHER WORK UNDERTAKEN**

5.1 Below is a summary of recent work undertaken by the Community Heritage Development Officers since commencing their role:

- Commenced audit of Heritage walks in the Coalfield Area
- Reviewed Coalfield Area Action Plan to identify potential partners, resources needed and operational and strategic issues involved in achieving the required outcomes
- Created list of Heritage sites and community based organisations to visit in the Coalfield Area during early part of 2012
- Arranged meeting for January 2012 with the Council's Community ICT Team to consider the potential development of a community website. This will provide information and resources to support the development of heritage projects and also the activities of community heritage groups based in the Coalfield Area.

### **Recommendations:**

- Note the content of the report
- Receive further update reports regarding Heritage in the Coalfield area in the future

**Contact Officer:** Vicki Medhurst, Cultural Heritage Manager, City Services  
Tel: 0191 5618411, E-mail [Vicki.medhurst@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:Vicki.medhurst@sunderland.gov.uk)

1 FEBRUARY 2012

## REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

### COMMUNITY ACTION IN COALFIELD – PROGRESS REVIEW

#### Progress Report on 2011/12 Workplan: Activities for Young People Priority

#### 1 Why has it come to Committee?

- 1.1 The report provides an update of progress against agreed actions in the current year's (2011/12) Work Plan (**Annex 1**).

#### 2 Background

- 2.1 At the July 2011 Area Committee meeting it was agreed that £30,000 SIB would be allocated to provide additional activities for young people. This funding would be matched by £30,000 from Children's Services with a contribution made by Gentoo customer panel. Committee agreed that school holiday activities and junior youth provision (12 and under) would be priority for the Coalfield area and that the detail of the activity would be developed and agreed through the Youth Task and Result group meeting, Chaired by the Chair of Area Committee, and attended by all elected members.
- 2.2 It was also requested that a complete picture of youth activity across the Coalfield area be available for Area Committee in order that members were aware of what is available and where the gaps are. This would include sessions delivered by commissioned contractors, activity enabled by the SIB funded Responsive Youth Project, holiday activity and additional junior provision.

#### 3 Progress

- 3.1 Through the SIB and Gentoo funded Responsive Youth Provision project, mini moto sessions, dance projects, XL mobile provision and music sessions have been delivered. At the July Area Committee meeting, it was also agreed that the Task and Result group should develop and agree a pilot programme for junior youth provision. The Task and Result group meeting on 12 January discussed and approved proposals which would see a ten week pilot being delivered at Easington Lane and Houghton. This will complement junior work already being delivered by Herrington Burn YMCA in Fencehouses and Herrington funded through other sources. A balance of around £1,400 remains in this budget.
- 3.2 The Activities for Young People budget has, to date, delivered holiday activity for Easter, Summer, October half term and Christmas 2011 agreed through the Task and Result group. Details have previously been circulated. A programme has been developed for the remaining school holidays in the current academic year. Costed proposals were submitted to the Youth Lead for the Coalfield area and agreed by Members at the Task and Result group meeting on 12 January 2012. The provision ensures that there are sessions in each ward for a) 8-12 year olds and b) 13-19 year olds, during each of the remaining school holiday periods in the current academic year (1 week in February half term, two weeks at Easter and 1 week Spring half term). The sessions will be marketed and promoted by the Youth Development Group and partners of the Coalfield Youth Task and Result Group by using schools, community venues, websites and Facebook. The total cost of holiday provision delivered and planned to date is £38,820, leaving a balance of £23,058 in this budget.
- 3.3 In an attempt to co-ordinate and promote all activities for young people across the Coalfield area, the Youth Lead for the Coalfield has begun an exercise to 'map out' what is available for young people on a ward by ward basis, to include commissioned youth provision and activities provided by partners. In order to assist this process, a 'provider' forum has been

set up to bring together providers of junior and senior youth clubs and activity. This approach will support the co-ordination of activity and reduce duplication. The providers have agreed that by working together, valuable resources can be pooled ensuring young people have access to, and choice of, a range of activity across a wider selection of days and times. To date the Youth Development Group, Sunderland North Community Business Centre (SNCBC), Groundwork, Herrington Burn YMCA, Washington MIND, The Underground, XL Outreach, and Gentoo have been engaged in meetings. Attendance by other organisations will be explored once the mapping exercise is further developed. Activities for young people will be discussed with the VCS Network members to gather additional information to inform future provision.

