

**At a meeting of the COALFIELD AREA COMMITTEE held in EASINGTON LANE COMMUNITY ACCESS POINT on WEDNESDAY, 30<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2011 at 6.00 p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor D. Richardson in the Chair

Councillors F. Anderson, Blackburn, Ellis, A. Hall, Heron, Rolph, J. Scott, Speding, Tate and Wakefield

**Also in Attendance:-**

|                    |  |                     |
|--------------------|--|---------------------|
| Ron Barrass        | Member of the Public                   |                     |
| Susan Brown        | Area Community Co-ordinator            | Sunderland Council  |
| John Chapman       | Head of Neighbourhoods                 | Gentoo              |
| David Ellison      | Area Response Manager                  | Sunderland Council  |
| Graham Finlay      | Inspector                              | Northumbria Police  |
| Clive Greenwood    | Senior Planner                         | Sunderland Council  |
| Cllr Juliana Heron | Member                                 | Hetton Town Council |
| Pauline Hopper     | Area Officer                           | Sunderland Council  |
| Matthew Jackson    | Governance Services Officer            | Sunderland Council  |
| Vicky Medhurst     | Principal Librarian                    | Sunderland Council  |
| Annette Parr       | School Improvement Officer             | Sunderland Council  |
| Alison Paterson    | Area Lead Executive                    | Sunderland Council  |
| Ian Richardson     | Assistant Head of Street Scene         | Sunderland Council  |
| Beverley Scanlon   | Head of Service                        | Sunderland Council  |
| Liz St. Louis      | Head of Customer Service & Development | Sunderland Council  |
| James Third        | Community Relation Officer             | Nexus               |
| Lee Wardle         | VCS Network                            |                     |

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor D. Smith along with Nonnie Crawford (South of Tyne and Wear NHS Primary Care Trust) and Andrew Perkin

## **Declarations of Interest**

### Item 2 – 2011/12 Priorities and Workplan

Councillors Ellis, Rolph and Wakefield declared a personal interest as Members of Friends of Rectory Park.

Councillors Blackburn, A. Hall and J. Scott declared a personal interest as a Member of the Integrated Transport Authority.

Councillor A. Hall declared personal interests as an Employee of Anchor Trust and as a Board Member of Gentoo Living.

Councillor Tate declared a personal interest as a Member of the Integrated Transport Authority Scrutiny Advisory Committee

### Community Chest

Councillor Heron declared a personal interest as a Member of Houghton Racecourse Community Action Point and as a Governor of Eppleton Primary School.

## **Change in the Order of Business**

The Chairman stated that the Review of Greenspace Strategy would be discussed at this time to enable the presenting officer to leave to attend another commitment.

## **Community Action in Coalfield – Progress Review Progress Report on 2010/11 Priority – Review of Green Space Strategy**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with an update on the progress made on the Review of Green Space Strategy.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Clive Greenwood, Senior Planner, presented the report and informed the Committee that green space audits had been carried out and work was progressing well. It was expected that the work would be completed by December 2011.

Councillor Rolph stated that there was excellent work being undertaken. The team had a difficult job to do with assessing the value of the green space provision. Scarcity of green space affected the value; where there was little provision the green space available was more valuable. People's desires depended on what they already had.

Mr Greenwood stated that the team needed help from Members and residents to find out what green space meant to people and what value spaces had. There would be a survey undertaken to identify the value of the green spaces.

Councillor Heron stated that he had attended the session at Crowtree Leisure Centre and had raised the issue of former industrial sites. These sites were part of the city's industrial heritage and were often forgotten about, there was a need to include them in the green space strategy.

Mr Greenwood agreed with this and stated that there was a need to identify the defining characters of the areas.

1. RESOLVED that the update be noted and further progress updates be received.

### **Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2011**

The Chairman advised that Julie Wilkie had incorrectly been referred to as Julie Wardle in the attendance.

With regard to the Responsive Local Services Councillor Rolph advised that there had been a change from the black boxes to blue bins rather than the recorded green bins.

2. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2011 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record subject to the inclusion of the above amendments.

### **Community Action in Coalfield – 2011/12 Priorities and Workplan**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which updated Members on the progress made on the development of the 2011/12 workplan and the priorities which had been identified for the Coalfield Area.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Pauline Hopper, Area Officer, presented the report and advised Members that a meeting had taken place with Members where discussion had taken place regarding the issues within the area. Initial priorities for the workplan had been provisionally agreed as:

- Activities for young people
- Support for Older People
- Empty properties
- Public transport
- Neglected land

It was also agreed that the following priorities be carried over from the existing work plan:

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- Heritage
- Local Shopping Centres
- Youth disorder
- Allotments and gardens
- Child poverty
- Unadopted roads
- Play provision
- Speeding and dangerous traffic

The Chairman asked that if any Members had an interest in joining any of the task and finish groups Task and result groups that the inform Ms Hopper.

Councillor Rolph queried whether it was wise to set up the task and finish groups now considering that in May the composition of the Committee could change following the elections. The Chairman stated that he thought it was appropriate as it would allow for progress to be made on the Committee's work.

Councillor Anderson commented that a lot of the areas had looked at Child poverty and a pilot scheme was now in place in Southwick which had all of the agencies involved working together and was making good progress.

With regard to empty properties Councillor A. Hall stated that there had been a low level of consultation, she had done a survey with Councillor Speding in the Shiney Row ward and had identified a large number of empty properties which had not previously been identified.

Councillor Speding added that some empty properties were a major issue; run down properties resulted in the surrounding area being affected and there was a need to address this.

Ms Hopper agreed to inform Graham Wilson of the information collected by Councillors A. Hall and Speding.

Councillor Heron stated that there needed to be something done about empty properties; even on some new estates there were empty houses.

Councillor Rolph commented that there was a lot of work to do on public transport. The Coalfield area was affected by decisions which were made in County Durham as well as decisions made within Sunderland. There had been subsidies cut for services which were operating within County Durham and this had put pressure on the services which served the Coalfield.

Councillor Blackburn advised that he had met with the Integrated Transport Authority and had questioned the Director General of Nexus about the provision within the area.

Councillor Anderson stated that Councillor Blackburn had done some excellent work on improving the bus services. The X1 was a very good service. There were however still problems with getting into Durham and it seemed that that timetable

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was an issue in South Hetton. There was also a problem with getting into Sunderland; while the 35 operated frequently it took over an hour to reach Sunderland as it followed a convoluted route visiting a large number of areas.

Councillor Blackburn informed Members that the 61 had been replaced by the 261 and was now operated by Go-North East. It was pleasing to see services which had previously been subsidised being taken over as commercial services. He had asked for a bus stop to be installed opposite the Manor Public House in High Street and there was going to be a new express service to Sunderland introduced. Older residents were most likely to be satisfied with the level of service however there was still a lot of work needed to be done. The bus operators had reported that 89 percent of services were punctual to within half a minute.

James Third, Nexus Community Relation Officer, agreed to provide the Committee with a list of the changes which had been made to the bus services.

Councillor Anderson commented that the frequency of the timetable changes was a barrier to getting people onto the buses as the changes made it more difficult for people to access the services. This would lead to people using the car in preference to the bus.

Ms Hopper drew Members attention to the proposal for Neglected Land to be included as a priority. It was proposed that a task and finish group be set up and that Dave Ellison, Area Response Manager, take the lead on this priority.

Mr Ellison directed Members to the departmental structure he had circulated to the Committee. He asked that if Members had any issues to contact him so that he could arrange for the issues to be resolved. Telephone numbers for all of the people involved in the Responsive Local Services team would be circulated in due course.

Mr Ellison then advised Members of the latest service request figures; there had been 43 requests raised for grounds maintenance, 13 for graffiti and 151 for rubbish and litter. The grounds maintenance figure was high due to the aftermath of the high winds while the rubbish and litter figure was a legacy of the grit from the snowy conditions during the winter.

There had been enforcement action, especially around dog fouling and fly tipping. The Strategic Land Management system would help with tracing owners of neglected land and would be going to Cabinet for approval.

Councillor Ellis commented that there had been a reduction in the levels of dog fouling however there had now been an increase again. Sunderland was an example of good practice for other areas; the city was much better than some of the neighbouring authorities. Mr Ellison agreed that there was still a problem, the service reacted to complaints however there was a desire to make the service more proactive.

Inspector Finlay advised that the police were working with enforcement officers to tackle scrap metal dealers; fixed penalty notices were being issued to unlicensed

carriers. The police attended the LMAPS meetings to find out what issues there were in the area.

Councillor Anderson stated that recently there had not been an issue with fly tipping however last year there had been a regular problem at Hetton Lyons Boys Club where there was a new development, which was costing a lot of money to clean up. She queried what the current situation was with areas where there was persistent fly tipping.

Mr Ellison advised that it was the Council's role to remove fly tipping from public space; there was a need to trace land owners where there was fly tipping on private property as the Council could not enter the land to clean up without permission from the land owner. He would liaise with the owners of the land to encourage them to secure the property to prevent the problem from reoccurring. Where fly tipping caused a health and safety risk the Council had the power to remove it without first seeking permission from the land owner.

Ian Richardson, Assistant Head of Streetscene – Responsive Local Services, advised that with fly tipping on private property there was a requirement for judgement to be used as to whether to access the property to remove the waste; dumped waste attracted more fly tippers to the site. There was legislation in place to stop access to sites which were a persistent problem, this was an expensive course of action and could only be used where there was frequent dumping on a larger scale.

Councillor Anderson stated that it was appreciated that there were cost implications; however residents just wanted waste cleaning up quickly and did not understand the issues surrounding land ownership.

Councillor Heron stated that he wanted to see more action taken to catch offenders; he felt that the CCTV camera network could be used to assist in identifying offenders. The Responsive Local Services team was a welcome replacement for the Clean Team as it was good to see that enforcement had been brought into the same team as cleansing.

Councillor Rolph stated that it would be useful to know how many fixed penalties had been issued as the information would reassure residents that work was taking place. There was a problem with people driving on green spaces, especially in the Dairy Lane area where people were parking on verges.

Mr Ellison agreed to provide the statistics on fixed penalty notices at a future meeting of the Committee; he was surprised at the amount of problems with parking on grass verges, it was an ongoing problem and cost a lot for repairs.

3. RESOLVED that the update on the development of the 2011/12 work plan be noted and the final plan be presented to the June Committee Meeting for approval.

## **Community Action in Coalfield – Progress Review**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which enabled Members to consider the progress reviews on the priorities included in the 2010/11 work plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

- **Progress Report on Regeneration at Rectory Park**

Pauline Hopper, Area Officer, presented the progress report on the work done at Rectory Park and advised Members that Keith Hamilton was the lead agent for the works.

Councillor Ellis stated that there was excellent work had been done and the work on the Tithe Barn was very pleasing, however it was disappointing that some of the funds had needed to be used on maintenance rather than improvements.

Councillor A. Hall congratulated the Friends of Rectory Park for their hard work and commented that it did not appear that any outside funding had been sought for the works with all of the funds being provided by the Area Committee. She felt that residents had a right to know that the funding had come from the Area Committee and there should be advertising.

Councillor J. Scott agreed that adverts would be a good idea; they would put the Council in a good light and show residents that the Area Committee was providing funding to improve the area, especially given that there had been no funding from other sources for the improvements at the park.

Councillor Blackburn stated that he and Councillor Tate had been campaigning for recognition of the Area Committee's funding of projects.

Councillor Ellis commented that money from the Area Committee was needing to be spent on Maintenance due to the park not being maintained for years and being in a poor condition. It was a shame that the park had been allowed to decline. The Friends of the Park had sought funding from other sources including the Heritage Lottery however the applications had not been successful; further applications for funding would be submitted with the hope that they would be successful. The park was at the heart of the old Medieval village of Houghton.

Councillor Heron stated that SIB funding was intended to be a catalyst to encourage funding from other sources into the area.

Councillor Anderson commented that residents assumed that it was the Council carrying out the works whenever there was any work on public buildings and parks; when Houghton had been part of County Durham there were often signs erected to advertise the work done by the Council. Friends of Parks groups were excellent; it was good to see residents supporting their local parks.

