

At a meeting of the NORTH SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the BUNNY HILL CENTRE, HYLTON LANE, SUNDERLAND on THURSDAY, 22nd JULY, 2010 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Bell in the Chair

Councillors Bonallie, Charlton, Copeland, Francis, Howe, MacKnight, Shattock, Stewart, J. Walton, L. Walton and D. Wilson

Also in Attendance:-

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| Ms. Estelle Brown | - Youth and Community Lead, SNCBC |
| Ms. Amanda Cattle | - Centre Manager, Bunny Hill, Sunderland City Council |
| Mr. Les Clark | - Head of Streetscene, Sunderland City Council |
| Ms. Ruth Coyne | - Senior Youth Worker, Oblivion |
| Ms. Coleen Doneathy | - Corporate Communications, Sunderland City Council |
| Mr. Bill Forster | - Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service |
| Mr. Mike Frankland | - Training Manager, Sunderland City Council |
| Ms. Francis Kelly | - Francis Kelly Management Consultants |
| Mr. Dave Leonard | - Area Co-ordinator, Sunderland City Council |
| Ms. Julie Lynn | - Welfare Rights Service Manager, Sunderland City Council |
| Insp. Lisa Musgrove | - Northumbria Police |
| Mr. Richard Parry | - Area Officer, Sunderland City Council |
| Mr. Mike Poulter | - Head of Project and Service Development, Sunderland City Council |
| Mr. Neil Revely | - Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services, ALE (Area Lead Executive), Sunderland City Council |
| Ms. Dawn Rugman | - Policy Officer (Diversity), Sunderland City Council |
| Mr. Raj Singh | - Extended Services and Attendance Group Manager, Sunderland City Council |
| Ms. Joanne Stewart | - Senior Democratic Services Officer, Sunderland City Council |
| Mr. Ken Tears | - Act Strategic Development Director, SAFC Foundation |
| Mr. Graham Wharton | - Community Manager, Salvation Army |
| Ms. Ethel Wilson | - Allotment Officer, Sunderland City Council |
| Mr. Mike Wooler | - School Improvement Officer, Sunderland City Council |

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman, Councillor Bell, welcomed everyone, invited introductions around the room and opened the meeting.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Foster, G. Hall and N. Wright

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 28th June, 2010

With both Councillors Howe and Wilson being in attendance, Councillor Wilson took the opportunity to comment on the minutes of the 1st March, 2010 which he had previously reserved the right to do so in relation to the provision of grit in Castletown.

Both Councillors having commented, it was:-

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 28th June, 2010 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Community Action : Identifying New Issues and Agreeing Actions (2010/11 Work Plan)

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided information on the progress made in relation to its Work Plan and the priorities as discussed at its last meeting on 28th June, 2010.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Dave Leonard, Area Co-ordinator presented the report referring Members to paragraph 1.6 of the report which outlined the findings of the Questions to Area Committees pilot that had been undertaken. The pilot demonstrated that there was a need to ensure Committee time is dedicated to dealing with questions that affect groups of residents while using other mechanisms to resolve more specialist issues that may only affect a single individual.

Therefore, from July 2010 resident's questions to the Committee would form an information stream within the Community Insight element of the agenda,

considering them together with information from a range of other sources which would provide the Committee with a rounded view of current and emerging community priorities.

Councillor J. Walton referred to the pilot that had been carried out and felt that the scheme had not worked and the poor response of questions had shown this. Mr. Leonard advised that the new approach would open up the scheme to a wider base and audience through Ward Councillors, community newsletters and other avenues available to promote it.

Mr. Leonard then advised that since the last meeting officers and partners had met to look at which elements from each of the proposed topics could form a work programme. Members having previously agreed that aspiration, self esteem and pride lay at the heart of any potential solutions to each of the issues, it was felt that the programmes proposed in the presentation reflected this theme.

Mr. Leonard then introduced Les Clark, Head of Street Scene with regard to the Greening of the North Area programme, Estelle Brown, Youth and Community Lead, SNCBC, with regard to Heritage and Aspiration programme and advised that the Volunteering aspect would underpin both of these programmes.

The Officers having updated the Committee in relation to current activities to deliver the priorities and addressed questions and comments thereon, it was:-

2. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the report be received and noted;
- (ii) the performance data relating to new issues raised will be evidenced through Customer Insight information from September, 2010 be noted; and
- (iii) the work plan for the North Sunderland Area as identified in the presentations of the Working Group be agreed.

Community Action : Reviewing Progress and Agreeing Next Steps

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which:-

- (i) briefed Members on issues previously identified through the 2009/10 Work Plan and provided an update on issues and actions arising.
- (ii) sought approval for recommendations in relation to the allocation of SIB, SIP and/or Community Chest funding.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Dave Leonard, Area Co-ordinator presented the report advising that North Sunderland Area had agreed that aspiration, self-esteem and pride lay at the

heart of its work and that those elements from each of the priorities would form a work programme. The 12 key priorities for 2010/2011 are:

- Antisocial behaviour;
- Increase confidence and trust levels in the community;
- Responsive Local Services project;
- Inclusiveness and community cohesion;
- Environmental and street scene improvements;
- Enhancing and raising the public profile of the heritage of the North Sunderland area;
- Ensure that Family, Adult and Community Learning (FACL) provision is delivered in line with local need;
- Identify and address gaps in youth and play services for all ages;
- Addressing the reasons behind the inequity of life expectancy across wards in the North Area;
- Child poverty at a local level;
- Consider how a targeted response could be provided to support individuals who may not be aware that the Council could help them maximise their independence, an objective within the Local Area Agreement; and
- Support enterprise and entrepreneurship.

In response to a query from Councillor Wilson regarding budgets for the year due to the current economic climate, Mr. Leonard advised that the budget for this financial year had been allocated and was set out in Annex 2b to the report and would need to be spent by 31 March 2011.

The Chairman having thanked the Officer for his report, it was:-

2. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the report be received and noted and that approval be given to Community Action Next Steps/Actions as detailed in Annex 1 of the report;
- (iv) the 2010/2011 Community Chest, SIB and SIP financial statement as detailed in Annex 2b of the report be noted; and
- (v) approval be given to the 22 proposals for funding from the Community Chest.

Influencing Practice, Policy and Strategy

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which would offer Members the opportunity for consultation on plans and strategies relevant to the North Sunderland Area. It would also provide information and updates, encouraging Members to feed into proposals for service or policy change.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

To complement the report Raj Singh, Extended Services and Attendance Group Manager, provided Members with a powerpoint presentation on the consultation process for Sunderland's Child Poverty Strategy and Action Plan – "Giving Every Child an Equal Chance". Members were informed that the vision behind the Strategy was "to ensure that all Council Services and Local Partners were working in a joined up way to do everything possible to reduce child poverty and mitigate its effects in the City and ensure that today's children don't become parents of poor children in 2005".

The Timeline for the Child Poverty Strategy would be as follows:-

<p>Draft Sunderland Child Poverty Strategy Consultation Consultation will take place from 25th June to 17 September 2010. Formal and informal consultation via e-mail and focus groups.</p>	<p>June 2010</p>
<p>Local Child Needs Assessment Poverty Needs Assessment being completed between July and September 2010.</p>	<p>July 2010</p>
<p>Analysis of the Consultation responses and Needs Assessment Analysis of the Consultation and Needs Assessment, with revisions made to the Draft Sunderland Child Poverty Strategy.</p>	<p>September 2010</p>
<p>Sunderland Child Poverty Strategy Revised Strategy to Cabinet and Sunderland Partnership December 2010.</p>	<p>December 2010</p>
<p>National Strategy A National Strategy is expected by Spring 2011.</p>	<p>Jan/Feb 2011</p>

In response to a query from Councillor J. Walton regarding the numbers of people not claiming benefits due to them, Mr. Singh advised that there was not a simple answer in identifying those that were not claiming, but informed the Committee that a piece of work had been carried out recently which indicated that although Sunderland had a high level of residents entitled to free school meals, approximately 17-18% were not being claimed and that there was further work to be carried out to understand the reasons behind this.