- 3.4 In summary, the Activities for Young People Task and Result group meeting has discussed and progressed a) reporting on commissioned youth activity b) holiday provision (SIB and Childrens Services funded) c) junior youth provision (SIB, Gentoo and Childrens Services funded), d) Responsive Youth Provision (SIB and Gentoo funded), and e) XL Outreach winter model. Other services offered in the area will also be discussed by the Task and Result group, beginning, at the next meeting, with Washington MIND who were awarded SIB funding at the November 2011 Area Committee meeting to expand service delivery in the Coalfield area. It is recommended that Washington MIND are invited to the next meeting of the Coalfield Area Committee to update Committee on the work they are delivering in the area.

**Recommendations:**

- This report, presented on behalf of the Activities for Young People Task & Result group be noted
- Committee agree that the Task and Result group continue to discuss and develop the wide range of activities for young people a) 8-12 and b)13-19
- Elected members attend Task and Result group meetings
- Washington MIND is invited to the March 2012 Area Committee meeting to update Members on the range of services delivered in the Coalfield area

Contact Officer: Pauline Hopper, Coalfield Area Officer Tel: 0191 561 7912  
Email: [pauline.hopper@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:pauline.hopper@sunderland.gov.uk)

Linda King, Coalfield Youth Lead Tel: 0191 5617421  
Email: [linda.king@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:linda.king@sunderland.gov.uk)



1 FEBRUARY 2012

## REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

### COMMUNITY ACTION IN COALFIELD – PROGRESS REVIEW

#### Progress Report on 2011/12 Workplan: Support for Older People Priority

#### 1 Why has it come to Committee?

- 1.1 The report provides an update of progress against the Support for Older People priority and agreed actions in the current year's (2011/12) Work Plan (**Annex 1**). The report is presented on behalf of the Task and Result group for this priority.

#### 2 Background

- 2.1 It was identified by Area Committee that the Coalfield area has an ageing population, and due to a number of factors including the rural nature of some parts of the Coalfield, lack of services in some neighbourhoods, and issues with public transport, a Task and Result was established to ensure that there was adequate support for older people.
- 2.2 The Task and Result group developed a number of key objectives, namely:
- To improve support for Older People
  - To promote independence, self help and wellbeing
  - To engage with local community and voluntary sector organisations
  - To raise awareness of services available
  - To influence and inform core service delivery/budget allocation
  - To further develop partnership working
  - To contribute to other priorities identified by Coalfield Area Committee (e.g. allotments, local shopping centres)

#### 3 Progress

- 3.1 The group agreed that the first step would be to produce a summary of what is available in the area, in order to identify gaps. The lead agent and VCS Network (through the Community Co-ordinator) carried out an audit and provided the information required to enable the Task and Result group to develop actions.
- 3.2 During the research stage it was identified that there was an increase in the number of older people requiring advice and support in relation to financial and benefit information. Issues such as fuel poverty and the economic downturn had affected many older people who previously had not accessed advice services. The Task and Result group agreed that additional support was required and at the November 2011 meeting of Coalfield Area Committee it was agreed that SIB funding of £23,166 would be approved to enable ShARP to deliver additional advice and support across the area. ShARP is a community anchor organisation set in the heart of Shiney Row and delivers First Tier Welfare Rights Service on behalf of Sunderland City Council – partners are Age UK, Sunderland West Project and Citizens Advice Bureau Sunderland. This enables local people to access information, advice and guidance in a centre that is local to them and supports them in increasing their benefits awareness and income. ShARP houses Shiney Row Credit Union and encourages clients to access the credit union to learn more about sensible saving and lending, promoting development of new habits in financial management to try to progress debt patterns from a reliance of doorstep lenders. The project delivers outreach advice services at ELCAP and the Hetton Centre and also provides house calls to clients who are unable to attend in-house or outreach services, especially the terminally ill and housebound.
- 3.3 The Coalfield Community Challenge project delivered through the Coalfield Community Co-ordinator and VCS Network has carried out two workshops that highlighted the activity on

the ground regarding support for older people. It became obvious that although many activities were well subscribed, the common thread was the lack of knowledge about the services outlining the need for more marketing and publicity.