Councillor Rolph requested that figures be provided on how the funds were spent on the park.

4. RESOLVED that the update be noted and a further update be received at the June Meeting as part of the Annual Report.

- **Heritage**

Vicky Medhurst, Principal Librarian, presented the update and advised Members of the work that had been carried out by North of England Civic Trust (NECT) including public consultation events and the completion of questionnaires. NECT would be producing a final report which would then be submitted to the Area Committee for approval.

Councillor Anderson stated that she had attended a meeting at the Hetton Centre to discuss the commemoration of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the disaster at Eppleton pit; it was felt that it was important to include this as part of the area's heritage.

Councillor J. Heron, Hetton Town Council, stated that there had been discussions around the possibility of creating a permanent memorial to miners lost in pit disasters.

In response to a comment from Councillor Speding, Ms Medhurst advised that the draft report would be circulated to Members.

Councillor A. Hall commented that the event in Shiney Row had initially not been successful due to the lack of publicity and queried who had been responsible for publicising the event and also whether there had been any charge levied for the use of the venue. Ms Medhurst advised that NECT had been responsible for publicising the event and the researchers had gone out into the street to gather opinions which had resulted in people being interviewed who normally would not have been engaged with. The fee for the use of the venue had been waived for this event.

With regard to a miner's memorial, Councillor Rolph stated that there had been numerous disasters within the area dating back to 1769 and as such there was a lot to focus on should it be decided that a memorial be created.

Councillor Ellis stated that there was a lack of general awareness of the area's coalmining heritage and it would be a good thing to celebrate; there was a need to increase people's knowledge of the area's heritage.

Councillor Speding referred to the Miner's Memorial Service, the Area Committee had played a large part in setting up this service and there had been very little support from the Local Authority; this service had grown significantly over the years.

Councillor Anderson added that there had been a group of school children had visited the Civic Centre, they had been interested by the pit banner in the Council



Chamber but had not known what it was; there was a need to educate the city's young people about the coal mining heritage of the city to ensure that the heritage was kept alive.

5. RESOLVED that the report be noted and consideration be given to the outcomes of the final report.

- **Local Shopping Centres (Coalfield Shopping Initiative)**

Pauline Hopper, Area Officer, presented the report and advised that work had progressed on the three elements of the scoping exercise; a survey was to be taking place in conjunction with retail consultancy BSupplied however this survey had been delayed until the completion of the Census. There would be a task and finish group meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2011 and the details of this would be circulated to Members prior to this meeting taking place.

6. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

- **Youth Disorder**

Pauline Hopper, Area Officer, presented the report and informed Members of the areas which were hotspots for disorder; these were Easington Lane (particularly around the High Street), Houghton Racecourse Estate and Penshaw. Ms Hopper then introduced Inspector Finlay who updated the Committee on the progress made on reducing youth disorder. Since the 3G camera had been installed in Penshaw the number of incidents had reduced and there were plans to now move the camera to the Racecourse Estate. The XL Youth Village had reduced the number of issues within Easington Lane and there were discussions ongoing as to what would be done after the Youth Village left the area.

Councillor Tate advised that there were a number of young people congregated at Hetton Bus Station on evenings and this lead to fear for people using the bus station.

Councillor Anderson added that the young people at the Bus Station were not intending to cause trouble, a lot of them were playing football; however it was very intimidating when walking through the bus station, especially for older residents of the area. The CCTV cameras in the bus station did not help to provide a feeling of safety even though it was known that they could help with solving crimes after they had occurred.

Inspector Finlay advised that the cameras had been successful, there had been a lady whose purse had been stolen and thanks to the camera the offender had been caught and was now in prison. There were attempts to provide other places such as youth centres for the young people to go to; they needed to go somewhere and it was best if they were in a place where they could be monitored.

Lee Wardle, VCS Network representative, advised that there had been work with the Princes Trust at Hetton Flats however it was not safe for the young people as they were being pelted with bricks by children who should have been in school. He was shocked when he had heard about this and queried what could be done as people were scared to go there. Inspector Finlay stated that the police should be phoned immediately if there were any issues.

Ms Hopper advised Members that there was an application for SIB funding to provide a responsive project to reduce youth disorder and antisocial behaviour which was set out under item 3g annex 1a.

7. RESOLVED that the report be noted and consideration be given to the application for SIB funding as part of item 3g on the Agenda.

- **Allotments**

Pauline Hopper, Area Officer, presented the report and advised Members of the expressions of interest for membership of the task and finish group which was detailed at paragraph 2 of the report and advised that it was also proposed that Dave Ellison join the group.

Councillor Blackburn stated that there had been no Members from Hetton assigned to the group and volunteered to join the group. Ms Hopper stated that the proposed Membership set out in the report had been based on the Members who had previously expressed an interest in joining the group.

Councillor Tate suggested that Ward Members could be invited along to meetings of the group where sites within their Ward were involved.

The Chairman moved that himself along with Councillors Blackburn, J. Scott and D. Smith be assigned to the group in addition to the officers and partners identified in the report; he also advised that Members could attend if they wished if issues within their Ward were being discussed.

8. RESOLVED that the report be noted and the Membership of the task and finish group be agreed as: Councillors Blackburn, D. Richardson, J. Scott and D. Smith along with Dave Ellison, Gerry Roll, Ethel Wilson, Susan Brown, Nichola Hesselwood, and Melanie Caldwell.

- **Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB), Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) and Community Chest – Financial Statement and Proposals for Further Allocation of Resources**

Pauline Hopper, Area Officer, presented the report and introduced Susan Brown who provided an update on the Coalfield in Bloom Project which had previously received funding from the Committee.

Ms Brown circulated photographs showing the work which had been done as a result of the funding being provided; the project overlapped a number of the committee's priorities and there had also been funding provided by Gentoo for Heritage works.

With regard to the SIP funding, Ms Hopper advised that there would still be funds remaining following the sample work on Houghton War Memorial and asked whether Members had any other projects they felt would benefit from the funding.

Councillor Rolph suggested that the funds could be used on the Fence Houses gateway; there had been work done and it had originally been planned that there would be a floral element to the gateway however this had not been included due to delays. The Chairman agreed with this suggestion.

Councillor Blackburn expressed concerns that the previously approved traffic calming scheme had fallen behind schedule and queried whether the funds would be safe despite this. Ms Hopper advised that this was the case as long as the funding was allocated and the project had started.

Ms Hopper then drew Members attention to the proposals set out in the report and appendices and advised the Committee of the recommendations.

9. RESOLVED that:-

- a. The financial statement be noted.
- b. The SIB proposals detailed in Annex 1a be approved.
- c. A nominal budget of £5,665 of SIB funding be allocated to delivering improvements at allotments.
- d. The remaining SIP funding be used to carry out sample work on Houghton War Memorial and for providing a floral element to the Fence Houses gateway.
- e. The 13 proposals for support from the 2010/11 Community Chest set out in Annex 1b be approved.

(Signed) D. RICHARDSON,  
Chairman.

# COALFIELD AREA COMMITTEE

1 June 2011

## REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

### Annual Report 2010/11

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

1.1 At its meeting in June 2010, the Committee agreed the work plan for the 2010/11. It was agreed that the June 2011 meeting would consider the Committee's 'Annual Report'.

#### 2. Background

2.1 The Annual Report at Annex 1 provides a snapshot of the Committee's work over the 2010/11 municipal year. There have been some major achievements and successes achieved throughout 2010/2011, and changes implemented in the way the Committee operates has seen a greater alignment with priorities and a clearer focus on delivery.

2.2 The Annual Report celebrates the success and achievements and further suggestions have been made to continue to build upon successes based upon lessons learned throughout 2010/2011.

#### 3. Recommendations

- Note and agree the content of the Annual Report.
- Agree the progression of lessons learned for the future year.

#### 4. Background papers

- Annual Report
- Quarterly monitoring reports
- Research/Surveys of Council and Partners

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**Annex 1** Coalfield Annual Report

## Coalfield Annual Report 2010/11

### Foreword by Councillor Dennis Richardson, Coalfield Area Committee Chair

At the beginning of this municipal year Area Committee set out its priorities for the year ahead and developed a Work Plan for 2010/2011 to monitor actions against these priorities. During this exercise it was acknowledged that Community Involvement should be at the heart of everything we do, and so throughout the year, when identifying what actions we could take to deliver the priorities, we considered the needs of our neighbourhoods and how we would engage with community and voluntary sector groups and with our residents across all of the wards in the Coalfield area. Through very successful partnership working we have reached large numbers of people, and whether it be consultation with residents, representation from the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) network or local people helping to deliver actions, we have encouraged a wide range of organisations to support the work of Area Committee.

The most successful example of this partnership working was enabled by the development of the Coalfield in Bloom project which saw a large scale bulb planting exercise across the area delivered by City Services, and a community element of the project which was designed and delivered by Area Committee, its partners and the VCS Network. Over 60 voluntary and community sector organisations from all wards within the Coalfield area were actively involved in environmental improvements and planting schemes in their own neighbourhoods. The success of this project was recognised at the Sunderland STARS ceremony, where the Coalfield Community Co-ordinator was awarded the 'Partnership Award' for the Coalfield in Bloom project. The Area Committee are very proud of this achievement and recognise that without the effort and support from all partners it would not have been possible.

The result of this work is that we have now developed phase two of this project which is called 'Coalfield Community Challenge' and will support delivery of actions against the 'Heritage' and 'Allotments and Community Gardens' priorities identified by Committee. Already around 18 organisations have come forward to be part of this exciting new challenge ranging from community open days, art, culture, and sport through history linking to the Olympics.

Another key area of work this year includes the setting up of a Task and Result group to look at high levels of youth disorder in specific 'hot spots'. The group have developed and implemented solutions such as mobile youth provision, outreach work and dance and sports sessions to target those most at risk of causing disorder. This has led to a reduction of youth disorder incidents in Easington Lane. However, we need to continue and increase this targeted approach and work more closely with all organisations providing activities for young people to ensure the work across the area is delivered in a co-ordinated way. By working together we can quickly identify areas of concern and put measures in place to tackle issues.

We have worked hard to ensure that we get best value and maximum outcomes from our SIB funding and have allocated the majority of our budget to delivering the priorities outlined in the 2010/11 Work Plan. We will continue to develop this and next year instigate a 'Call for Projects' mechanism which will allow Area Committee to identify what we want to achieve and then invite local groups and organisations to design project proposals to meet our needs.

Area Committee has a key role in influencing service delivery to ensure the specific needs of the area are met. Over the last year, we have worked to inform and influence the Responsive Local Services (RLS) project and are now pleased to see the project moved into a key service delivery area responding to local need. The Coalfield area now has a dedicated team of officers working in the area to tackle issues such as Litter, Graffiti, Refuse, Grass Cutting, Dumping of Waste and Dog Fouling. Already there have been a number of compliments and positive comments from residents regarding the level of good service received.

Finally, I would like to thank all Members, Partners and Officers for their hard work and support this year to enable Area Committee to deliver improvements across the area.

# Coalfield Annual Report 2010/11

## Introduction

In April 2010, it was agreed that Area Committee would select a limited number of priorities on which to base its Work Plan for 2010/11. Using evidence collected from members, officers and partners, and the results of resident and community surveys and feedback, a number of key issues were highlighted and presented to Committee to identify where Area Committee could influence service delivery to support improvements in the area. To support the achievement of area priorities Area Committee have a delegated budget to allocate against the selected priorities and provide solutions to local problems.

This report identifies what Committee set out to do to deliver those priorities and what key achievements have been delivered. The report also evidences the performance of all projects and initiatives that have been awarded Area Committee resources to deliver activities which have brought real improvements to the area, and influenced service improvements. It provides detail with regard to the allocation of funding against priorities and estimated match funding to be achieved from approved projects and initiatives.

At the June 2010 meeting it was agreed that the 7 key priorities for 2010/11 would be:

- Child Poverty
- Heritage
- Bulb Planting and Landscaping
- Shopping Centres
- Play Provision
- Unadopted Roads
- Responsive Local Services

New issues emerged throughout the year and were discussed by Committee at each meeting. It was agreed to add the following to the Work Plan:

- Motor Cycle Disorder
- Speeding or Dangerous Traffic
- Youth Disorder
- Allotments and Community Gardens

Information is also included on how the Area Committee meetings operate, satisfaction levels and community involvement. This annual review process identifies best practice and lessons learned and influences the way forward for the next municipal year.