Discussions followed around the difficulties families face in returning to work, whereby in some cases they are worse off financially when working for a minimum wage than they were when claiming benefits. It was also raised that some families are secure in knowing their financial incomings and outgoings on benefits and the idea of them earning a wage with the uncertainty for them of not knowing what their weekly/monthly finances are going to look like can be a barrier in them actively looking for work.

Mr. Singh agreed that one of the biggest barriers faced in getting people back into work was the fear factor of the unknown and it was necessary to support

individuals in raising their self esteem and aspirations. There was a lot of work to be done in getting this message across to individuals and helping them progress into employment.

During discussions in relation to child poverty getting worse due to the current economic climate, Mr. Wharton, Community Manager for the Salvation Army, advised that a number of the voluntary sector organisations were experiencing an increased number of requests for food parcels, with a lot of referrals being made by services such as midwives, probation services, schools, etc. Members were shocked and disappointed to hear that residents in the area were having to rely on food parcels and Mr. Wharton advised they were supplied to families where services felt they could not make finances meet their needs and a parcel would ensure they had a supply of basic food stuffs.

Mr. Singh commented that this kind of information was fundamental to the consultation process as it was only through discussions with people working in the community and voluntary sectors that this level of detail could be captured. Mr. Wharton advised that he would be happy to share the information he had on the services they were providing as part of the consultation.

Mr. Singh concluded his presentation by advising Members that he could provide them with printed copies of the draft strategy and any further comments could be e-mailed directly to him by the closing date to be included in the consultation process.

The Chairman having then thanked Mr. Singh for his informative and thought provoking presentation, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the report and presentation be received and noted and any further comments be referred to Mr. Singh directly.

The Chairman then thanked the Committee, Officers and Partners for their worthwhile contributions and closed the meeting.

(Signed) R. BELL,
Chairman.

Sunderland North Area Committee

13th September 2010

Report of the Office of the Chief Executive

Community Action in Sunderland North: Identifying New Issues and Agreeing Actions (2010/11 Work Plan)

1. Why has it come to Committee?

- 1.1 To enable the future development of area based working, the Area Committee requires detailed information to be freely available from a number of different sources. An 'Intelligence Hub' has been established that will act as a repository for information available. Officers will have access to relevant up-to-date information required to make effective decision making at an area level, and provide Area Committees with the detailed analysis required to identify key priorities and future waves of Responsive Local Services activity.
- 1.2 Information has been sourced from other Committee meetings, Community Leadership Programme, Responsive Local Services, which includes the Customer Service Network, the Area Co-ordination Team, Members Query Management System, Questions to Area Committee, Safer Communities Team and the Consultation Team, including resident surveys. Additional links have also been made with the LMAPS, in particular the Data Analyst Team from Northumbria Police.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are requested to:
- i. Implement a two stage approach to refresh the Green Space Topic paper, which forms part of the Local Development Framework:-
 - a. Stage One: host a workshop to identify new open spaces not shown on the survey/large detailed maps, as laid out in the planning and policy guidance: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation 2002, see section three, with key stakeholders across the North during October 2010.
 - b. Stage Two: complete a participatory appraisal for each open space to assess the open space against the recommended criteria to measure the value of area/land to the community by December 2010.

3. New Issues

3.1 Forward Planning

To ensure the Committee is kept up to date with current events and developments in its neighbourhoods, the Area Officer will monitor the key decisions made by other Council Committees, for example, Cabinet via the Forward Plan publication and will consider if future decisions affect the North's work plan. When this occurs, information will be highlighted in the issues log, see Annex 1, along with recommendations for next steps, or will be circulated to Committee members via the ward bulletin service. In addition to monitoring the Forward Plan the Area Officer will systematically monitor the decisions made under Delegated Powers, again to consider and update area Councillors on developments relating to their wards, via the ward bulletin.

3.2 Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation.

As Committee are aware the Local Development Framework is a suite of documents providing guidance and policies for meeting the community's economic, environmental and social aims of the development of land in Sunderland for the next 10-15 years, which is currently under review.

Included within this suite of documents is the Green Space Topic Paper which provides an analysis of the City's green space by combining a wide variety of information available from various sources including Sunderland City Council, Office of National Statistics, 2001 Census, The Sunderland City Council Consultation Database and key internet resources.

The Council's Planning Policy Team, within Office of the Chief Executive would like Committee to consider the opportunity for Councillors, Officers, Partners and Residents to work collectively to refresh the green space survey from 2002. It is proposed that the refresh of the survey would be completed in two stages:

1. Workshop style events to engage the community in an interactive format, involving key stakeholders from across the area indicating and identifying new open spaces not shown on the survey/large detailed maps of their communities. This stage will raise awareness, identify new open spaces, as detailed above, and build a sense of community ownership in the planning process.
2. Stakeholders to complete a participatory appraisal for each open space assessing the 'value of area/land to the community'. Support and guidance would be provided by Planning Policy Team. This technique has already been used with some success by the Council. It is highly flexible for both small groups and whole communities where a cycle of data collection, reflection and learning and action planning is desired.

Information gained from both the workshop and appraisal process will be included in the Green Space Topic Paper which will be presented to Cabinet for approval.

Background papers

Sunderland North Local Area Plan
Sunderland North Work plan 2010/11

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Annex 1: Community Action: New Issues

Community Action: New Issues Log

Priority	Issue	Date raised/ to be discussed	Evidence and/or Data Source	Next steps	Lead Agent(s)
<p>To make the streets more attractive, landscaping rundown areas, removing litter and graffiti.</p>	<p>Planning for open space, sport and recreation.</p>	<p>28.07.10</p>	<p>1. Local Development Framework.</p>	<p>The is a need to revisit the green space survey from 2002, which illustrates the broad range of open spaces that may be of public value, for example, green corridors, parks, allotments, etc.</p> <p>The option is to host an initial workshop inviting representatives along to identify spaces in the North which matches the planning policy guidelines for open spaces. After the workshop each recognised open space would then be assessed against the recommended criteria to assess the value of area/land to the community. This exercise could involve Councillors, Friends Groups, VCS groups and Officers working together, with an overall report being presented to Committee.</p>	<p>Dave Leonard, Office of the Chief Executive (OCE), with support from Clive Greenwood, OCE.</p>

Sunderland North Area Committee

13th September 2010

Report of the Chief Executive

Community Action in Sunderland North – Progress Review

1. Why has it come to Committee?

1.1 **Annex 1** provides an update of outstanding issues from the 2009/10 work plan and shows progress against agreed actions in the current year's work plan. It also identifies where Area Committee can consider can funding application proposal to address their work plan.

1.2 **Annex 2a** provides the financial statement for Area Committee's funding streams.

Annex 2b provides summaries for SIB and SIP applications for approval.

Annex 2c provides detail of the 30 Community Chest applications for approval.