- 3.4 Coalfield Community Challenge has supported 18 older generation groups to participate in community events such as heritage, love where you live and community gardens. There have been a number of older generation groups who are now encouraging intergenerational work such as the Bowls club in Herrington who have 20 new young people involved playing at local and competition level. Other partners who are delivering alongside our work plan supporting older people are Washington Mind, Gentoo, Age UK, Local Schools and EON (funding supporting the community gardens)
- 3.5 Transport still remains a barrier for some older people and the VCS Network are engaged in the Nexus consultation programme. Nexus has been asked by the Tyne and Wear Integrated Transport Authority, with the support of the area's local councils, to look at possible new models for the delivery of bus services. Nexus is investigating the relative merits of a Quality Contracts Scheme, based on local franchising of bus services, or new Voluntary Partnership Agreements with operators, to see how they might bring improvements for passengers. These would represent a significant change to the current 'deregulated' bus market.
- 3.6 Consultation with regard to the Bus Strategy Review is currently underway and Members will have had the opportunity to attend awareness raising sessions in January 2012. A Stakeholder Engagement event was also held in the Coalfield area on 26 January at the Hetton Centre and further consultation with Members will be through a survey. Information from all these events will help inform any draft proposals for March 2012.
- 3.7 James Third Community Co-ordinator for Nexus is a regular attendee at the Network and provides a good level of support and flow of information. ELCAP work with James to fill in gaps and have a contract to deliver transport on Tuesday evenings for a group with disabilities. They also provide a shopping bus.
- 3.8 Sunderland Home Improvement Agency, in partnership with AGEUK Sunderland and Sunderland Community Furniture Service, has recently been successful in securing funding from the Department of Health from the Warm Homes Healthy People Fund. The funding is one off and will enable a number of initiatives between the winter months of January and March 2012 to help vulnerable people stay warm and healthy. Sunderland Warm Homes, Warm Hearts, Warm City Project will deliver measures to vulnerable groups, including the elderly, frail and families with young children in a range of ways that are outlined below:
- Provision of draught excluders and re-sealing windows where needed
  - Clear and Salt pathways so that vulnerable people can access vital services such as the community shopping bus or hospital appointments
- Both of these services can be accessed by contacting the Home Improvement Agency on 566 1451 or [hia@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:hia@sunderland.gov.uk)
- Provision of winter emergency packs (blankets, temporary heaters, flasks of hot water and a food hamper) for those who are in crisis situation without heating or hot water
  - Promotion of a good neighbour scheme to support vulnerable members of the community with small services such as shopping and befriending.
- These services can be accessed via AGEUK Sunderland on 0191 5141131
- 3.9 The Task and Result group met on 24 January 2012 to further discuss and progress actions against this priority. Notes of this meeting will be circulated to Area Committee and a report will be presented to the next meeting of the Area Committee by the Lead Agent.

**Recommendations:**

- This report, presented on behalf of the Support for Older People Task & Result group be noted
- Committee agree that the Task and Result group continue to discuss and develop the actions against this priority and provide a report to the March 2012 Area Committee meeting

Contact Officer: Pauline Hopper, Coalfield Area Officer Tel: 0191 561 7912  
Email: [pauline.hopper@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:pauline.hopper@sunderland.gov.uk)

1 FEBRUARY 2012

## REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

### COMMUNITY ACTION IN COALFIELD – PROGRESS REVIEW

#### Progress Report on 2011/12 Workplan: Neglected Land Priority

#### 1 Why has it come to Committee?

- 1.1 The report provides an update of progress against the Neglected Land priority and agreed actions in the current year's (2011/12) Work Plan (**Annex 1**). The report is presented on behalf of the Task and Result group for this priority.

#### 2 Background

- 2.1 It was identified by Area Committee, residents and partners that patches of unmanaged land (large and small) across the Coalfield area cause a problem and are visually unattractive. Land such as derelict garage and garden sites, industrial areas and unfinished developments need to be considered, along with patches of grassed and overgrown land.
- 2.2 A Task and Result group was formed with Dave Ellison, Area Response Manager for the Coalfield area acting as lead agent. Membership of the group was agreed as Dave Ellison, Councillors Rolph (Chair), Wakefield, Blackburn and Speding, John Chapman from Gentoo, John Patterson, Area Response Officer for Coalfield, Susan Brown, Coalfield Community Co-ordinator and Pauline Hopper, Area Officer.