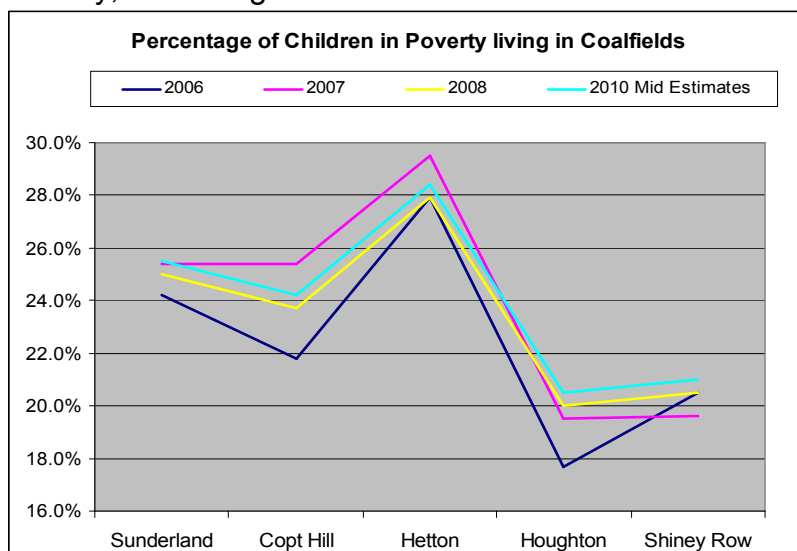
The first section of this report provides an update for each of the priorities outlined above.

## Child Poverty

Sunderland Council's agreed vision is 'To ensure that all City Council services and local partners are working collectively to do everything possible to reduce child poverty and mitigate its effects to ensure that today's children don't become parents of poor children in 2025'

### Key statistics

In the Coalfields area 3 lower super output areas are in the top 15 in Sunderland – 1 in Copt Hill and 2 in Hetton. In 2008 22.6% of the children living in the coalfields area of Sunderland live in Poverty, according to the mid 2010 estimates this is likely to increase by a predicted 0.5%.



### What we set out to do

- Influence the Child Poverty agenda
- Receive regular reports and updates from the lead agent
- Ensure the needs of the Coalfield area are considered
- Work with partners to improve opportunities for children and families

### Achievements Delivered

- The Child Poverty Champion is a member of the Coalfield Area Committee and ensures a flow of information between Committee and the work of the Child Poverty Programme
- Following consultation with Area Committee, Phase 2 of the Child and Family Poverty Strategy has been developed, which will support all partners to work towards the aim of eradicating child and family poverty and improving the life chances of children and young people

### Budget Allocation

| Ear 4 U<br>Total allocated £13,200 - SIB   | Output Target | Output Actual | Progress Indicator | Spend Target | Spend Actual | Progress Indicator |
|--|---------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------|
| People accessing improved advice or support  | 30            | 39            |                    | £7,150       | £7,150       |                    |
| Number of new (additional) young people engaged and participating in youth provision | 0             | 3             |                    |              |              |                    |

The project offers one to one support for children and young people who have/are experiencing bullying issues, or other social issues (eg domestic violence, family breakdown or family substance use), which is then affecting their attendance at school. The project meets with the child or young person to discuss the issues and meets with the family members to give coping strategies and offer support. A meeting is arranged with the school to put together a support package to allow the young person to return safely to school. The project has successfully engaged with young people across the Coalfield area and is now receiving a large number of referrals from schools. There is a high demand for the service and a waiting list for referrals.

### Community Involvement

Schools, Children's Centres and Commissioned service areas all have representation at the VCS Network or Partners Network and feed in any information with regard to this issue

## Heritage

Heritage is an area of continuing growth both across the region and for the City of Sunderland. The Coalfield area offers a variety of attractions, events and places of interest such as Hillside Cemetery, Houghton Feast, Rainton Meadows, Stephenson Trail, Heritage Open Days and Hetton Lyons Country Park. The area's heritage is important to local people and the Coalfield area also has a dedicated community and voluntary sector consisting of many local people who have a vast knowledge of the area and its heritage. The Coalfield is home to a number of important attractions such as Alice Well, Cox Green, Copt Hill and Seven Sisters Nature Reserve, Kepier Hall, St Michael and All Angels Church and Penshaw Monument

### What we set out to do

- Set up a Task and Result group to consider what actions could be taken to deliver the heritage agenda in the Coalfield area
- Carry out an audit to further investigate the heritage offer
- Promote heritage within the Coalfield area
- Engage community groups and residents to work together to deliver heritage activities
- Allocate a proportion of SIB funding to address the heritage priority

### Achievements Delivered

- A Heritage Task and Result group was established to devise an action plan and make recommendations to Area Committee
- The Heritage Task & Result group have secured £1,800 from Gentoo to begin a community heritage project including holding a heritage celebration event in each ward
- An audit has been carried out with the final report expected in May 2011
- A number of heritage events have taken place to promote the history of the area
- The 'Coalfield Community Challenge' project has identified a budget of £5,000 for delivery of heritage activities by community groups and local people
- A total sum of £40,000 SIB has been allocated for the development of heritage activities and projects
- The £50,000 SIB funding awarded by Area Committee for improvements at Rectory Park has attracted an additional £98,300 from other Sunderland City Council budgets to enable more improvements to be made in the park.
- Friends of the Hetton Centre have been supported to install two commemorative benches in their community garden. The benches will mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Eppleton Pit disaster, remembering those who lost their lives.
- In addition to the projects listed below Community Chest grants have supported the delivery of 12 heritage related projects.

### Budget Allocation

| Houghton Feast Opening Ceremony<br>Total allocated £10,000 - SIB   | Output<br>Target | Output<br>Actual | Progress<br>Indicator | Spend<br>Target | Spend<br>Actual | Progress<br>Indicator |
|--|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Number of community/education events held  | 30               | 29               |                       | £10,000         | £10,000         |                       |
| Number of community/voluntary groups supported   | 4                | 4                |                       |                 |                 |                       |
| Number of young people benefiting from youth inclusion projects  | 250              | 270              |                       |                 |                 |                       |
| Twenty nine artist led workshops were delivered to schools and community groups in the lead up to the Houghton Feast. African dance and drumming, making and performing with puppets and lantern making sessions engaged 70 people during this period. The Feast itself took place in October 2010 and further 200 young people took part in the events.   |                  |                  |                       |                 |                 |                       |
| Heritage Feasibility Study<br>Total allocated £10,000 - SIB  | Output<br>Target | Output<br>Actual | Progress<br>Indicator | Spend<br>Target | Spend<br>Actual | Progress<br>Indicator |
| Feasibility studies produced   | 1                | 0                |                       | £10,000         | £8,000          |                       |
| The research and consultations for the study have now all been completed and results fed back to a stakeholder event on 25 March 2011. The Task & Result group agreed that the final report could be submitted in June 2011. The report will be presented to Area Committee with recommendations. The final payment will be made on receipt of the report. |                  |                  |                       |                 |                 |                       |
| Hetton Memorial Park Lighting  | Output           | Output           | Progress              | Spend           | Spend           | Progress              |



| <b>Total allocated £3,000 - SIB</b>  | <b>Target</b>        | <b>Actual</b>        | <b>Indicator</b>          | <b>Target</b>       | <b>Actual</b>       | <b>Indicator</b>          |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Number of improved community facilities  | 1                    | 1                    |                           | £3,000              | £2,821              |                           |
| The project refurbished the existing lanterns and supplied and installed 7 decorative lanterns to the lighting columns within the park. The decorative columns were painted black and gold lacquer applied to the decorative features. All work was completed by the end of January 2011 and the project came in slightly under budget.  |                      |                      |                           |                     |                     |                           |
| <b>Kepier Hall Car Park</b>  |                      |                      |                           |                     |                     |                           |
| <b>Total allocated £10,000 - SIB</b>   |                      |                      |                           |                     |                     |                           |
| The funding was awarded to contribute to remedial works to the car park to reduce flooding and provide an improved facility for community groups and their clients. The work will also prevent further damage to the ground floor of the Kepier Hall which has been caused by standing water. The work is due to be completed by the end of May 2011.  |                      |                      |                           |                     |                     |                           |
| <b>Coalfield Community Challenge</b>   |                      |                      |                           |                     |                     |                           |
| <b>Total allocated £12,000 - SIB</b>   |                      |                      |                           |                     |                     |                           |
| This project has been designed to build on the success of the Coalfield in Bloom project and provide a mechanism to enable the local community to influence and deliver area priorities selected by Area Committee. The initial phase will support the promotion of local heritage and the improvement of allotments and gardens. Although the project was not due to deliver any outputs within this financial year there have already been a number of events including a Royal Wedding time line by the Hetton History Group, and a Heritage Garden Party at Shiney Row.                |                      |                      |                           |                     |                     |                           |
| <b>Tithe Barn Roof Restoration</b>   | <b>Output Target</b> | <b>Output Actual</b> | <b>Progress Indicator</b> | <b>Spend Target</b> | <b>Spend Actual</b> | <b>Progress Indicator</b> |
| <b>Total allocated £4,000 - SIP</b>  |                      |                      |                           |                     |                     |                           |
| Improved community facilities  | 1                    | 1                    |                           | £4,000              | £4,000              |                           |
| The old and worn slates were removed from the 18th Century Tithe Barn within Rectory Park. Necessary repair works have been carried out and replacement slates installed. This project contributes to the overall masterplan of ongoing restoration work in the Houghton Rectory Park.   |                      |                      |                           |                     |                     |                           |
| <b>Rectory Park Regeneration</b>   | <b>Output Target</b> | <b>Output Actual</b> | <b>Progress Indicator</b> | <b>Spend Target</b> | <b>Spend Actual</b> | <b>Progress Indicator</b> |
| <b>Total allocated £50,000</b>   |                      |                      |                           |                     |                     |                           |
| Improved community facilities  | 0                    | 0                    |                           | £41,840             | £17,750             |                           |
| The works to the boundary wall, are now underway with the "raking out" aspect near completion. Locations of the new seats have been agreed and will be installed on delivery. New double gates have been erected matching that of the existing Park design. This project has generated almost an additional £100,000 of Council funding to add to the £50,000 awarded by Area Committee. The lead agent is continuing to work with the Friends group to apply for funding from external sources. The spend on the project will be claimed during the next quarter once works are complete. |                      |                      |                           |                     |                     |                           |

## Community Involvement

- The VCS Network identified heritage as an issue of importance during the consultation at the beginning of the year
- 5 public consultation events were held and approximately 150 local people consulted. The results will inform recommendations to Area Committee to deliver projects around the heritage theme.
- The Friends of Rectory Park have been key to developing improvements at Rectory Park using City of Sunderland Council funding allocated to date.
- Hetton Memorial Park decorative lighting has been reinstated and repaired as a result of requests from the community.
- Community groups and local historians have attended and advised the Heritage Task and Result Group.
- A number of themed events such as St Oswalds, Shiney Row, Royal Garden Party have been held throughout the area to celebrate heritage. A series of events have been planned for the coming months.