2. Recommendations

2.1 **Annex 1: Community Action: Outstanding Issues Log**

2.2 Work Plan 2009-10: Raise aspirations of children, young people and their families.

- note the progress on more effective delivery of Family, Adult and Community Learning Services

2.3 Work Plan 2010-11: Greening of the North Area Task and Finish Group

- Note the developments of the group and receive a further report at the next Area Committee meeting

2.4 Work Plan 2010-11: Heritage Task and Finish Group

- Note the developments of the group and receive a further report at the next Area Committee meeting

2.5 **Annex 2: Requests for funding**

- annex 2a: note the financial statement for Area Committee funding for 2010/11,
- annex 2b: approve 30 proposals for support from the 2010/11 Community Chest, all projects total £21,772.
- annex 2c:

SIB-approve 3 proposals;

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------|
| • Thompson Park | £55,000 |
| • Wearside Allotments | £10,500 |
| • Sensory Garden | £4,900 |

SIP-approve 2 proposals;

- | | |
|---|---------|
| • Oswald Terrace South;Hard Paving of Verge | £20,266 |
| • Tree Lights to Washington Road Gateway | £4,200 |

3. **Background to the Progress Review**

3.1 Work Plan 2009-2010: Raise aspirations of children, young people and their families.

The committee will be updated on the progress on improving the procurement and delivery of adult learning services, which have been agreed and will be discussed with the VCS Networks over the next few months. Updates will be presented to committee.

- 3.2 Work Plan 2010-11: Greening of the North Area, Task and Finish Group.
A preliminary group has met to look at available land in the area and obtain an understanding of what allotment services are being provided and what land issues are being raised. Specific sites are being identified across the North area as opportunities for development. Information on their ownership, strategic context and future options for development are being identified in order to report back to this committee on the way forward.

A draft proposal for the development of three allotment sites has been provided ready for development when suitable sites are identified. In addition, work is being undertaken to address how such options can fit within communities, looking at volunteering options that will assist the sustainability of any project. Community gardens are being considered and learning from developments at Wearside Allotments community gardens will inform the group.

Members are requested to consider being represented on the group.

- 3.4 Work Plan 2010-11: Heritage and Volunteering
A group representing the City Council, Sunderland SNCBC and SAFC have met to consider a way forward with regard to developing this priority. Discussions are ongoing with linking the heritage of the North Area into the learning areas of the City.

Schools could take the opportunity to undertake projects that research and publicise our heritage, whilst at the same time deriving significant learning benefit. Young people who are Not in Education, Employment or Training will also be included and the volunteering options of being associated with specific heritage sites will be developed.

Heritage groups across the North area will be consulted on their engagement with volunteers and how they can be supported in performing a valuable role.

Members are requested to consider being represented on the group.

4. Financial Statement

- 4.1 A financial statement detailing all Community Chest, SIP, and SIB approvals up to September 2010 is attached as Annex 2a. There are 30 proposals for support from the 2010/11 Community Chest, Annex 2b, one proposal to approve from SIP 2010/11 and three proposals to approve from SIB 2010/11, Annex 2c.

Appendices

- Annex 1: Community Action: Review Progress
Annex 1a: Play and Urban Games Strategy
Annex 2: Funding Requests
Annex 2a: Financial Statement
Annex 2b: Summary of SIP and SIB funding applications
Annex 2c: Summary of Community Chest Applications

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Community Action: Review Progress

Issue	Priority or Theme	Date	Evidence and/or Data Source	Next steps/Options	Funding Application (SIB/SIP)	Lead Agent	RAG
				2009/10			
Tighter control on the sale of alcohol and reduce underage drinking	Safe	Sept 2009	1. Police 2. Members Queries 3. Issues Log & 2009/10 Work Plan 4. Local Confidence Survey	1. Licensed premises should be encouraged to sign up to 21+ scheme 2. Community Police – patrols in position 3. Trading Standards carrying out a number of initiatives - Advisory visits to premises, test purchases. 4. Community and Safer City Scrutiny Committee Policy Review on Alcohol and Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) will report to June Cabinet. Area Committee to receive updates and information with regard to recommendations.		Safer Communities Team Police	
Community Payback Scheme	Safe	Jan 2010	1. Members queries 2. Issues Log & 2009/10 Work Plan 3. Local Confidence Survey	1. Youth Offending Service provided with locations by Area Committee to clean up hotspots in the North.		Simon Smart	
Specialist and generalist youth provision to be available in all wards in the North	Learning	Nov 2009	1. Police Statistics 2. Customer Insight 3. Issues Log & 2009/10 Work Plan 4. Members queries	1. Commissioning process of youth services 2. XL villages rolled out across the North area 3. Business Transformation Programme (Service Assessment and Commissioning) reviews underway re youth and play provision 4. Review current policy of community use of school buildings 5. Review the use of under utilised youth and sports facilities, e.g North Community Sports Centre	SIB/SIP application to provide lighting and increased use of MUGAs in the Downhill Community Sports Centre under development	Andy Neal City Services	
Raise aspirations of children, young people and their families	Learning	Nov 2009	1. Family Adult and Community Learning statistics 2. Connexions 3. College stats 4. 09/10 work plan	1. Area Committee to receive updates on the current review of learning provision, 2010/11 work plan 2. Agreement has been reached on a new procurement process that will enable more local VCS providers to deliver adult learning. Meetings with VCS Networks in Sept/Oct to progress.		Sandra Kenny	
Raise attainment levels and skills of young people	Learning	Nov 2009	1. Family Adult and Community Learning statistics 2. Connexions 3. College stats 4. 09/10 work plan	1. The Curriculum group of the 14-19 Partnership have been asked to carry out research into apprenticeship opportunities in the City and plans for future increases. 2. The report will include the role that the City Council is taking in increasing Apprenticeship opportunities. 3. Sunderland City Council has one of the highest rates of Apprentices in the North East.		Lynda Brown	

Promote heritage and existing attractions (e.g. Fullwell Mill, Hylton Castle, St Peter's Church)	Attractive and Inclusive	July 2009	1. AC Issues Log & 2009/10 Work Plan	1. Business plan for Hylton Castle completed. Steering group now reviewing 1 st stage Heritage Lottery application Family fun days are being promoted across the North area Hylton Castle battle re-enactment successfully took place in August 2010		Estelle Brown	
Improve areas of rundown land	Attractive and Inclusive	July 2009	1. Ward Visits 2. Members queries 3. AC Issues Log & 2009/10 Work Plan	1. A scheme and plans to improve Thompson Park are under development and are being presented to this committee	SIB/SIP funding application being presented to committee	Keith Hamilton	
Coordinated approach to enterprise support and development	Prosperous	Jan 2010	1. Members queries 2. AC Issues Log & 2009/10 Work Plan 3. Visible Workspace Project (Working Neighbourhoods Fund) 4. City Council Industrial Estates Audit	1. A report on the Visible Workspaces has been provided to the Working Neighbourhoods Board recommending allocation of its funding. There were no applications involving the North area. 2. Prosperity and Economic Development Scrutiny Policy Review re Working Neighbourhood Strategy to June Cabinet		Andrew Perkin	
Coordinate the work of advice and support agencies	Prosperous	Jan 2010	1. Members queries 2. AC Issues Log & 2009/10 Work Plan	1. Prosperity and Economic Development Scrutiny Policy Review re Working Neighbourhood Strategy to June Cabinet will confirm what has worked in the area. 2. A range of advice and support services available – Fiscus, Libra, SES		Andrew Perkin	
Raise the skill levels and aspirations of adults in relation to employability	Prosperous	Jan 2010	1. Members queries 2. AC Issues Log & 2009/10 Work Plan 3. Hanlon data	1. City wide audit to identify skills gaps for vacancies over next 12 months underway 2. Sunderland Learning Partnership will continue to develop an holistic approach		Andrew Perkin	
Ensure adequate support for vulnerable adults	Health	March 2010	1. Mosaic Data TPCT, 2. Dir of P Health Report, 3. AC Issues Log & 2009/10 Work Plan	1. Health Housing and Adult Services are identifying groups and individuals who are "at risk" and will be supporting agencies to work with the Area Committee's priorities and develop daily living solutions.		Health, Housing and Adult Services	
Address lack of public transport in some areas	Health	March 2010	1. Area Committee consulted 2. Public consultation	1. Nexus will update the committee on the Nexus Secured Services Strategy and consultation		John Usher (Nexus)	
2010/11							
Raising Aspirations, Self Esteem and Pride							
Heritage and Volunteering	Heritage	July 2010	1. Area Committee consulted 2. Task and Finish	1. Initial meetings have taken place to discuss involving heritage issues into the school curriculum through the use of projects, with the young people who are Not involved in Training, Employment		Estelle Brown/Vicki Medhurst	