#### 3 Progress

- 3.1 At the first meeting of the Task and Result group a number of identified sites were discussed and it was agreed that this would form the basis of developing a portfolio of sites to be built up as the project develops. A further meeting was held where the group discussed the greenspace audit values and issues on particular sites. Clive Greenwood will attend future meetings to act as an adviser regarding greenspace and other relevant subject areas. It was agreed that a matrix would be developed to assess each site identified as neglected land against a set of relevant criteria.
- 3.2 An information matrix has been developed, dividing the land into two categories a) Council owned b) non Council owned. The matrix identifies Ward, Title No, Owner, Covenants (where known), Category of Land, Plans (if any) and suggestions for future action.
- 3.3 The Task and Result group reviewed this information and along with other sources of intelligence such as reported fly tipping and anti social behaviour incidents has used the results to identify a priority site in each ward. It was agreed to concentrate on sites in Council ownership for the first phase of improvements as tackling sites in private ownership is a more complex issue. Sites proposed at the meeting on 17 January 2012, all in Council ownership, were:
- Copt Hill      Eppleton Primary School site
  - Hetton        Forest Estate
  - Houghton     Dubmire Primary School site
  - Shiney Row   Collingwood Drive

Area Committee are requested to discuss and agree which of the four sites as above are to be further investigated by the Task and Result Group who will then prepare proposals for developing each site. Recommendations will be brought back to the Area Committee for consideration and approval.

3.4 The Task and Result group discussed the possibility of influencing the allocation of Section 106 contributions and the recently introduced Community Infrastructure Levy. The Lead Officer for Planning Policy attended the meeting on 17 January 2012 to update the Task and Result group on the Development of the Local Development Framework (LDF) and the Community Infrastructure Levy (report attached). Due to the fact that the Community Infrastructure Levy Policy will not be in place until after the LDF is finalised (post 2014), the group agreed at this stage to further explore the Section 106 allocations and whether any contribution can be made for improvement of identified sites. The Lead Officer for Planning Policy outlined the importance of Councillor involvement in the development of the Community Infrastructure Levy. The Officer will keep the group updated on progress.

#### **4 Next Steps**

- 4.1 The Lead agent will explore various improvement works for each of the sites, from the four above, agreed by Committee. The Lead Agent will work with the Task and Result group, and other partners and Council Directorates, to develop more detailed proposals to present at the next Area Committee meeting.
- 4.2 Representatives from Land and Property and Planning will be consulted regarding covenants and other issues regarding the agreed sites. The Coalfield Community Co-ordinator will be consulted with regard to community engagement and involvement around the improvements proposed.
- 4.3 A letter will be sent to all owners of identified neglected sites in private ownership. A request will be made to legal services for support in drafting an appropriate letter. The letter will ask owners of their intentions and future plans for the land. At this stage it is not possible to plan the next steps for land in private ownership. Colleagues from relevant specialist areas will be asked for support and advice once replies have been received.
- 4.4 At the November 2011 meeting of Coalfield Area Committee, it was identified that in order to implement improvement schemes a proportion of the SIB budget would be required. Area Committee are requested to approve a sum of £30,000 SIB for the Neglected Land priority. This will be subject to specific improvement plans being developed for each of the agreed priority sites and the relevant SIB paperwork and procedures completed. If the budget allows, small scale improvements may also be made on other sites. Future maintenance of sites will form part of the improvement plans.
- 4.5 The Task and Result group will meet in advance of the next Area Committee meeting in order to develop proposals for consideration by the Committee.