## Bulb Planting and Landscaping

The Coalfield area has large areas of open greenspace/grassed areas which Area Committee agreed could be made more attractive and increase pride in the area. It was identified that there is a need to engage with communities effectively to encourage involvement and reduce negative perceptions of area. This is one area where Area Committee felt they could make a real difference to the whole area and create a sense of pride amongst residents

## What we set out to do

- Improve the visual appearance of key highways and gateways in the area

- Increase residents' pride in their neighbourhood
- Reduce negative perceptions of the area
- Involve volunteers and community groups in the improvements
- Deliver a programme of community planting
- Actively engage with partners to create a joint project
- Attract additional funding
- Identify key locations for further improvement
- Sustain the project

### Achievements Delivered

- A large scale planting scheme in 35 key locations in all four wards
- Compliments and praise from local residents via the Area Network, local councillors and community projects
- At least 55 organisations were supported to participate in the project. Around 200 volunteers took part in a community planting scheme.
- Gentoo, Groundwork and citywide partners supported the project
- Gentoo provided an additional £4,500 in funding and gave staff time and resources to enhance the project
- The work instigated by this project will be continued via the 'Coalfield Community Challenge' project which is supported by Area Committee and key partners
- The project was presented with the 'Partnership Award' as part of the City Council's STAR Awards
- Groups are raising their own funding to continue with planting projects

### Budget Allocation

| <b>Coalfield in Bloom</b><br><b>Total allocated £50,000 - SIB</b>   | <b>Output Target</b> | <b>Output Actual</b> | <b>Progress Indicator</b> | <b>Spend Target</b> | <b>Spend Actual</b> | <b>Progress Indicator</b> |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Improved community facilities   | 30                   | 35                   |                           | £50,000             | £50,000             |                           |
| Community or educational events   | 5                    | 15                   |                           |                     |                     |                           |
| The project was designed to carry out a large scale planting project in 30 locations across the area and to deliver a community planting scheme with residents and community groups. Machine bulb planting in 35 locations and hand planting in over 50 locations was achieved. The project has been highlighted as an example of good community development and resident involvement.                                |                      |                      |                           |                     |                     |                           |
| <b>Bird Terrace Environmental Improvement</b><br><b>Total allocated £3,262 - SIP</b>  | <b>Output Target</b> | <b>Output Actual</b> | <b>Progress Indicator</b> | <b>Spend Target</b> | <b>Spend Actual</b> | <b>Progress Indicator</b> |
| Programmes of work to improve the appearance of streets   | 1                    | 1                    |                           | £3,262              | £3,262              |                           |
| The project improved a piece of land at Bird Terrace, Penshaw that was not previously being maintained. A redundant concrete base was removed and a footpath and landscaping installed during March 2011.   |                      |                      |                           |                     |                     |                           |
| <b>Gilpin Woods Footpaths and Drainage</b><br><b>Total allocated £30,000 - SIP</b>  | <b>Output Target</b> | <b>Output Actual</b> | <b>Progress Indicator</b> | <b>Spend Target</b> | <b>Spend Actual</b> | <b>Progress Indicator</b> |
| Improved community facilities   | 1                    | 1                    |                           | £30,000             | £29,750             |                           |
| Work to improve the appearance of streets   | 1                    | 1                    |                           |                     |                     |                           |
| The project has delivered a range of improvement works to Gilpin Wood, formerly the Glebe Sewage works site. The original footpath has been resurfaced and invading vegetation removed. There has been some drainage works carried out to avoid ponding and reduce flooding which has become an issue along various stretches of the footpath. Tree pruning and other environmental improvements have also been made. |                      |                      |                           |                     |                     |                           |
| <b>River Wear Trail</b><br><b>Total allocated £19,500 SIB</b>   | <b>Output Target</b> | <b>Output Actual</b> | <b>Progress Indicator</b> | <b>Spend Target</b> | <b>Spend Actual</b> | <b>Progress Indicator</b> |
| New or improved community facilities  | 1                    | 0                    |                           | £19,500             | 0                   |                           |
| Delays to originally anticipated start due to procurement and risk assessment / method statement queries which have now been settled. The work for the main path works began at the end of March 2011 and the ramping of the steps at Cox Green will be carried out by the end of June 2011. The works to the Fatfield steps will be complete by the end of May 2011. All funding will be claimed by Q2 of 2011/12.   |                      |                      |                           |                     |                     |                           |

### Community Involvement

- Residents from Gentoo Customer Panel have allocated funds from their devolve budget to the Coalfield in Bloom

- The Coalfield in Bloom Project has enabled a diverse range of community activity to encourage local people to have a say in the future of their area. The involvement from the start of the planning process, to the delivery and evaluation, has strengthened capacity and allowed the Voluntary and Community Sector to reach their full potential. All partners have worked towards common aims and have developed a collective culture of trust, maximising the impact of the many activities in this project .
- Collaboration of the VCS is developing and the opportunity to influence policy and the design of services is at the core of the community development approach.
- Although the VCS Network and the Area Committee are the formal mechanisms for achievement of our priorities, the informal networks and the work outside of these meetings has increased and developed during the delivery of this priority, enabling more achievements to be delivered.

## Local Shopping Centres

Local shopping centres in the Coalfield area have suffered due to lack of economic activity. Some streets have empty shops creating an unattractive environment and a negative impression of the area. Area Committee have identified a need to support local shopping centres, both in terms of their aesthetic and environmental appearance and their economic activity. Area Committee felt that this was an issue which needed a longer term approach to developing a solution and agreed to begin to develop an action plan this year.

### What we set out to do

- Set up a Task and Result group to identify what action Area Committee should take to improve local shopping centres
- Work with existing schemes and projects
- Agree key areas for improvement
- Carry out an audit of selected local centres
- Survey existing traders and shoppers
- Develop an Action Plan
- Allocate a proportion of SIB to carry out improvement against agreed actions

### Achievements Delivered

- A Task and Result group was set up and a brief set for the lead agent
- Existing projects such as the retail needs assessment and greenspace audit were considered before work commenced
- Key areas of Hetton, Houghton and Shiney Row were identified for improvement
- An audit of the three centres (identified above) commenced during March and will be complete by the end of June 2011
- Surveys were designed for existing traders, current shoppers and potential shoppers
- The Task and Result group have worked with the Business Investment Team and Property Services to develop a range of options
- The results of the audit and surveys will be presented to Committee in September 2011 with recommendations
- £80,000 has been allocated from SIB to implement recommendations
- The Area Response Manager has joined the Task and Result group to ensure the street scene element of shopping centres is delivered effectively
- A Community Toilet Scheme for Houghton Town Centre is being developed by the Area Response Manager

### Budget Allocation

The Committee agreed that the allocation of SIB funding to individual projects should only take place once the recommendations of the Shopping Centre Scoping Exercise/Audit had been presented. This would give Committee some background information on where the resources might have the best results. Therefore, Committee agreed to 'ring fence' a sum of £80,000 from

this year's budget for allocation against this priority, with a view to considering whether further funding would be allocated from the 2011/12 budget.

| <b>Shopping Centre Scoping Exercise<br/>Total allocated £5,000 - SIB</b>  | <b>Output<br/>Target</b> | <b>Output<br/>Actual</b> | <b>Progress<br/>Indicator</b> | <b>Spend<br/>Target</b> | <b>Spend<br/>Actual</b> | <b>Progress<br/>Indicator</b> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Feasibility studies produced  | 1                        | 0                        |                               | £5,000                  | £0                      |                               |
| The study is ongoing and will be further progressed during April and May 2011. The draft findings will be collated during June and presented to the Task and Result Group in July 2011. The final report and recommendations will be presented to Area Committee at the September 2011 meeting. |                          |                          |                               |                         |                         |                               |

## Play Provision

The current youth provision (for the 13-19 age range) has been reviewed and developed to better suit the needs of young people in the Coalfields, including weekend mobile youth villages and ward based contracts with youth providers. However, it has been identified that the provision for those under 13 years is an area which would benefit from a review with a view to developing further provision. For the purpose of this report play provision is defined as youth and social activities for the under 13s – this include community play parks and extended schools. As part of the Play Pathfinder, play areas have been developed at Keir Hardie, Rectory Park, Barnwell, Grangewood and Easington Lane Flatts.

### What we set out to do

- Identify what play services and social activities are delivered in the Coalfield area
- Improve the level and choice of out of school activities for the under 13 age group
- Work with the lead officer for the City on under 13 provision

### Achievements Delivered

- An exercise to identify provision for under 13s has commenced
- Through the VCS Network and partners, the activities available are being promoted
- We are working with Children's Services and voluntary sector providers to further a develop co-ordinated approach for under 13 activity
- Installed goalposts at Hawthorn Street, Houghton le Spring
- In addition to the projects listed below, Community Chest grants have supported the delivery of 9 play related projects

### Budget Allocation

| <b>Eppleton Cricket Club Practice Facilities<br/>Total allocated £13,162 - SIB</b>  | <b>Output<br/>Target</b> | <b>Output<br/>Actual</b> | <b>Progress<br/>Indicator</b> | <b>Spend<br/>Target</b> | <b>Spend<br/>Actual</b> | <b>Progress<br/>Indicator</b> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Improved community facilities   | 1                        | 1                        |                               | £13,162                 | £13,162                 |                               |
| People engaged in sports activities   | 90                       | 0                        |                               |                         |                         |                               |
| The project provided practice facilities to increase the capacity of the club and extend the times young people can use the club. Work is now complete and the number of new members attracted to the club will be reported during the cricket season.  |                          |                          |                               |                         |                         |                               |
| <b>Philadelphia Cricket Club Practice<br/>Facilities<br/>Total allocated £9,000 - SIB</b>   | <b>Output<br/>Target</b> | <b>Output<br/>Actual</b> | <b>Progress<br/>Indicator</b> | <b>Spend<br/>Target</b> | <b>Spend<br/>Actual</b> | <b>Progress<br/>Indicator</b> |
| People engaged in sports activities   | 100                      | 0                        |                               | £9,000                  | £9,000                  |                               |
| Improved community facilities   | 1                        | 1                        |                               |                         |                         |                               |
| The practice facilities were installed and the £9,000 claimed as part of a £57,000 project match funded by the England and Wales Cricket Board. The work was completed in advance of the commencement of the cricket season and therefore the number of people engaged cannot be reported until the season is underway.   |                          |                          |                               |                         |                         |                               |
| <b>Community Outdoor Learning Facility<br/>Total allocated £2,000 - SIP</b>   | <b>Output<br/>Target</b> | <b>Output<br/>Actual</b> | <b>Progress<br/>Indicator</b> | <b>Spend<br/>Target</b> | <b>Spend<br/>Actual</b> | <b>Progress<br/>Indicator</b> |
| Improved community facilities   | 1                        | 1                        |                               | £2,000                  | £2,000                  |                               |
| People using improved facilities  | 100                      | 150                      |                               |                         |                         |                               |
| The project has created an exiting, motivating, safe and learning outside environment for school children and the community. The area, for younger children and their families, includes a landscape area, soft surfaces, a car track, sandpits, water trays, a traversing wall, big tyres, large wipeboards, a musical area, a sensory garden and a learning board. An open day was held at the end of February 2011 for parents/carers to see the new facility. |                          |                          |                               |                         |                         |                               |
| <b>Flatts Play Area</b>   | <b>Output</b>            | <b>Output</b>            | <b>Progress</b>               | <b>Spend</b>            | <b>Spend</b>            | <b>Progress</b>               |

| Total allocated £12,000 SIP  | Target | Actual | Indicator | Target  | Actual  | Indicator |
|--|--------|--------|-----------|---------|---------|-----------|
| Number of new youth play services provided   | 1      | 1      |           | £12,000 | £12,000 |           |
| The new play area has delivered an exciting and stimulating play area providing outdoor opportunities free of charge for the young people 0 -19 of the local area. The location and types of equipment were chosen in consultation with the young people to ensure they have a dynamic and fun place to hang out, play and be physically active. Since the play area was completed it has been very well used by local people. |        |        |           |         |         |           |

### Community Involvement

- The VCS Network and partners were asked to provide information on current activity for the under 13 age group
- The VCS Network and partners were asked to identify where the gaps/needs were, based on evidence gathered

### Unadopted Roads

There is a high level of unadopted roads/streets in the Coalfield area compared with other parts of the City. Many of the roads are in bad repair and cause problems for residents. A procedure was presented in a Cabinet report of January 2007 and was adopted as policy. Coalfield Area Committee agreed to revisit this issue for their area and explore any potential solutions such as where policy stipulates that where residents can contribute their costs of making-up a private road, the Council will consider exercising its powers to make-up and adopt the road, or the influencing of budgets.

### What we set out to do

- Review the current arrangements regarding unadopted roads in the area

### Achievements Delivered

- The issue has been escalated to the Executive Director of City Services who has instructed relevant officers to prepare a report for Area Committee. This report will be presented to the September 2011 meeting.