			Group	or Education. 2. City Services are identifying volunteer development opportunities			
Greening of the North Area	Attractive and Inclusive	July 2010	1. Area Committee consulted 2. Task and Finish Group 3. Members queries 4. Customer complaints	1. Initial meetings have taken place to look at opportunities for the development of unused land into community gardens and allotment sites. 2. Available land is being identified 3. Model SIB applications have been developed for three sites throughout the North Area	Model proposal provided ready for when appropriate sites identified.	Les Clark, City Services	

SUNDERLAND North AREA COMMITTEE MEETING
13th September 2010

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I

Title of Report:

Reviewing Progress

Author(s):

Chief Executive

Purpose of Report:

This report requests Area Committee consideration of proposals for the allocation of the Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) and Community Chest to support initiatives that will benefit the area.

This report denotes an item relating to an executive function**Description of Decision:**

The Committee is requested to approve the following:

- Annex 2a: Note the financial statement for Area Committee funding for 2010/11
- Annex 2b: i) Approve three proposals from the 2010/11 SIB budget totalling £70,400;
 1. £55,000 for the “Thompson Park” project
 2. £10,500 for the “Wearside Allotments” project.
 3. £4,900 for Town End Farm’s “Sensory Garden”;
 ii) Approve the following proposal from the SIP budget project totalling £24,466
 1. £20,266 for the City Council’s “Oswald Tce South;Hard Paving of Grassed Verge” project.
 2. £4,200 for the City Council’s “Tree Lights to Washington Road Gateway”
- Annex 2c: i) Approve 30 proposals for support from the 2010/11 Community Chest totalling £21,822

Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework? Yes

Suggested reason(s) for Decision:

Each Area Committee has been allocated a minimum of £200,000 per annum from the Strategic Initiatives Budget to promote action on key priorities identified in the relevant Local Area Plan and to attract other funding into the area.

The Community Chest forms part of the Strategic Initiatives Budget and £250,000 is available for the scheme in 2010/2011; £10,000 for each Ward.

Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) was approved at Cabinet in March 2008. Included within the plan was an additional one-off allocation of £1.426m to Area Committees. The amount allocated to each Area Committee was the same as SIB allocation for 2008-09. SIP can only be used to deliver capital projects, deliver key priorities identified in the LAP with its main purpose to attract other funding into the area.

Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected:

The circumstances are such that there are no realistic alternatives that could be considered.

Is this a “Key Decision” as defined in the Constitution? No

Is it included in the Forward Plan?
No

Relevant Scrutiny Committee:

Community and Safer City Scrutiny Committee
 Environment and Attractive City Scrutiny Committee

SIB: North SIB Statement 13th September 2010

* £288,548 was allocated for 2010-11, £116,528 was carried over from 2009-10: Balance £405,076

	Committee	Opportunities:		
	Date	Main Fund 80%	20%	Total 100%
Available Funding 2010/11 *	28.06.10	£324,061	£81,015	£405,076
Project Name	-	-	-	-
NB:- £1,637 was recouped from Sunderland History Fair (included in remaining balance)				
Balance	-			£406,713

SIP: North Statement 13th September 2010

	SIP Budget	Approvals	Balance
Available Funding 2010/2011	£170,540	£0	£170,540
Castle	£43,308	£0	£43,308
Fulwell	£20,308	£0	£20,308
Redhill	£43,308	£0	£43,308
Southwick	£43,308	£0	£43,308
St Peter's	£20,308	£20,000	£308
Balance	£170,540	£20,000	£150,540

Community Chest: North Statement 13th September 2010

*:£10,000 was allocated per ward from 2010-11, Budget includes carry over from 2009-10 of £

	Community Chest Budget	Approvals	Balance
Available Funding 2010/11 *			
Castle	£12,798	£6,180	£6,618
Fulwell	£11,312	£1,200	£10,112
Red Hill	£18,149	£65	£18,084
Southwick	£12,614	£4,950	£7,664
St Peter's	£14,114	£1,848	£12,266
Total	£68,987	£14,243	£54,744

Item 3 Annex 2b

Report of the Chief Executive

Financial Statements and Funding Request

1.1 Following the June 2010 Committee meeting and the return of £116,528 of unused funding, a balance of £405,076 remains to be allocated this financial year.

1.2 Projects detailed in Annex 2b and recommended for approval are as follows:

1. Thompson Park	£55,000	Approve
2. Wearside Allotments	£10,500	Approve
3. Sensory Garden	£4,900	Approve

1.3 Projects recommended for approval from the 2010/11 budget total £70,400. Should Committee approve those proposals the remaining balance for the 2010/11 allocation would be £334,676.

1. Strategic Investment Plan (SIP)

2.1 Following the June 2010 Committee meeting, a balance of £170,540 remains to be allocated this financial year.

2.2 The project detailed in Annex 2b and recommended for approval is:

1. Oswald Tce Sth;Hard Paving of Verge	£20,266	Approve
2. Tree Lights to Washington Road Gateway	£4,200	Approve

2.3 A delegated decision to fund £20,000 for the restoration of the Roker Park Memorial Fountain in St Peter's ward was taken prior to the meeting of this committee, in order that the project could proceed to completion, within the required deadline of March 2011.

2.4 Should the projects be approved, a balance of £126,074 will remain.

3. Community Chest

3.1 The table attached details balances remaining to be allocated following the last meeting in April, project proposals received as detailed in Annex 2c, and balance remaining should those proposals be approved (including the unclaimed allocations identified from previous years).

Ward	Balance at July 2010	Project proposals	Balance, subject to approval
Castle	£6,618	£4,476	£2,142
Fulwell	£10,112	£1,650	£8,462
Redhill	£18,084	£10,614	£7,470
Southwick	£7,664	£1,632	£6,032
St Peter's	£12,266	£3,450	£8,816
Total	£57,744	£21,822	£32,922

Item 3 Annex 2b: Executive Summary; SIB/SIP funding applications

Application No.1 - SIB

Funding Source	SIB
Name of Project	Thompson Park
Lead Organisation	City Services

Total Cost of Project	Total Match Funding	Total SIB Requested
£55,000		£55,000
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
5 months	November 2010	March 2011

The Project
The recent

addition of the play area to Thompson Park has increased its popularity significantly, bringing dramatically increased numbers of people into the Park from the surrounding homes. Concern has been expressed that those coming into the Park from Newcastle Road have to share the vehicular access route which carries not only cars but some heavy traffic associated with the Council depot in the Park. After some consultation through the Friends Group it has been agreed that the creation of a new pedestrian route into the Park would be the best solution. This will segregate pedestrians from vehicular traffic and at the same time bringing the pedestrians in through the Rose Garden as a more attractive entrance into the Park.

It is hoped that this will in turn increase the numbers of people using the Park making it a more attractive proposition for family groups.