#### **Recommendations:**

- This report, presented on behalf of the Neglected Land Task and Result group be noted
- Committee discuss and agree which of the four sites above will be the focus of the first phase for improvements
- Committee agree to receive proposals for improvement for each of the agreed sites
- Committee agree to the allocation of £30,000 SIB funding for improvements of Council owned neglected land subject to detailed proposals being agreed by Committee

Contact Officer: Pauline Hopper, Coalfield Area Officer Tel: 0191 561 7912  
Email: [pauline.hopper@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:pauline.hopper@sunderland.gov.uk)

Dave Ellison, Coalfield Area Response Manager Tel: 0191 584 6754  
Email: [dave.ellison@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:dave.ellison@sunderland.gov.uk)

## DEVELOPING THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY IN SUNDERLAND

### REPORT OF THE LEAD OFFICER FOR PLANNING POLICY

#### 1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report updates the Committee with progress of the emerging Local Development Framework (LDF) and outlines the process for taking forward a Community Infrastructure Levy within Sunderland.

#### 2.0 SUNDERLAND'S EMERGING LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK.

2.1 The Local Development Scheme or LDF project plan (2009) identifies the following documents to be prepared :

- Core Strategy
- Allocations Development Plan Document
- Hetton Downs Area Action Plan.

#### *The Core Strategy ~ progress to date*

2.2 A Preferred Options Draft was consulted upon in 2008. Further consultations in late 2009 refined proposals for the overall distribution of development across the city. A revised Preferred Option Draft was approved in March 2010, but publication was deferred pending the national elections and the potential changes proposed to the planning system (summarised at Section 3).

2.3 With the range of sweeping changes introduced by this Government work has been undertaken to :

- Assess the evidence base underpinning the RSS for the North East
- Re-evaluate the city's growth requirements
- Update baseline evidence to support the LDF including :
  - The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (July 2010)
  - The Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment
  - Audit some 1750 green spaces across the city
  - Update the Infrastructure Delivery Plan
  - Commence a review of the City's nature conservation sites
- Review the emerging Core Strategy document itself.

2.4 The format and structure of the emerging Core Strategy will : -

- Provide a suite of strategic policies setting out how the city will develop including broad development management policies
- Contain five sub-area chapters : the City Centre; Sunderland North; Sunderland South; Washington; and the Coalfield. It will set out a vision, key issues, constraints and opportunities. Bespoke sub-area policies will respond to the distinctive issues of each. An extract of the Vision, issues and constraints for the Coalfield (as per 2010) is attached.

#### *The Allocations Development Plan Document*

2.5 The Allocations DPD will specifically allocate parcels of land for development and constraint. To support the consideration of future site specific issues, Officers have and continue to maintain the required evidence.

#### *Hetton Downs Area Action Plan*

2.6 The Issues and Options and Preferred Options Drafts were consulted upon in August 2006 and 2007 respectively. Progression was delayed following the School Place Planning for the Future / Primary Strategy for Change programme. Further investigative work is presently being undertaken to consider the proposed access road linking Houghton Road (at Broomhill) and the north end of Church Road in addition to the recent completion of an NRA for Maudlin Street approved by Cabinet on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2011.

### **3.0 CHANGES AT THE NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL AND IMPLICATIONS FOR SUNDERLAND.**

- 3.1 The Coalition Government has introduced a range of reforms which have and will continue to affect future LDF preparation. This includes :
- Recognition that the planning system should remain plan-led, with plans being brought forward as quickly as possible
  - The inference that a single local plan should be produced rather than multiple documents (which is what LDFs are based upon)
  - Communities can prepare their own 'neighbourhood plans' to deliver more development than is set out in local plan. Council involvement is limited to giving 'technical support' and funding the examination and referendum. These would then form part of the plan for that neighbourhood.
  - Revocation of Regional Spatial Strategies (expected this Spring) will enable authorities to set their own growth requirements.

### **4.0 A PROGRAMME FOR GOING FORWARD.**

- 4.1 A new LDF project plan is presently being prepared. It is considered appropriate to retain delivery of the Core Strategy alongside the early commencement of the Allocations Development Plan Document.

#### **Core Strategy ~ Future Programme**

- 4.2 The Revised Preferred Options draft will be reviewed and published for consultation. Whilst, no longer a statutory stage, it would test and agree (where possible), proposals for locally derived land requirements, offering time savings prior to moving to the formal Publication stage.