### Budget Allocation

| South View Phase 1<br>Total allocated £3,500 SIP  | Output Target | Output Actual | Progress Indicator | Spend Target | Spend Actual | Progress Indicator |
|---|---------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------|
| Programmes of work to improve appearance of streets   | 1             | 1             |                    | £3,500       | £3,248       |                    |
| Phase 1 of this project was developed to provide a new surface to the access road to Shiney Row primary school. The project was successfully delivered on time and within budget. Positive feedback has been given by school users and staff.   |               |               |                    |              |              |                    |
| South View Phase 2<br>Total allocated £7,500 SIP  | Output Target | Output Actual | Progress Indicator | Spend Target | Spend Actual | Progress Indicator |
| Programmes of work to improve appearance of streets   | 1             | 1             |                    | £7,500       | £5,240       |                    |
| Phase 2 of this project was developed to extend the new road surface and provide improved access for residents and allotment holders in South View. The project was successfully delivered on time and under budget. The underspend was utilised to develop Phase 3.  |               |               |                    |              |              |                    |
| South View Phase 3<br>Total allocated £5,100 SIP + £1,000 SIB   | Output Target | Output Actual | Progress Indicator | Spend Target | Spend Actual | Progress Indicator |
| Programmes of work to improve appearance of streets   | 1             | 1             |                    | £6,100       | 0            |                    |
| Phase 3 of this project was developed as a result of savings made on Phase 2 and completes the whole scheme ahead of planned timescales. Phase 3 included resurfacing the road at Henry Street and was due to be completed in May 2011 in conjunction with school holidays to minimise disruption to road users. The payment will be finalised in Q1 of the new financial year. |               |               |                    |              |              |                    |

### Responsive Local Services (RLS)

RLS is a method of area working designed to increase levels of resident satisfaction through providing services that are responsive to community needs and effectively communicating improvements. This way of working will now tailor services in recognition of differing area/locality

circumstances either through local problem solving or adapting service standards and also recognise and enhance the community leadership role of elected members.

The current scope of RLS covers the service areas of Litter, Graffiti, Refuse, Grass Cutting, Dumping of Waste and Dog Fouling. It also provides the opportunity for a wider range of issues to be considered within a context of local problem solving.

### **What we set out to do**

- Increase the number of residents who feel they can influence priority setting and decision making in their local area
- Increase the number of residents satisfied with the level of customer service
- Increase the number of residents satisfied with services provided in their neighbourhood
- Increase service requests dealt with right first time – including reduction in time for end to end service delivery
- Increase the number of residents who feel informed about what is happening in their area
- Tailor services which are responsive to the customers' needs in their local area
- Publish standards for customers to review
- Provide easily accessible services and ensure customers know how to access them through targeted communication
- Actively seek customer comments on performance and change performance to address the comments received
- Recognise the service as excellent, fit for purpose and value for money
- Actively work in partnership with other organisations and services to achieve added value
- Deliver services that Area Committee can be proud of and enable recognition to be made for high quality services which are meeting the needs of communities at every level.

### **Achievements Delivered**

- Dedicated Response Team now in place including Area Response Manager, Response Officer, Ward Team Leaders and Environmental Enforcement Officers
- The Area Response Manager is meeting with his counterpart within Gentoo on a bi-monthly basis to share information and to ensure close working arrangements
- Removing litter and fly tipping from non council land swiftly, with the philosophy that if we can see it, a customer can see it, so we remove immediately
- The Area Response Manager has been identified by Area Committee as lead on Neglected land. It is proposed that this will be a priority for Committee during 2011/12 and will further explore the protocols for removal of litter and fly tipping from private land to ensure cleaner greener safer environment.
- The Area Response Manager is providing support to the Task and Result group in relation to Shopping Centres in Coalfield area as well as developing Community Toilet Scheme in Houghton Town Centre.
- The Area Response Manager is acting as adviser to the Allotment Task and Result Group and will support the delivery of solutions to address issues in relation to allotments.
- Partnership working and patch walks with Gentoo, to ensure consistency of approach, are being carried out.
- Quick and timely responses to numerous Councillor Requests, to ensure customer satisfaction.
- Drop-in sessions are being arranged for each ward. This will allow local residents to talk to the response team about any issues they may have
- With regard to waste and bins remaining in rear lanes after collection day, advice and assistance is being provided in first instance and notices specifying the specific manner in which waste must be stored and presented for collection served where necessary
- Dog fouling has been a particular problem in parks throughout area and specifically Hetton Lyons Park. Environmental Enforcement Officers are ensuring that patrols are undertaken daily and Fixed Penalty Notices are issued as a priority and as necessary.

- As at March 2011 there were 41 investigations pending for dog fouling, litter, waste and trade waste, results from Environmental Enforcement will be provided by the Area Response Manager in due course
- Issues with incorrectly placed trade waste resulting in litter in streets around Shiney Row shopping area were raised. Appropriate trade waste agreements are now in place and waste storage secure which will impact on litter levels within street. Ongoing monitoring is taking place
- Fly-tipping - Hetton Lyons Parks. 3 separate fly-tips traced to one individual. Investigations ongoing. Prosecution pending.
- Issues with repeated dumping of household refuse around Peat Carr Farm. Environmental Enforcement Officer and Gentoo working together to restrict access and prevent further tipping
- Work to reclaim damaged verges and improve with rockery and flower beds at The Broadway Houghton has been undertaken. This will improve visual aspect and prevent motorists parking on the grass verge. The Area Response manager is instigating a joint approach in relation to this problem
- Joint working with Area Officer and LMAPS to improve street lighting in Easington Lane, High Street area to restrict anti social behaviour.
- Developing Biddick Woods project, to reclaim and improve area with support from Area Committee
- Patch walks with all Ward Councillors are being planned. This will ensure a joint officer/member approach to identifying issues
- Ongoing operations with partners to address a long standing issue at Whitefield Cottages/Robertsons Yard with regard to derelict and unkempt land including fly tipping and youth ASB

### **Budget Allocation**

The work with Area Committee has influenced mainstream budgets to ensure services are delivered in line with local need.

### **Community Involvement**

- Residents have contacted the Area Response Manager directly as a result of an article in Community News
- Residents requests and complaints have been investigated and actioned
- The team have contacted residents directly to ensure concerns and complaints are taken on board and addressed
- A number of compliments and notes of thanks have been received from the community
- Members of the VCS network have been updated on the RLS service area and are giving feedback via the Community Co-ordinator

### **Motor Cycle Disorder**

This issue was brought to Area Committee as a new item in November 2010 as a result of a number of anti social behaviour complaints to the Police, and the subject being discussed at the Local Multi Agency Problem Solving (LMAPS) group.

### **What we set out to do**

- Identify key areas of concern
- Reduce anti social behaviour due to inconsiderate use of motor cycles
- Prevent access to identified sites
- Raise awareness and improve knowledge about motor cycle use and misuse

### **Achievements Delivered**

- Members and partners identified 'hot spots' of motor cycle disorder
- The police provided intelligence with regard to locations and frequency of reports
- The issue has been escalated to the Business Support Group of the Safer Sunderland Partnership in order to develop a strategic response.

- The police have carried out a series of operations to tackle specific areas of concern resulting in a number of prosecutions and the reduction of motor cycle disorder reports
- A partnership project between the police, Woodland Trust, City Council and LMAPS members has installed extensive steelwork and barriers to Elemore Vale to prevent access by motorcycles. The area will be monitored and success reported to LMAPS and Area Committee.
- An educational programme is being developed to raise awareness of the dangers of illegal use of motor cycles.
- A 10 week accredited 'mini moto' course has been designed and will be delivered to 20-30 young people to develop knowledge and skills of riding and maintaining motor cycles. The Youth Development Group and Neighbourhood Police Team will identify and engage young people who would most benefit.

## Speeding or Dangerous Traffic

A number of sites across the Coalfield area have been identified as hotspots for speeding or dangerous traffic. Stretches of country roads and rural areas leading to villages or residential areas have caused some of the problems. Problems also occur where vehicles use residential estates as 'rat runs' to avoid slow or busy roads. A number projects have been developed to address individual issues and the development of an area wide plan would be beneficial to inform future service delivery.

### What we set out to do

- Identify accident or speeding hotspots
- Allocate SIP to support traffic calming measures
- Influence a co-ordinated, strategic approach to traffic calming measures across the Coalfield area

### Achievements Delivered

- Locations of concern were highlighted by Committee members and relevant officers
- A number of traffic safety projects were developed and will be delivered with the support of SIB and/or SIP agreed by Committee
- The interim Assistant Head of Traffic has attended Area Committee to discuss a co-ordinated approach to traffic related issues. Information on accident hotspots will form part of the information gathering exercise to inform next steps

### Budget Allocation

| <b>Wensleydale Avenue Traffic Calming</b><br><b>Total allocated £10,277 SIB + £9,723 SIP</b>  | <b>Output Target</b> | <b>Output Actual</b> | <b>Progress Indicator</b> | <b>Spend Target</b> | <b>Spend Actual</b> | <b>Progress Indicator</b> |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Programmes of work to improve the appearance of streets   | 1                    | 0                    |                           | £20,000             | £0                  |                           |
| The project will deliver a traffic calming scheme to address the identified speeding problems along Wensleydale Avenue, Penshaw. The scheme has been delayed due to issues raised during the consultation process. These issues have been resolved and the next stage is to make a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) for the introduction of a 20mph Zone and traffic calming. |                      |                      |                           |                     |                     |                           |
| <b>North Road/Hazard Lane Pedestrian Safety</b><br><b>Total allocated £10,000 SIB + £19,221 SIP</b>   | <b>Output Target</b> | <b>Output Actual</b> | <b>Progress Indicator</b> | <b>Spend Target</b> | <b>Spend Actual</b> | <b>Progress Indicator</b> |
| Programmes of work to improve streets   | 1                    | 1                    |                           | £29,221             | £29,221             |                           |
| The project provides a pedestrian refuge island and footway link along North Road/Hazard Lane which is the most popular route for pupils who attend Hetton Secondary School. Residents from Moorsley and Peat Carr will also benefit from a safer crossing point to access Hetton centre. All work was completed by April 2011.   |                      |                      |                           |                     |                     |                           |
| <b>Sunderland Road/High Lane Gateway</b><br><b>Total allocated £25,000 SIP</b>  | <b>Output Target</b> | <b>Output Actual</b> | <b>Progress Indicator</b> | <b>Spend Target</b> | <b>Spend Actual</b> | <b>Progress Indicator</b> |
| Programmes of work to improve the appearance of streets   | 1                    | 0                    |                           | £25,000             | £0                  |                           |
| The project will reduce the existing 60mph speed limit, first to 50mph, then 40mph, then 30mph into the residential area of Newbottle Village. A Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) is being applied for and work will commence once approval has been received.  |                      |                      |                           |                     |                     |                           |
| <b>Queensway Traffic Calming</b><br><b>Total allocated £3,100 SIP</b>   | <b>Output Target</b> | <b>Output Actual</b> | <b>Progress Indicator</b> | <b>Spend Target</b> | <b>Spend Actual</b> | <b>Progress Indicator</b> |