The Outputs for the Project

Output Code	Description	Target 2010/11
A1	Number of new or physically improved community facilities as the result of an SIB subsidised activity. This includes provision of equipment such as sports and games equipment.	1

Milestones and Key Events	Forecast Dates
Installation of the new pedestrian gate	December 2010
Relocate existing bus stop	January 2011
Completion of the footpath works	March 2011
Tie in any additional works to the Rose Garden and ancillaries resulting from the works	March 2011

Recommendation: Approve

The project fits the LAP priorities under Attractive and Inclusive and is supported by City Services Directorate.

Application No.2 - SIB

Funding Source	SIB
Name of Project	Security Fence/toilets, Wearside Allotments
Lead Organisation	Wearside small Holders

Total cost of Project	Total Match Funding	Total SIB requested
£15,500	£5000	£10,500
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
2 months	October 2010	December 2010

The Project

The project will provide security for one of the perimeter boundaries of the site and will allow for hard standing for vehicular access to the community gardens. This will particularly support regular visits by Fulwell Day Centre and will also reduce the levels of anti social behaviour and theft of equipment. Additionally, welfare facilities will be provided, providing a toilet block for use by allotment holders and visitors to the community gardens.

The Need for the Project

The project will reduce the number of visits and associated administrative duties by Northumbria Police by preventing incidents of theft and will accordingly provide a safer working environment for allotment holders. The provision of welfare facilities will encourage the take up of a wider cross section of the community and encourage residents to engage in the benefits of growing their own produce.

The Outputs for the Project

Output Code	Description	Number
A1	Number of community/voluntary groups supported	1
S1	No of young people in voluntary work	1

Recommendation: Approve

Subject to the required public liability insurances being in place.

The project meets priorities identified in the Attractive and Inclusive and Safe themes within the Local Area Plan (LAP). Furthermore, it also complements the Committee's priority of Greening the North Area.

Application No.3 -SIB

Funding Source	SIB
Name of Project	Sensory Garden
Lead Organisation	Town End Farm Primary School

Total cost of Project	Total Match Funding	Total SIB requested
£8450	£3,550	£4900
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
2 months	September 2010	December 2010

The Project

Bleak environments create aggressive and stressful children whereas well designed outdoor areas can become the creative and social hub of the school. This garden will be an opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of the children, their families and the communities in which they will live as adults.

The Sensory Garden will be a carefully designed planting area, where plants are grown which please all five of the senses: Sight, Touch, Sound, Scent and Taste; an area that can provide opportunities for both stimulation and calming alike; an area for children and families to bond and build self-esteem.

The Need for the Project

Research show that sensory gardens can stimulate the use of all the faculties of young children and those with a disability, having a beneficial effect on well being and even helping a process of recovery or readjustment. They have the potential to turn school grounds into a rich and exciting sensory experience. The benefits are shown starkly when you consider that many children and their families with additional support needs spend a large part of their lives indoors, undergoing long periods of treatment or requiring demanding routines of physical care.

In addition, this project has been discussed with Extended Services and the Social Care team within Sunderland City Council who recognise that a sensory garden would be of great benefit, not only to the pupils of the school, but the wider community.

The Outputs for the Project

Output Code	Description	Number
A2	Number of people using new and improved community facilities:	120
A3	Number of community/voluntary groups supported:	1
A6	Number of community or educational events held:	5

Recommendation: Approve

Application No.4 – SIP Castle Ward

Funding Source	SIP
Name of Project	Oswald Terrace South – Hard Paving of Grass Verge
Lead Organisation	City Services

Total cost of Project	Total Match Funding	Total SIP requested
£20,226		£20,226
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
2 months	January 2011	February 2011

The Project

Currently Oswald Terrace South suffers from congestion from residents double parking their vehicles along the narrow roadway. This action of double parking is problematic not only for the general public, but of most concern for the Emergency Services trying to negotiate these parked vehicles.

If funding is secured for the proposed scheme, it will provide an area of the footway for vehicles to park and reduce the impact of the parked vehicles on the roadway.

It is proposed to utilise an area of the footway that is currently unusable for pedestrians (the grassed verge). This verge will be removed and the footway strengthened with hard paving to facilitate vehicle overrun.

Not only will the project improve the visual appearance of the street, it will also reduce tensions within the local residents by providing a safe location to park their cars.

The Need for the Project

The issue has been highlighted by the residents and road users to their elected Ward Members. A ward member has consulted local residents and confirmed support for the proposal.

The Outputs for the Project

Output Code	Description	Number
A4	Number of programmes of work to improve the appearance of the streets	1

Recommendation: Approve

The project will improve congestion and accessibility by emergency services in a narrow street and fits with the Attractive and Inclusive priority of the Local Area Plan

Application No.5 – SIP Castle Ward

Funding Source	SIP
Name of Project	Tree lights to Washington Road Gateway
Lead Organisation	City Services

Total cost of Project	Total Match Funding	Total SIP requested
£4,200		£4,200
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
2 months	October 2010	November 2010

The Project

The project will provide an attractive focal point and improve the environment of an open area and provide a gateway feature to residents and visitors.

The project will add significant value to the street scene and amenity value in the North Area.

The Need for the Project

The need has been identified by Ward Councillors following representations from residents and aims raise levels of pride and community spirit in the area.

The Outputs for the Project

Output Code	Description	Number
A4	Number of programmes of work to improve the appearance of the streets	1

Recommendation: Approve

The project will make the area more attractive and fits with the Attractive and Inclusive priority of the Local Area Plan.

COMMUNITY CHEST 2010/2011 NORTH AREA - PROJECTS PROPOSED FOR APPROVAL

Ward	Project	Amount	Allocation 2010/2011	Project Proposals	Previous Approvals	Balance Remaining
Castle	Castletown Scout Group – Contribution towards insurance, fees, training etc.,	1000				
	Castletown Homing Society – Purchase of materials, skip hire etc.,	500				
	Castletown C.A. – Purchase of water boiler.	444				
	Holiday 59 Cotswold Road – Contribution towards residential holiday.	1500				
	Royal British Legion – Contribution towards roof repairs.	500				
	Sunderland Remembrance Day Parade Steering Group – Contribution towards transport, bands, refreshments etc.,	100				
	Christmas Shopping Evening – Contribution towards transport, wheelchairs, refreshments etc.,	50				
	Castletown Youth Darts Team – Purchase of equipment to aid youth diversionary measures.	382				
	Total		12,798	4,476	6,180	2,142
Fulwell	Fulwell Neighbourhood Watch – Contribution towards Christmas party for senior citizens.	500				
	Peter Stracey House – Contribution towards Christmas lunch.	500				
	Royal British Legion – Contribution towards roof repairs.	500				
	Christmas Shopping Evening – Contribution towards transport, wheelchairs, refreshments.	50				
	Sunderland Remembrance Day Parade Steering Group – Contribution towards transport, bands, refreshments etc.,	100				
	Total		11,312	1,650	1,200	8,462
Redhill	Redhouse C.A. Under 12's – Contribution towards training facilities.	500				
	Redhouse Kids Karate Club – Purchase of badges and trips.	982				

	Sunderland Schools Football Association – Contribution towards pitch fees, trophies etc.,	500				
	Redhouse Youth Project – Contribution towards equipment and youth activities.	8000				
	Sunderland Remembrance Day Parade Steering Group – Contribution towards transport, bands, refreshments etc.,	100				
	Royal British Legion – Contribution towards roof repairs.	500				
	Christmas Shopping Evening – Contribution towards transport, wheelchairs, refreshments etc.,	32				
	Total		18,149	10,614	65	7,470
Southwick	Southwick Boys F.C. – Purchase of training equipment, pitch fees etc.,	500				
	Southwick Green Area – Contribution towards planters, flower boxes etc.,	1000				
	Christmas Shopping Evening – Contribution towards transport, wheelchairs, refreshments etc.,	32				
	Sunderland Remembrance Day Parade Steering Group – Contribution towards transport, bands, refreshments etc.,	100				
	Total		12,614	1,632	4,950	6,032
St. Peter's	Monkwearmouth Detached Youth Project – Contribution towards activities during school holidays, bike riding etc.,	1500				
	Dame Dorothy Primary School – Contribution towards trip to Derwent Hill.	1000				
	Redby C.A. – Purchase of lap top computer.	300				
	Royal British Legion – Contribution towards roof repairs.	500				
	Christmas Shopping Evening – Contribution towards transport, wheelchairs, refreshments etc	50				
	Sunderland Remembrance Day Parade Steering Group – Contribution towards transport, bands, refreshments etc.,	100				
	Total		14,114	3,450	1,848	8,816
Totals			68,987	21,822	14,243	32,922

Sunderland North Area Committee

13th September 2010.