- 4.3 A provisional timetable for the Core Strategy is as follows :

<b>Key Milestone</b>	<b>Date</b>
Revised Preferred Options Draft	Full Council - March 2012 (+ 6 week consultation)
Publication Draft	Full Council – October 2012 (+ 6 week consultation)
Submission Draft	March 2013
Examination in Public	June 2013
Receipt of Inspector's Report	October 2013
Adoption	Full Council – January 2014

#### **Allocations Development Plan Document ~ Future Programme**

- 4.4 Formal preparation of this DPD is yet to commence and will be considered through the work programme. The evidence base for this document forward is largely complete. Consideration is being given to the fast tracking of this document, to become more aligned to the Core Strategy.

#### **Hetton Downs AAP ~ Future Programme**

- 4.5 The principal issue relating to advancing this AAP relates to the alignment of the road. But, it would seem prudent to revisit / re-consult on the Preferred Options draft. Further consideration is now to be given as to how best progress the Area Action Plan.

### **5.0 THE COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY**

- 5.1 A new workstream will be the production of the Community Infrastructure Levy charging schedule (CIL). In short :
- CIL will be a roof tax on development. Once set, all developments liable to pay CIL must pay a contribution to the authority for the provision of infrastructure that is deemed essential to the enabling and meeting the growth requirements of the authority's Core Strategy.
  - CIL monies can be pooled to deliver infrastructure that does not necessarily directly relate to the development from which the monies are secured
  - There are no time limits in which CIL monies must be spent offering greater opportunity to pool sufficient monies to deliver infrastructure
  - It is likely the total costs of delivering all infrastructure requirements will far exceed CIL revenues. Hence, authorities may prioritise their own infrastructure requirements and CIL monies would be spent accordingly. Involvement of relevant Service areas and Members will be crucial.

- Critical to CIL will be the development of evidence on the economic viability of development sites being able to absorb the additional financial burdens whilst still retaining reasonable profits for the developer.
- The CIL will be subject of its own consultation and will subjected to independent examination.
- Section 106 Agreements will remain in force but will be curtailed to only site specific matters.

5.2 The delivery of CIL within Sunderland is presently being scoped out. Given that the infrastructure requirements will be derived from the growth assumptions set out within the emerging Core Strategy, it is presently envisaged that its production would run in tandem with the Core Strategy (including the holding of a conjoined public Examination).

Neil Cole  
Lead Policy Officer for Planning  
Tel. 0191 561 1574  
E-mail : [neil.cole@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:neil.cole@sunderland.gov.uk)



## **Extract from the Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options (March 2010)**

### **Vision**

By 2026 the Coalfield will be regenerated and revitalised with a range of new housing and employment opportunities catering for its sustainable growth. The unique landscape character of the area and its distinct communities will have been maintained with new high-quality development being designed to reflect the local building styles.

New and enhanced transport connections will link the area to the wider City Region and open up access to local employment areas.

Houghton town centre will be a thriving and attractive centre providing access to a comprehensive range of services and facilities.

### **Planning objectives**

- Improve housing environments, housing choice and employment opportunities to help regenerate the Coalfield
- Improve accessibility into and around the Coalfield, especially to employment areas
- Improve the vitality and viability of Houghton town centre
- Retain the distinctive identity of the villages within the area
- Safeguard the Magnesium Limestone landscape.

### **Key issues and constraints**

- Poor access to employment areas within and around the Coalfield
- Poor housing choice and environment contributing to out migration
- Houghton town centre is in need of major regeneration and has a relatively poor retail offer leading to residents shopping elsewhere in the city and neighbouring authorities
- The Coalfield sub-area has more flood risk areas than elsewhere in the city
- No passenger rail or Metro services in the area.

### **Opportunities and growth**

- Release of unviable employment land for other uses provides regeneration opportunities for the Coalfield
- The completion of the Central Route will improve access to employment sites and make them more attractive to potential users
- Continued support for the completion of Rainton Bridge South to provide prestige office accommodation
- The Gentoo renewal programme will provide more homes and increase housing choice in the area
- The Hetton Downs Area Action Plan will ensure the regeneration of the area through various means including housing renewal
- The development of Lambton Cokeworks for housing and a country park
- The potential re-opening of the Leamside Line for passenger use would improve accessibility for the area
- Culture and tourism potential due to historic industrial heritage and transformed natural environment.