|  |                      |                      |                           |                     |                     |                           |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Programmes of work to improve the appearance of streets  | 1                    | 1                    |                           | £3,100              | 3,030               |                           |
| Two GIVE WAY signs have been installed on the side road at the Queensway/Hall Lane junction, with a road marking to emphasise that traffic must give way. This will help to highlight to drivers on the side road that they are approaching a junction. All work completed on time and to budget.  |                      |                      |                           |                     |                     |                           |
| <b>Lake Road Subway</b><br><b>Total allocated £1,185 - SIP</b>   |                      |                      |                           |                     |                     |                           |
| The funding will pay for removal of redundant steps adjacent to the underpass leading up to the pedestrian bridge at Lake Road. This will form part of a larger scheme to provide a surface crossing facility to reduce the need to use the subway. The work is due to be completed by the end of June 2011.   |                      |                      |                           |                     |                     |                           |
| <b>Lake Road Footpath</b><br><b>Total allocated £10,500 - SIP</b>  |                      |                      |                           |                     |                     |                           |
| The project will Construct a footway along the north side of Lake Road between Elizabeth street and Gravel Walks and is due to be completed by May 2011  |                      |                      |                           |                     |                     |                           |
| <b>Vehicle Activated Signs</b><br><b>Total allocated £11,500 - SIP</b>   |                      |                      |                           |                     |                     |                           |
| The project, to install vehicle activated signs on Seaham Road, High Lane, and Hetton Road and is due for completion by July 2011.   |                      |                      |                           |                     |                     |                           |
| <b>Fencehouses Gateway Feature</b><br><b>Total allocated £3,500 - SIP</b>  | <b>Output Target</b> | <b>Output Actual</b> | <b>Progress Indicator</b> | <b>Spend Target</b> | <b>Spend Actual</b> | <b>Progress Indicator</b> |
| Improved community facilities  | 1                    | 1                    |                           | £3,500              | £3,262              |                           |
| The project provides traffic signs and road markings on the B1284 at the entry to Fence Houses. The work was completed in March 2011 and has become part of the adopted (publicly maintainable) highway infrastructure. The purpose is to improve road safety and provide a gateway feature. There are plans to create a floral display at the foot of the signs to provide a more visually attractive focal point. The project came in slightly under budget. |                      |                      |                           |                     |                     |                           |
| <b>Traffic Calming Robin Lane/Hazard Lane</b><br><b>Total allocated £10,000 - SIP</b>  | <b>Output Target</b> | <b>Output Actual</b> | <b>Progress Indicator</b> | <b>Spend Target</b> | <b>Spend Actual</b> | <b>Progress Indicator</b> |
| Programmes of work to improve the appearance of streets  | 1                    | 0                    |                           | £10,000             | £0                  |                           |
| Due to the legal process required by traffic regulation order for the reduction in speed limits the project has been delayed. The scheme is now likely to be implemented with speed reduction, road markings and signage in place by September 2011  |                      |                      |                           |                     |                     |                           |
| <b>Hetton Pedestrian Guardrail</b><br><b>Total allocated £10,000 - SIP</b>   | <b>Output Target</b> | <b>Output Actual</b> | <b>Progress Indicator</b> | <b>Spend Target</b> | <b>Spend Actual</b> | <b>Progress Indicator</b> |
| Number of events/programmes of work to improve appearance of street  | 1                    | 1                    |                           | £11,200             | £11,200             |                           |
| Approximately 100m of pedestrian guardrail in Front Street Hetton was removed and replaced with new galvanised painted panels. All work was completed on time and within budget.   |                      |                      |                           |                     |                     |                           |

## Youth Disorder

### Key statistics

- The total youth related Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) for the Coalfield area is down by 12.3% on last year's figures
- The Hetton ward has the highest number of reported youth related ASB incidents
- The 2009/10 residents' survey asked what issues needed improvement. 53% of residents in the Coalfield area gave activities for teenagers as one of their top three.

### What we set out to do

- Reduce levels of youth disorder in key locations with the most reported incidents
- Provide targeted youth activity to engage those most at risk of anti social behaviour
- Improve levels of participation in contracted youth provision
- Create a safer neighbourhood for local residents
- Improve perceptions about young people
- Promote positive activity

### Achievements Delivered

- Youth Disorder Task and Result group set up and regular meetings between partners held to discuss hot spots and response required
- Providing resources to areas based on up to date ASB/Crime information

- Easington Lane High Street and Houghton Racecourse Estate identified as highest risk locations
- A joint operation developed between Police, ASB team and Gentoo to tackle issues on Houghton Racecourse Estate. Centre based and detached youth work has now been set up
- Facilitated police liaison work at Hetton School
- Influenced decision on location of XL Youth Village (date/venue)
- Targeting of offenders by police and Gentoo. Support provided to XL village by Police (CSOs)
- Influenced delivery of commissioned youth work (when/where)
- Reinstated street lighting at Easington Lane Flatts Youth Centre
- The Youth Task & Result group raised £3,500 (from Gentoo, Sunderland City Council, Hetton Town Council, Safer Sunderland Partnership and LMAPS) to tackle disorder at Easington Lane and working with relevant partners designed a 10 week programme of activity to target those most at risk of causing anti social behaviour (ASB). As a result disorder has reduced
- Support to local shop keeper/repeat victim from small retailers fund to provide CCTV
- A Responsive Youth Provision project (joint funded by SIB and Gentoo) will be delivered as a pilot for the next 6 months (from April 2011)
- Supporting Monument View to form a constituted group, led by young people, to develop their capacity to raise funds and deliver projects
- Supported partnership working between Bett Homes and Monument View to develop an outdoor learning space
- In addition to the projects below, Community Chest grants have supported 5 projects to deliver provision for young people
- Youth disorder overall has reduced when compared with the same period for last year

## Budget Allocation

| <b>Community Leaders of the Future</b><br><b>Total allocated £11,543 SIB</b>  | <b>Output Target</b> | <b>Output Actual</b> | <b>Progress Indicator</b> | <b>Spend Target</b> | <b>Spend Actual</b> | <b>Progress Indicator</b> |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Community groups supported  | 2                    | 2                    |                           | £5,960              | £5,862              |                           |
| People in voluntary work  | 25                   | 30                   |                           |                     |                     |                           |
| Young people engaged in youth inclusion activities  | 25                   | 30                   |                           |                     |                     |                           |
| The project was developed to develop young people's readiness and employability skills, foster a sense of entrepreneurship and an understanding of the difference volunteering makes. Thirty year 7 pupils from Houghton Kepier Sports College have selected Houghton District Centre for the Blind as the community project they will raise money for. The launch event was held in December 2010 and the evidence gathering for the NCFE qualification being gained in March 2011. Ideas for fundraising are being developed and implemented by the pupils taking part. Due to the slow start of the project, the amount of SIB funding awarded has now been reduced with a total of £1,564 being returned to SIB budget. |                      |                      |                           |                     |                     |                           |
| <b>Phoenix Project (T&amp;W Fire and Rescue Service)</b><br><b>Total allocated £13,578 SIB</b>  | <b>Output Target</b> | <b>Output Actual</b> | <b>Progress Indicator</b> | <b>Spend Target</b> | <b>Spend Actual</b> | <b>Progress Indicator</b> |
| Number of young people benefiting from youth inclusion/diversionary activities  | 21                   | 19                   |                           | £7,066              | £6,962              |                           |
| The course was designed to change behaviour of young offenders or young people at risk of offending. Nineteen young people from the Coalfield area (age 11-17) have participated in the course during this year.  |                      |                      |                           |                     |                     |                           |
| <b>The Underground Project</b><br><b>Total allocated £32,394 - SIB</b>  |                      |                      |                           |                     |                     |                           |
| The purpose of this project is to provide a music project to young people and to employ a full time worker to develop the Underground through a transition to a sustainable voluntary project. To date the project has attracted over £20,000 match funding and although not due to deliver until after April 2011, the project has already taken part in Task and Result groups and the Coalfield in Bloom project. The Underground now has a constitution and a young person led Management Committee.  |                      |                      |                           |                     |                     |                           |
| <b>Responsive Youth Provision</b><br><b>Total allocated £10,000 SIB</b>   |                      |                      |                           |                     |                     |                           |
| The project will provide a 'rapid response' targeted youth provision in areas identified by the police and partners as having high levels of youth disorder. The project will be a pilot which will last 6 months providing activities to meet need and will be organised and delivered by the Youth Development Group in conjunction with the existing and contracted youth provision (SNCBC) to ensure a joined up approach.  |                      |                      |                           |                     |                     |                           |
| <b>Monument View Workshop and Classroom</b><br><b>Total allocated £25,000</b>   | <b>Output Target</b> | <b>Output Actual</b> | <b>Progress Indicator</b> | <b>Spend Target</b> | <b>Spend Actual</b> | <b>Progress Indicator</b> |
| Improved community facilities   | 1                    | 0                    |                           | £25,000             | £0                  |                           |

|  |    |   |  |  |  |
|--|----|---|--|--|--|
| Young people benefiting from youth or diversionary projects  | 50 | 0 |  |  |  |
| <p>The project has been delayed due to the withdrawal of the proposed Youth Opportunity Fund match funding. The project now has support from Northumbrian Water whose contractor team have installed initial external electrical works to the value of £5,000. The Corporate Responsibility team have agreed to work with their preferred supplier to build the workshop at cost value – there will be no charge for labour or overheads (a saving of approximately £10,000). Once the structure is complete there will be further work carried out by Northumbrian Water. The plans have been submitted and a tree survey is being finalised before work commences. The staff and young people will keep a photographic/filming record of progress as part of a media project. In the meantime, the project is being supported to develop its agricultural and outdoor programme.</p> |    |   |  |  |  |

## Community Involvement

- Consultation with VCS Network
- Consultation with Easington Lane Community Access Point and Houghton Racecourse Community Access Point
- Consultation with Hetton School
- Police liaison with retailers at Easington Lane
- Consultation and involvement from Bett Homes and Taylor Wimpey
- Consultation with young people accessing mobile and centre based youth work

## Allotments and Community Gardens

Many allotment sites across the Coalfield Area are in an unkempt and unsightly condition and can't be offered to potential tenants even though there is a waiting list. There are also concerns that some allotment plots are being used inappropriately and this view is supported by the Police who regularly receive reports about inappropriate and anti social activity at some of the less well managed allotment sites. The Coalfield area has, by far, the greatest number of sites in the City and Area Committee have agreed to make this priority a long term programme of work.

## Key statistics

- There are 94 allotment sites across the City of Sunderland
- 41 of these sites are in the Coalfield area
- There is a waiting list of 444 (as at April 2011) for allotments in the Coalfield area

## What we set out to do

- Consider the allotment review carried out by The Environment and Attractive City Scrutiny Committee
- Consider the information of the allotment audit carried out as part of the above review
- Form a Task and Result Group to devise a Coalfield Action Plan
- Identify two sites to pilot some improvement works
- Create community allotments
- Support allotment holders to make improvements
- Bring unkempt plots back into use

## Achievements Delivered

- The results and progress of the Scrutiny review have been considered
- A Task and Result Group has been set up
- As a result of a request from the Task and Result Group, a SWITCH project will identify and map all sites across the area (and eventually the City)
- An action plan has been produced
- Gentoo and Groundwork have agreed to help to deliver improvements and be part of the Task and Result Group
- Britannia Terrace and Burnside have been identified as the two sites for a pilot
- A community garden has been created at the Hetton Centre
- Bett Homes have offered to provide labour and/or materials for the creation of community gardens where possible
- Supporting improvement of sites through the Coalfield Community Challenge project

## Budget Allocation

- The Coalfield Community Challenge has identified £7,000 for allotment and community garden improvements
- A sum of £5,665 SIB has been allocated for allotment improvements

## Community Involvement

- As part of the Coalfield in Bloom project a number of individuals and organisations expressed an interest in volunteering to develop community gardens
- Community groups have reported that the demand for allotments has increased and “growing your own” has become popular both on sites and within community gardens and community space. The feedback is that the current allotment provision is in need of change as there are some obvious barriers and lengthy waiting lists.
- Houghton Racecourse Community Allotment is working with Adult Services, local schools and other community groups such as Hetton New Dawn providing fruit and vegetables for the luncheon Club supporting older people.
- Local schools have taken part in consultations and one successful project was Houghton Kepier ECO club who were supported through the Coalfield in Bloom to carry out a Tree Audit in the Community and to source plants and materials. Many of the Cluster Primary schools have set up gardening clubs and a Dads and Kids group have engaged in local allotment activity.
- Over 150 Volunteers have been engaged in community gardening projects, many were supported by partner organisations to apply for further funding to create better use of community space. Residents groups such as Moorsley and Peat Carr are continuing to look at joint use of a community allotment.
- Gentoo Residents’ Panel have allocated funding to the “Coalfield Community Challenge” project which includes community gardens as one of its main areas of work. Presentations of the community development work has been well received by the group
- Easington Lane Community Access Point are managing the budgets and of the of the Coalfield Community Challenge projects on behalf of the Area Network. To date 18 groups are engaged.
- Residents continue to be involved across the wards through consultation within both the VCS Network and “Virtual” Network through the work of the Coalfield Community Co-ordinator.