Report of the Chief Executive

Influencing Practice, Policy and Strategy

1. Why has it come to Committee?

- 1.1. This report offers Members the opportunity for consultation on plans and strategies relevant to the Sunderland North area. It also provides information and updates, which will encourage Members to feed into proposals for service or policy change.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 Members are requested to consider the following plans provided for consultation ;

- The draft Sunderland Partnership Volunteering Strategy and Action Plan
- Play and Urban Games Strategy Review

3. Sunderland Partnership Volunteering Strategy and Action Plan

- 3.1 The Committee will be aware that the Sunderland Partnership Volunteering Strategy and Action Plan consultation process is currently ongoing. A draft document has now been produced to seek views through a formal consultation process. An extract from the document is attached as Annex 1. The Annex is the action plan which indicates proposed actions to reflect the changing landscape of volunteering, at both the national and local level, and to build upon existing good practice in Sunderland. The Strategy and accompanying action plan will provide the basis for partners and organisations to work together to raise the profile of volunteering and increase the number and diversity of volunteers in the City.
- 3.2 The Council acknowledges the vitally important contribution volunteers make in Sunderland. The Sunderland Volunteering Strategy is a tool to steer future work around volunteering.
- 3.3 The report will outline the process to be undertaken to review the existing Strategy and identify the priorities for investment for the period 2010-2012 for inclusion within an addendum to the Strategy.

4. Play and Urban Games Strategy

- 4.1 The report in Annex 2 outlines the process being undertaken to review the existing Strategy and identifies the priorities for investment for the period 2010-2012 for inclusion within an addendum to the Strategy.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Area Committee Members are requested to;
- i. Note the content of the report
 - ii. Provide feedback on the achievements to date
 - iii. Comment on the consultation framework
 - iv. Agree to the priorities for future investment in the North area.

Contact Officer: Dave Leonard, Acting Sunderland North Area Officer
Tel: 0191 561 1217 email: Dave.Leonard@sunderland.gov.uk

Extract from the Sunderland Volunteering Strategy Draft Action Plan. Full document available at www.sunderlandcompact.org.uk.
Deadline 17 September 2010, 5pm.

Objective 1 Increasing the number of people volunteering in the City of Sunderland (whether through formal or informal volunteering)				
Key: Short term 2011 Medium term 2011 – 2013, Long term 2013 onwards				
Outcome	Outputs or Deliverables	Timescale S/M/L	Key Partners (supporting partners)	Links to other actions and strategies
Improved access to information and understanding of volunteering	Providing greater choice of activities by encouraging more organisations to register or update volunteering opportunities with Sunderland Volunteer Centre.			
	Monitor and evaluate take-up of volunteering opportunities, ensuring volunteering meets individual and organisational needs.			
	Develop a co-ordinated approach to e-enabled volunteering opportunities (e.g. website links), through Sunderland Partnership organisations and the wider VCS.			
	Developing outreach services, targeted at identifying and meeting the needs and aspirations of geographical communities and communities of interest where there are barriers or low levels of volunteering.			
	Provide additional support mechanisms, including buddying schemes for new or less confident volunteers and those who may find it difficult to access services.			
	Support the promotion of volunteer opportunities through SVC.			
	A diverse range of local people involved in the review of Local Area Plans and other decision-making processes.			
	Developing programme of events to network potential volunteers with opportunities without reliance on Internet access (e.g. 'volunteer speed dating', and volunteer fairs).			
	Continue to promote awareness of existing volunteering resources, (targeted circulation of literature and high visibility promotions).			
	Continuing to work with government schemes designed to promoting volunteering opportunities for young people.			
	Continuing to work with groups to develop menu of volunteering activities for a diverse range of volunteers			
	Support the delivery and coordination of volunteering recruitment campaigns, with a specific focus on engaging under-represented groups (e.g. through the Sunderland Echo and Community Newsletters).			

Objective 2 Recognising and rewarding volunteers for their role in delivering services and improving the lives of people in the City				
Key: Short term 2011, Medium term 2011 – 2013, Long term 2013 onwards				
Outcome	Outputs or Deliverables	Timescale S/M/L	Key Partners	Links to other actions and strategies
Recognition of the valuable contribution volunteers make to Sunderland and of the benefits to the individual	Co-ordinating high profile media campaigns, celebrating volunteering in Sunderland and profiling individual case studies and volunteering opportunities.			
	Using the Sunderland Partnership website/TV/ publications, including those of all Sunderland Partnership organisations, to profile the roles of volunteers.			
	Developing a partnership approach to Sunderland Volunteer Celebration events and awards at the area and City level.			
	Establishing how regional volunteer celebration events can link to the Sunderland perspective.			
Objective 3 Supporting volunteers to increase confidence, learning, skills and employability prospects				
Key: Short term 2011, Medium term 2011 – 2013, Long term 2013 onwards				
Outcome	Outputs or Deliverables	Timescale S/M/L	Key Partners	Links to other actions and strategies
Increased confidence for those volunteering	Build upon current good practice, for example, Sunderland City Council's Health Housing and Adult Services Mentoring Scheme by encouraging more organisations to provide mentors to support the development of skills and knowledge of volunteers with disabilities, including mental health.			
	Encouraging organisations (including the private sector) to provide mentors & volunteering opportunities for those at risk of exclusion, (e.g. BME groups, young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) and disabled people).			
Organisations are able to provide volunteers with access to support, training and appropriate qualifications	Developing links between volunteer managers and employability support services to improve understanding the role of volunteering in improving employment prospects.			
	Developing the existing organisational Volunteers Network to share good practice for the benefit of the organisation and ultimately individual volunteers.			
	Providing guidance to smaller organisations supporting volunteers to help them make best use of potential and existing volunteers.			
	Enabling volunteers to progress into education, training, employment or other volunteering opportunities.			

	Working with local training providers and educational institutions to ensure that organisations are aware of opportunities for volunteers to develop their skills (e.g. Basic Skills, English language), especially as a pathway to employment or further/higher education.			
Raise awareness of link with employability, in context of recession and increasing employment opportunities	Employment support services to advise clients on the important role of volunteering in gaining employment, and the implications on benefit entitlement.			
Objective 4				
Increase number of organisations with Employer Supported Volunteering Schemes				
Key: Short term 2011, Medium term 2011 – 2013, Long term 2013 onwards				
Outcome	Outputs or Deliverables	Timescale S/M/L	Key Partners	Links to other actions and strategies
Mechanisms in place that promote, assist and develop Employer Supported Volunteering	Promoting organisations with effective employer supported schemes supporting other organisations to develop volunteering opportunities.			
	Developing supported volunteering sessions to individuals interested in volunteering, providing them the opportunity to explore potential volunteer roles and activities.			
	Support Sunderland Partnership organisations to have employee volunteering opportunities and associated policies.			
	Celebrating employee volunteering through organisational celebration events and rewarding those who make a real difference in communities.			
Promote the benefits of employer supported volunteering in SMEs.	Employers understanding the benefits of volunteering to their organisation, sharing good news stories and case studies of successful schemes.			
	Developing the support mechanisms for SMEs to confidently instigate volunteering opportunities.			
Increased skills and capacity of voluntary-led management committees	Encourage employers and employees to become actively involved in voluntary-led management committees.			
	Voluntary-led management committees to identify skills shortages and actively seek to recruit into these through the Sunderland Volunteer Centre.			
	Develop role descriptions for volunteers and ensure appropriate support/supervision arrangements.			