## Additional Budget Allocation

The projects listed below fall into priorities not listed above, but identified in the 2009/11 Local Area Plan (LAP). The projects have all delivered activity this year.

| <b>Walking Route to Rainton Meadows</b><br><b>Total allocated £20,000 SIB + £14,000 SIP</b>  | <b>Output Target</b> | <b>Output Actual</b> | <b>Progress Indicator</b> | <b>Spend Target</b> | <b>Spend Actual</b> | <b>Progress Indicator</b> |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Improved community facilities  | 1                    | 0                    |                           | £34,000             | £0                  |                           |
| This project will provide a safe walking route From Fencehouses to Rainton Meadows at Redburn Row. Due to a number of legal and design issues this project has been delayed. Legal and Property Services officers have helped to resolve some of the issues and the project will now be progressed by applying to the land registry for adverse possession of the land in question. Further updates will be provided once this stage is complete.                            |                      |                      |                           |                     |                     |                           |
| <b>Dropped Kerbs</b><br><b>Total allocated £8,000 SIP</b>  | <b>Output Target</b> | <b>Output Actual</b> | <b>Progress Indicator</b> | <b>Spend Target</b> | <b>Spend Actual</b> | <b>Progress Indicator</b> |
| Improved community facilities  | 3                    | 3                    |                           | £8,000              | £8,567              |                           |
| Dropped kerbs have now been installed in three locations across the Houghton ward:<br>Four pairs in Station Avenue North/South, Three pairs in Brinkburn Cres/Leyburn Grove and Two pairs in Britannia Terrace/Front Street. The purpose is to improve access for those with mobility problems and pushchair and wheelchair users. Work was complete by April 2011. The costs were slightly higher than estimated, the shortfall has been met by highways mainstream budget. |                      |                      |                           |                     |                     |                           |
| <b>Hetton Lyons Country Park Car Park</b><br><b>Total allocated £11,864 SIP</b>  | <b>Output Target</b> | <b>Output Actual</b> | <b>Progress Indicator</b> | <b>Spend Target</b> | <b>Spend Actual</b> | <b>Progress Indicator</b> |
| New or improved community facilities   | 1                    | 1                    |                           | £11,864             | £11,864             |                           |
| The project involved laying a new tarmac surface on the car park area, construction of speed humps, installation of warning signs and marking out of two disabled parking bays. The work was completed on 15 March 2011 within budget. There has been some positive feedback from users of the park and Springboard  |                      |                      |                           |                     |                     |                           |

|  |                      |                      |                           |                     |                     |                           |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| who deliver training on site.  |                      |                      |                           |                     |                     |                           |
| <b>Street Scene Improvements</b><br><b>Total allocated £44,134 SIB</b>   | <b>Output Target</b> | <b>Output Actual</b> | <b>Progress Indicator</b> | <b>Spend Target</b> | <b>Spend Actual</b> | <b>Progress Indicator</b> |
| Programmes of work to improve appearance of streets  | 4                    | 4                    |                           | £44,134             | £44,134             |                           |
| The amount of match funding attracted to the project has increased significantly from the original estimate and allowed around £100,000 of work to take place in the area. There has been a programme of street scene works delivered across all four wards including 28 road markings, 8 drainage works, 11 carriageway patching and 19 name plates.  |                      |                      |                           |                     |                     |                           |
| <b>Herrington Burn YMCA Business Plan</b><br><b>Total allocated £20,000 SIB</b>  | <b>Output Target</b> | <b>Output Actual</b> | <b>Progress Indicator</b> | <b>Spend Target</b> | <b>Spend Actual</b> | <b>Progress Indicator</b> |
| Project feasibility studies produced   | 1                    | 1                    |                           | £20,000             | £15,534             |                           |
| The funding paid for a feasibility study and business plan to assist the organisation to develop a strategy and forward plan in order to ensure Herrington Burn YMCA delivers sustainable activities to protect the future of the organisation. A Business Development Manager has been appointed for a three year period and will use the results of the feasibility study to develop future plans. The final cost was less than expected and the underspend has been returned to the Committee's budget. |                      |                      |                           |                     |                     |                           |
| <b>Village Street Lighting Improvements</b><br><b>Total allocated £25,300 SIP</b>  | <b>Output Target</b> | <b>Output Actual</b> | <b>Progress Indicator</b> | <b>Spend Target</b> | <b>Spend Actual</b> | <b>Progress Indicator</b> |
| Programmes of work to improve the appearance of streets  | 2                    | 2                    |                           | £25,300             | £22,459             |                           |
| There have been 11 lighting embellishments fitted to street lights in New Herrington village. The Old Penshaw Village scheme comprising 6 embellishments and 5 decorative lanterns fitted to wooden poles was completed in November 2010. The project made savings of £2,841 which has been brought back into SIP budget.  |                      |                      |                           |                     |                     |                           |
| <b>McLaren Way Lighting</b><br><b>Total allocated £10,000 SIP</b>  | <b>Output Target</b> | <b>Output Actual</b> | <b>Progress Indicator</b> | <b>Spend Target</b> | <b>Spend Actual</b> | <b>Progress Indicator</b> |
| Programmes of work to improve appearance of streets  | 3                    | 3                    |                           | £10,000             | £5,800              |                           |
| The project was successfully delivered on time and under budget. The lighting provides a safer environment for residents and visitors to the area. The savings made on the scheme have been utilised on other projects within the Shiney Row ward.   |                      |                      |                           |                     |                     |                           |
| <b>Coalfield Additional 3G Camera</b><br><b>Total allocated £5,500 SIB</b>   | <b>Output Target</b> | <b>Output Actual</b> | <b>Progress Indicator</b> | <b>Spend Target</b> | <b>Spend Actual</b> | <b>Progress Indicator</b> |
| Number of CCTV Cameras installed   | 1                    | 1                    |                           | £5,500              | £5,500              |                           |
| Funding was approved in July 2010 to purchase and install an additional 3G camera for the Coalfield area. The camera was installed at Penshaw, with the view to redeploy this camera to areas of need. The 3G cameras have been invaluable to the area, a recent example being when a camera captured a bag snatch at traffic lights which led to the arrest of the perpetrator.   |                      |                      |                           |                     |                     |                           |
| <b>Grace House North East</b><br><b>Total allocated £1,675 SIB</b>   | <b>Output Target</b> | <b>Output Actual</b> | <b>Progress Indicator</b> | <b>Spend Target</b> | <b>Spend Actual</b> | <b>Progress Indicator</b> |
| Number of feasibility studies  | 1                    | 1                    |                           | £1,675              | £1,675              |                           |
| Funding was allocated to allow the building of the new Sunderland children's hospice to take place.  |                      |                      |                           |                     |                     |                           |

## Governance and Operation of Committee Meetings

The first meeting of this year was designed to enable all elected members, officers, partners and residents present to contribute to the discussion and decision making in a participative way. The meeting was evaluated by asking all in attendance to complete a short questionnaire and the results of this survey were used to improve and further develop the roles of members, officers and partners to ensure effective operation and participation in meetings.

Meetings throughout the year have continued to be well attended and participative. On average a total of 10 out of the 12 elected Coalfield councillors, 9 council officers, 6 partners and two members of the public take part in each meeting. A pre meeting and post meeting debrief take place to identify relevant issues and implement improvements for future meetings. Examples include -

- Making the reports and associated papers more concise and informative
- Providing guidance and support to presenters of reports
- Ensuring venues for meetings are suitable and accessible
- Providing accurate and clear financial information
- Ensuring agreed actions are followed up

The standard agenda implemented at the beginning of the year continues to work well and is designed to bring consistency and focus to each of the Area Committees.

- Item 1 includes welcome, apologies, declarations of interest and minutes of previous meeting
- Item 2 discusses new issues to assess whether committee can influence services or deliver relevant actions
- Item 3 provides a progress report on the previously agreed Work Plan and associated actions
- Item 4 offers the opportunity for Committee to be consulted on, and influence, relevant issues

To improve the operation of Area Committees, Members are asked for their opinion in relation to the work of Area Committees and the operation of meetings. The following results from the 2011 survey will be used to improve Area Committee meetings, most noticeably the involvement with the public.

|  | All of the time | Most of the time | Occasionally | Never |
|--|-----------------|------------------|--------------|-------|
| Are the meeting venues easily accessed by partners and the community?  | 32%             | 52%              | 12%          | 4%    |
| Is the layout of the room satisfactory?  | 24%             | 48%              | 20%          | 8%    |
| Are the length of the meetings satisfactory?   | 8%              | 80%              | 12%          | 0%    |
| Is the balance of the Committee agenda satisfactory (i.e. performance management/general information/problem solving etc)? | 20%             | 52%              | 24%          | 4%    |
| Is the involvement with partners satisfactory?   | 21%             | 46%              | 29%          | 4%    |
| Is the involvement with the public satisfactory?   | 13%             | 30%              | 30%          | 26%   |

The following results will be used to improve the effectiveness of the overall work of Area Committee:

- 77% of members who responded feel that the Council clearly communicated its purpose and its intended outcomes for citizens and service users
- 79% of members feel that area committees are effective most or all of the time.
- 90% of members feel that they are clear on the role of area committees
- 70% Members find the council average, poor or very poor in promoting the work that they do as an Area Committee Member

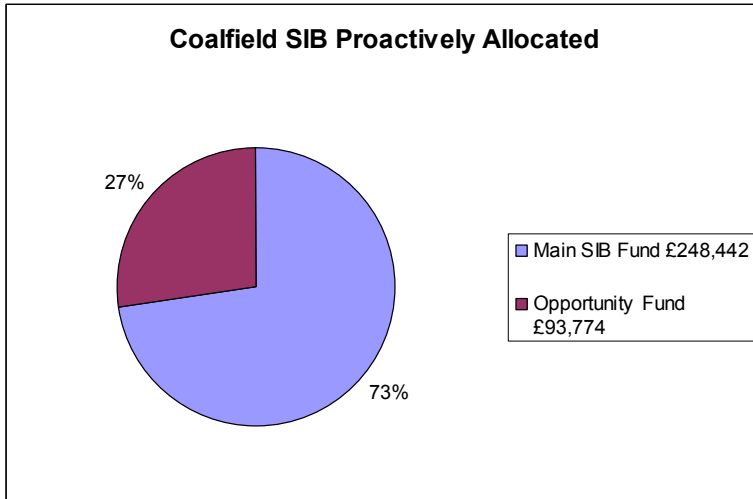
With regard to the relationship between Area Committee and the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Network, work has continued to develop over the course of the year by:

- Nominated partner VCS representatives attending Area Committee
- Coalfield Area Co-ordinator attending Area Committee and participating in relevant sub groups of Committee (e.g. Task and Result Groups)
- Vice Chair of Area Committee acting as co-chair of the VCS Network
- Area Officer attending VCS Network to consult with, and inform, the meeting regarding relevant Committee business
- Agenda of the VCS Network developed to complement and feed into that of Area Committee
- Consultation with Network members on work plan and priorities
- VCS Network and individual partners delivering projects and services identified in the work plan
- Community challenges being developed to deliver local improvements on each priority
- Developing the VCS Network by introducing a partners network and 'virtual' network concept to ensure all interested parties in the area can contribute to the work of Area Committee

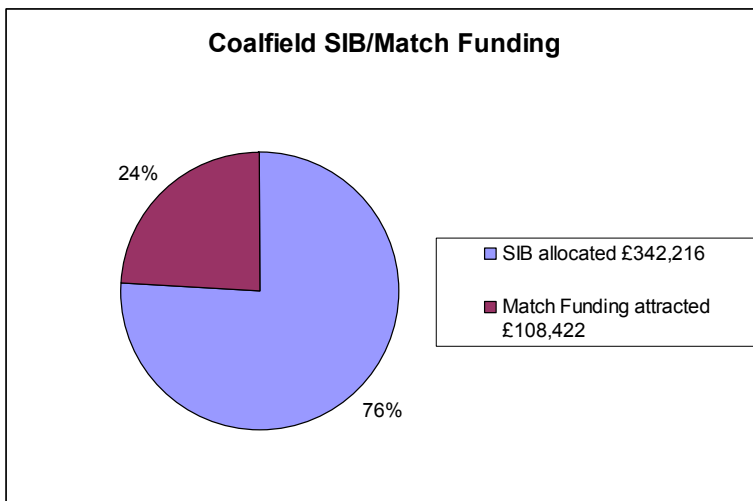
## Finance

### Strategic Initiative Budget (SIB), Strategic Investment Plan (SIP)

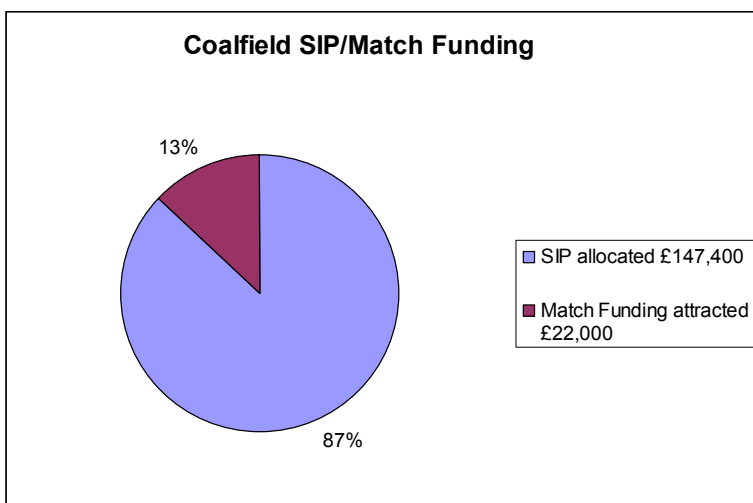
A budget of £342,216 SIB and £147,400 SIP was available for allocation in 2010/11. Committee have allocated the total SIB budget and £142,947 SIP to projects and priorities to meet the objectives set out in the Coalfield Area Work Plan. The charts below provide an overview of proactively allocated funds, match funding attracted and priorities targeted.