Objective 5				
To improve management of volunteers and delivery of volunteering programmes				
Key: Short term 2011, Medium term 2011 – 2013, Long term 2013 onwards				
Outcome	Outputs or Deliverables	Timescale S/M/L	Key Partners	Links to other actions and strategies
Demonstrating how volunteers add value to organisations	Accessing relevant training and information for managers of volunteers (e.g. promotion of the Volunteering Toolkit and associated training) to promote good practice when managing volunteers and maintaining quality standards.			
Safe recruitment and induction of volunteers	Appropriate CRB and Vetting and Barring processes in place and volunteers provided with appropriate inductions by organisations who engage with volunteers.			
Appropriate support to existing volunteers	Determining the support needs of volunteers, and how organisations may assist (e.g. voluntary sector led management committee governance needs).			
A clear and accurate picture of volunteering within the City as a whole	Organisations recording information on volunteers (e.g. numbers, demographics, type of activity, hours and progression).			
	Coordinated approach to data collation, analysis and target setting.			
	Undertaking regular and accurate impact assessments of volunteer activity across the City.			
	Volunteer organisations carrying out satisfaction surveys of beneficiaries.			

Question – The Sunderland Volunteering Strategy Action Plan

**Are the actions outlined above relevant to the Sunderland Volunteering Strategy? Are there any additions?
Are there any actions that your organisation can deliver upon? What are your thoughts on possible key partners and timescales? (Please populate above)**

Answer:

NORTH AREA COMMITTEE**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CITY SERVICES****13 SEPTEMBER 2010****PLAY AND URBAN GAMES STRATEGY REVIEW****1. Why has this report come to committee?**

- 1.1 This report has been presented to Area Committee to highlight the progress achieved against priority actions within the Play and Urban Games Strategy (PUGS) – Moving Forward 2007-2012.
- 1.2 The report will outline the process to be undertaken to review the existing Strategy and identify the priorities for investment for the period 2010-2012 for inclusion within an addendum to the Strategy.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Area Committee Members are requested to;
 - i. Note the content of the report
 - ii. Provide feedback on the achievements to date
 - iii. Comment on the consultation framework
 - iv. Agree to the priorities for future investment in the North area.

3. Current Position

- 3.1 Members may recall receiving a report consulting on the city's play provision in March 2010. The report requested members to provide feedback on locations they considered would benefit from future investment in play provision. Members were additionally advised that following significant progress against the action plan within the current PUGS, an addendum to the document was to be prepared. The addendum will consider national guidance issued by Play England, seek to review progress and update the action plan.
- 3.2 Members will recall that the PUGS strategic vision is;

“Sunderland will work in partnership to provide, support and sustain a variety of high quality and accessible play environments and opportunities for all children and young people up to 19 years. The city aspires to a core offer of free provision citywide, which may be supported by affordable supervised provision as appropriate”.
- 3.3 The Strategy recognises six main priorities:
 - i. Ensure play is strategically planned and resourced in partnership
 - ii. Involve children and young people in the development of their play opportunities and services
 - iii. Work in partnership to develop, support and promote high standards for play
 - iv. Create, improve and develop free and inclusive play spaces
 - v. Seek greater innovation in the development of varied and sustainable play opportunities
 - vi. Ensure that in partnership, the city monitors and evaluates the impact of play developments citywide to deliver this Strategy

- 3.4 Since the Strategy was produced in 2007 and endorsed by Cabinet, the Children's Trust and the Sunderland Partnership, substantial progress has been made, primarily due to the success in achieving Play Pathfinder status and the additional financial support available from the City Council and from developer contributions.
- 3.5 In January 2008, Sunderland City Council was one of 20 authorities to be awarded Play Pathfinder status, a £2.1million capital investment accompanied by revenue support. The award has resulted in an 18 month transformation programme in the delivery of play and urban games city wide and subsequently, the over achievement against key actions identified within the PUGS in 2007, necessitating the update to the Strategy.

4. Performance Management

- 4.1 Sunderland has over achieved against many of the agreed strategic priorities within the Play and Urban Game Strategy. The key achievements include:

Objective 1: Ensure that play is strategically planned and resourced in partnership

- Play developments have been undertaken in line with the priorities identified in the PUGS. Investment for the development of play has totalled £6m and been achieved through successful attraction of external funding through Big Lottery (£761,000), Play Pathfinder (£2.1M), Section 106 developer contributions (£2.3M), SRB (£147,000), SIB (£147,000) and a contribution from the capital programme (£545,000).

Objective 2: Create, improve and develop free and inclusive play spaces

- Since 2004, £6 million funds have been invested in the development of play and urban games facilities. Within the lifespan of the current PUGS there has been £4.9 million invested since 2007.
- The development of new or significant refurbishment of 58 plays areas since 2004. With 34 being completed between 2007 and spring/summer 2010.
- The PUGS updated in 2007, indicated that just **19% (12,856)** of children and young people had access to high quality play 1km from their door. By the end of March 2010, **70% (47,366)** children and young people have access to high quality play facilities.
- Young People with access to wheeled sports provision has risen from three facilities in 2004 through to six facilities in 2010. The standard being to develop one wheeled sports facility in each regeneration area of the city.

Objective 3: Seek greater innovation in the development of varied and sustainable play opportunities

- Developments have included the city Adventure Play Park which provides a challenging and exciting play environment with facilitated play sessions. The development features of the new provision include indoor, sensory and outdoor play facilities. The Adventure Play Park was developed through a partnership with the Aiming High Pathfinder, from short breaks for disabled children to creating a supportive environment for young people with disabilities.

- The design and development of play spaces has developed significantly, by using more natural features mixed with traditional fixed play.

Objective 4: Involve children and young people in the development of their play opportunities and services

- Elected Member involvement at ward level has been actively encouraged throughout the consultation process, with a main focus to provide links with residents at neighbourhood level. This involvement has included attendance at consultation events, meetings, financial support through SIB and SIP and play area design suggestions.
- Over 6,000 people have been involved in the consultation and engagement process, including children and young people, their families, residents and local communities. Over 500 disabled children, their families and carers have participated in play consultation. 25 schools, community organisations and youth groups involved in delivering consultation arrangements for neighbourhood facilities.

Objective 5: Work in partnership to develop, support and promote high standards for play

- A range of services have been commissioned from the voluntary and community sector to support the development of play e.g. neighbourhood consultation, direct delivery of play activities.
- Launch of the 'Lets Play' campaign, to inspire families to enjoy their local play spaces and to challenge negative perceptions of children playing.

Objective 6: Ensure that in partnership, the city monitors and evaluates the impact of play developments citywide to deliver the strategy

- The developments have led to a sustained improvement in resident satisfaction levels. Since 2004 to the current date, a net improvement of 19% has been demonstrated through the annual MORI survey. This measure was taken prior to the Pathfinder investment and it is hoped that satisfaction levels will increase following the next resident survey which will be published late in 2010.
- The PUGS updated in 2007, indicated that just 19% of children and young people had access to high quality play 1km from their door. By the end of March 2010, 70% children and young people in the city have access to high quality play.

4.2 More locally, significant progress has been made and this is evidenced in the performance table below.

North Area Total number of play facilities in the area = 19	2004-2006	2007- spring/summer 2010	Total
Number of new play areas Fulwell WSP, Southwick	1	1	2
Number of refurbished play areas Cricklewood, Carley Hill, Thompson Park, Roker Park, Rothley Court, Community North	1	5	6
	As at April 2007	As at April 2010	
Percentage of C&YP with access to high quality play 1km	14%	62%	
Investment	0	£781,749	£781,749
Number of C&YP consulted		531	531
Number of VCS organisations engaged		4	4
Lets Play celebration events	1	3	4
Key highlights	<p>Successful relocation of play area and MUGA within Thompson Park, which hosted the first National Play Day event for the city.</p> <p>New provision adjacent to Southwick Primary School.</p> <p>Area wheeled sports provision developed at Fulwell.</p>		

5. Review Process – An Addendum

5.1 The PUGS 2007-2012 sets out a clear vision for play and recognises key principles which demonstrate a commitment to ensuring that children and young people are able to enjoy their free time and play freely. It is proposed that the six key objectives remain unchanged, but the priority actions are being reviewed in light of achievements since 2007. The challenge within the review is to maintain the vision and principles whilst taking into consideration the rapidly changing environment, including for example, national policy and guidance documents which have emerged since 2007. The addendum will set out the revised national, regional and local context for play.

5.2 The case for play remains valid and the importance play makes to ‘improving life chances and aspirations for each child and young person in Sunderland’ (Children

and Young People's Plan (CYPP) 2010-2025). The CYPP delivery plan for 2010-2013, highlights the priority 10 outcome as being 'to have locally accessible and affordable fun, play and physical activities'.

- 5.3 Consultation has and will remain key to the development of play facilities and a clear framework for consultation is proposed within the addendum which, will ensure that all Elected Members, stakeholders and partners have an opportunity to be informed of and importantly influence play developments. The consultation framework is included in **Appendix 1**.
- 5.4 Since 2007, Play England have provided through their national support and challenge guidance, new approaches to play in terms of design guidance and managing risk. As a Play Pathfinder, these guidance documents have been considered and moving forward play development will include these frameworks related to design principles and risk benefit.
- 5.5 One of the main priorities in the PUGS is to 'Create, improve and develop free and inclusive play spaces'. Our progress to date (outlined in 3.1) demonstrates significant achievements and **Appendix 2** details for the proposed new priorities for 2010 – 2012. The criteria applied to identify the priorities are as follows;
- Feedback from Elected Members on locations they consider would benefit from investment. Consultation will also be undertaken with other city partners such as Safer Communities Partnership, Children's Services, Voluntary & Community Sector, and Gentoo before finalising arrangements with Members.
 - Access - Gaps in high quality provision relating to the core standard of 1km access to high quality play from the doorstep
 - Funding – Investment opportunities for the provision i.e. a developer contribution (Section 106 payment), and other potential opportunities for funding
 - Proximity to other services – supported by informal oversight and/or other ancillary services.
- 5.6 This PUGS review is being presented to Area Committee prior to presentation at Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee (October 2010) and for endorsement by Cabinet in December 2010, as an addendum to the existing PUGS.

6. Background Papers

- 6.1 The following background papers were relied upon to compile this report.
- i. Play and Urban Games Strategy 2007-2012
 - ii. Children and Young People's Plan 2010-2025
 - iii. Children and Young People's Three Year Delivery Plan 2010-2013
 - iv. Play England - Design for Play 2008
 - v. Play England - Managing Risk in Play Provision 2008
 - vi. Big Lottery Fund Children's Play Programme Guidance 2006
 - vii. Play Pathfinder Programme Guidance 2008

Contact officer

Julie D, Gray, Head of Community Services

Julie.d.gray@sunderland.gov.uk or telephone number 0191 5617575

Appendix 1: Consultation Framework

Consultation is a key part of developing high quality play provision and in the spirit of the Principles of Play (within the existing Play and Urban Games Strategy), with children and young people at the heart of consultation. What does this mean to children and young people? From our research they describe participation as 'working together, having fun, sharing ideas, communicating, making decisions, being asked, solving problems, needing some support, giving an opinion, being listened to, and having a choice.

However, it is recognised that the whole community must be engaged and have the opportunity to participate in play consultation. The wider community must be encouraged to understand the value of play space and where reservations are evident, these need to be resolved.

Consultation and community engagement are therefore essential pre-requisites for good play space design. In order to ensure an inclusive approach a consultation framework will be applied. The framework shall be used for all play refurbishments /developments valued at £20,000 and over.

Stage 1

Elected Members* advised of project plan and requested to make suggestions of local partners, organisations, children and young people (C&YP), and residents who should be included in consultation.

* Local projects shall consult Ward Members, Area Chair, Vice Chair and the Portfolio Holder for Attractive and Inclusive City. Area provisions shall consult the Area Chair, Vice Chair, all Elected Area Members and the Portfolio Holder for Attractive and Inclusive City.

Stage 2

Advise partners, organisations, children and young people and residents of the project plan, when, how and in what way they will be consulted. The numbers of C&YP involved will be proportionate to the catchment area and the value of the project. For example, play area developments may engage 20 C&YP and larger wheeled sports parks may involve 50 C&YP. As a minimum, residents whose properties directly overlook or adjoin the area will be consulted. Planning applications for new provisions (where required), will be coordinated by the Council's Planning Section and will be informed by statutory planning obligations.

Stage 3

Participation and engagement with C&YP to develop ideas and a design brief. Design developed by appointed designers. Design developed and checked with C&YP to ensure that it matches their design brief.

Stage 4

Elected Members, local partners including the Local Area Multi Problem Solving Group (LMAPS), organisations and residents consulted on design. Feedback captured and design refined.

Stage 5

Final design provided to Elected Members prior to the release to, local partners, C&YP and residents. The project plan for development widely communicated.

Stage 6

Elected Members advised of progress on developments.

The methods of consultation will be appropriate to scope of the project and may consist of, meetings, letter drops, open days, workshops, surveys, media releases, and on-line activities.

Appendix 2: Identified Priorities for the North Area

Elected Member suggestions:

Marley Potts
Castletown
Roker Foreshore

Other suggestions received:

Seaburn Pirate Park
Redhill area
Wheeled Sports Park provision - Thompson Park

Investment available:

Play Area	Section 106	Projected Funding Gap
Carley Hill or Marley Potts	£25,740	£75,000
Roker Park or Foreshore	£22,432	£80,000
Billy Hardy or Castletown area	£101,645	£20,000

Gaps in High Quality Provision: Identified by applying the core standard of 1km access to high quality play from the doorstep to the nearest facility. Research has identified the current gaps in provision;

Castletown area – Billy Hardy play area
Seaburn
Witherwack area - Marley Potts/Carley Hill play areas.

The Grosvenor Street play area removal and redevelopment of the area to become a green amenity space is currently being progressed, ward Members have been consulted and will continue to be updated. The match funding being subject to a SIP application.

Recommended Actions:

Taking into account the above the following play areas are identified as priority development opportunities. However, in order to enable such development to be undertaken additional funding would be required.

- To identify the preferred location for play development in the Castletown area and progress development of a high quality play area. This process will be undertaken in consultation with Gentoo.
- To review the regeneration of the Witherwack area (Marley Potts/Carley Hill) and identify the preferred location for play.
- Consider refurbishment of play facilities at Seaburn to extend the lifespan of the provision in the context of the Seafront Strategy master planning.
- Consider the development of play at Roker Foreshore in the context of the Roker Seafront Development Strategy.
- Consider funding options.