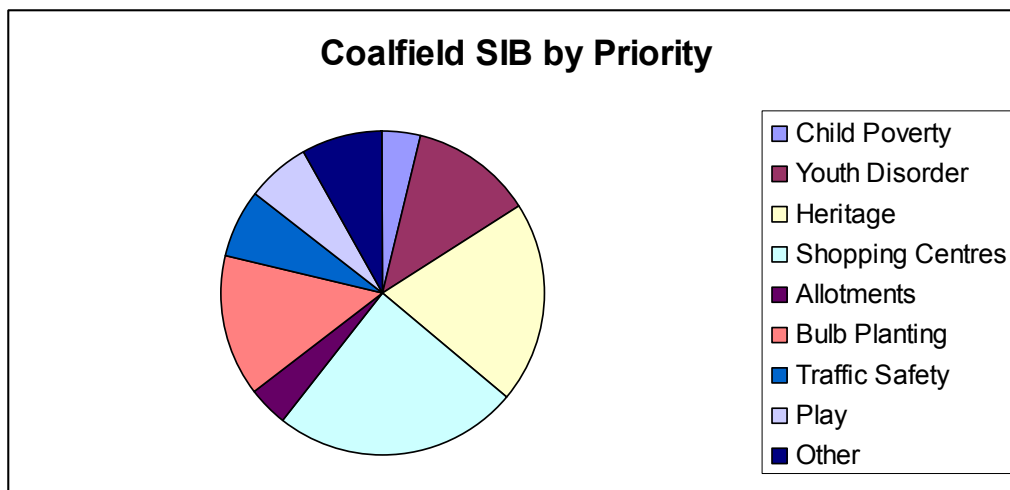
One of Area Committee's aims this year was to proactively identify and fund projects to deliver against agreed priorities. As shown (left) 73% of SIB funding was allocated in this way and 27% to organisations coming forward with project proposals. This is an improvement on the previous year (2009/10) when only 41% was proactively allocated.



One of the aims of allocating SIB and SIP is to attract other funding to the area. The chart (left) shows that the SIB project applications identified that they would raise an additional £108,422 from other funding sources to match the £342,216 SIB approved.



The chart (left) shows that the SIP project applications identified a total of £22,000 other funding would be raised by the projects to match the £147,400 SIP allocated.



The chart (left) shows how SIB funding was allocated to meet the strategic priorities identified in the Work Plan. The majority was focused on

- Youth Disorder
- Heritage
- Shopping Centres
- Bulb Planting

### Community Chest

The total amount of Community Chest available for 2010/11 was £45,671. Of this amount £39,429 has been allocated. Almost 100 projects have been delivered by local community and voluntary organisations supported through Community Chest awards

### Satisfaction levels

Area Committee are committed to ensuring improved service delivery for residents and visitors in the Coalfield area. By asking the community for their feedback and working together to resolve any issues we can ensure that priorities are addressed using a problem solving approach. The latest residents survey carried out in 2010 shows:

- Area satisfaction in the Coalfields has improved drastically over the last 2 years with 4 out of 5 residents satisfied with their local area as a place to live (rising to 82% from 73% in 2008).
- Satisfaction with the Council in Coalfield is consistent with levels in Sunderland as a whole and people here are as likely as the average to think that the Council provides good services.
- However, they are less likely to agree the council is value for money (38% compared to 46%), that it asks for peoples views (33% compared with 42%) or that it listens to these views (23% compared to 32%).
- In 2008 less than half of coalfield residents felt well informed about the Council services and benefits but this has improved now to 55%.

Area Committee will work with relevant Directorates and Partners to improve satisfaction levels amongst local residents.

### Lessons Learned

- We need to align local needs and priorities with strategic plans and priorities such as Local Transport Plan/Capital Programme and highways and speeding issues and proposals. Area Committee can have a more positive influencing role regarding the allocation of strategic resources as well as being able to bring local benefit and resources.
- Better planning with regard to scheduling of event related applications, e.g. parade traffic management, Sunderland Festival is required.
- A co-ordinated approach to addressing overlapping priorities and issues across more than one area needs developing .
- We need to instigate the 'Call for Projects' framework which prevents speculative applications which do not deliver the required outcomes.
- We need improved protocols and guidance with regard to Task and Result Group membership and management. The group should include relevant expertise, and potential conflict of interest for Members, partners and officers should be minimised.
- The new agenda format has encouraged better involvement of partners and officers at Area Committee meetings. This should be further developed and more structured with obvious outcomes and contribution to the committee's agenda.
- We need to build a common vision and sense of belonging for all communities and local people for them to feel their views are listened to and they can influence decisions.



- We need to improve the Area Committee's influencing role through better use of Item 4
- The successful community engagement/development techniques should be fully utilised, reaching all communities and promoting participation.
- The effective partnership working has developed positive and productive working relationships and has delivered the best outcomes. This should be the way forward for improving services in the area.
- We need to look at different ways to work and recognise that it is not always the content of meetings that gets the results, it is often the work that is developed outside these meetings including the VCS Networks 'Virtual' Network and liaising with individual members and partners.
- When developing projects or initiatives across the area we need to consult and involve all ward members if it affects their ward. This has been implemented on some projects but should be developed for all areas of work via Task and Result groups.
- The joint officer working between the Area Officer, Area Response Manager and Community Co-ordinator has produced some early results. This 'Area Team' approach needs further development to maximise support and resources and ensure best value for the area.

## Next Steps

Following this 'End of Year' review and evaluation of the 2010/11 Work Plan, the next steps are for Area Committee to assess how successful it has been in achieving its objectives, fulfilling its influencing role, ensuring service improvements, and delivering real benefits at a local level.

Coalfield Area Committee is currently developing their 2011/12 Work Plan, having identified new priorities, and agreeing which areas of work from 2010/11 Work Plan require further focus and support.

Four new priorities are provisionally agreed and will be included in proposals for the new Work Plan for 2011/12. They are:

- Support for Older People
- Empty Properties
- Neglected Land
- Public Transport

It is also proposed that the following priorities would be carried over from the 2010/11 Work Plan:

- Heritage
- Local Shopping Centres
- Youth Disorder and Activities for Young People
- Allotments and Community Gardens
- Child Poverty
- Unadopted Roads
- Play Provision
- Dangerous and Speeding Traffic

This new Work Plan for 2011/12 will be presented to the Coalfield Area Committee at the first meeting of the new municipal year for approval.

# COALFIELD AREA COMMITTEE

1 June 2011

## REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

### Work Plan for 2011/12

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

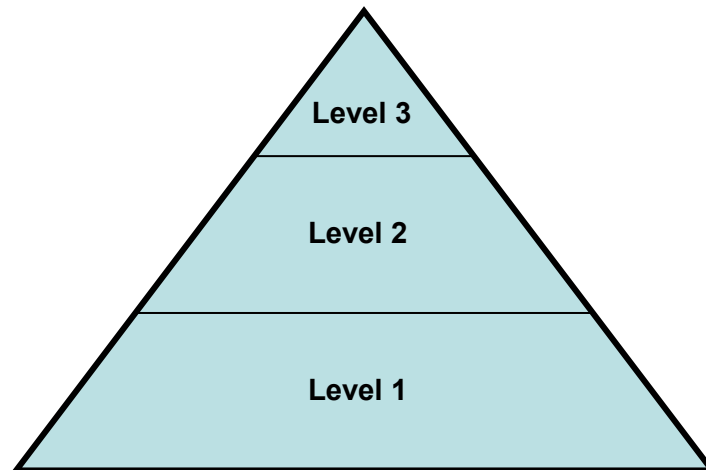
- 1.1 Committee agreed in March 2011 the next steps regarding the process to be used in shaping and informing the final Work Plan for Area Committee, against the provisional emerging priorities for the Coalfield area. This included:
- Seeking views from local residents and the Community and Voluntary Sector, via the Coalfield VCS Area Network.
  - Using qualitative research available within the Council.
  - Draft final work plan presented to elected members for comment and observation.
- 1.2 The purpose of the Work Plan is to clearly identify the key priorities for Area Committee to discuss, deliver actions and monitor throughout the year, with the overall outcome to improve the quality of life for residents within the Coalfield area.
- 1.3 It provides a transparent framework for elected members, partners, and officers to work from, as well as acting as a focal point for local residents to find out what the Area Committee is undertaking to make a difference within their neighbourhood.
- 1.4 Key information for members to consider and agree is:
- Key priorities
  - Actions
  - Lead Agents
  - Outcome measure
- 1.5 If adopted, the Work Plan will inform the majority of work for the Coalfield Area Committee for 2011/2012, as it will form part of the standing agenda, along with progress updates being provided on Sunderland City Council's website after each Area Committee meeting. The Work Plan is made up of a number of work streams, each of which represents a key priority for Committee, these are:
1. Heritage
  2. Local Shopping Centres
  3. Youth Disorder and Activities for Young People
  4. Allotments and Community Gardens
  5. Child Poverty
  6. Unadopted Roads
  7. Play Provision
  8. Dangerous and Speeding Traffic
  9. Support for Older People
  10. Empty Properties
  11. Neglected Land
  12. Public Transport
- 1.6 The information and feedback received since March 2011, has been collated and the final plan is attached at **Annex 1**.

## 2. Key Priorities

2.1 Priorities 1-8 above are carried over from 2010/11 and will continue to be developed and actioned. Progress reports will be given at each Committee meeting, along with an updated Work Plan. One of the key priorities carried over from last year, and the newly selected priorities for 2011/12 are summarised below. New priorities are outlined on the attached Work Plan at **Annex 1**.

### 2.2 Activities for Young People and Play Provision

Youth activities across the City are based on a 3 Tier Youth Model (shown below).



*Table 1: Youth Tier Model*

**Level 1:** Universal Services, accessible to the majority of children and young people.

**Level 2:** Targeted Services, preventative or intervention required.

**Level 3:** Specialist Services, vulnerable or at risk support required.

- 2.2.1 The core youth offer which delivers at least 3 weekly sessions per week in every ward, supplemented by XL Youth Village and mobile bus provision in each regeneration area is universal provision and has been maintained at existing levels for 2011/12.
- 2.2.2 Some of the additional activity provided in the area which was level 1 and 2 provision was funded by Positive Activities for Young People Grant (PAYP) and the Youth Opportunities Fund (YOF). The PAYP grants were specifically used to provide enhanced weekend activities and activities in school holidays, as well as activities targeted at young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET). Both of these grants ended on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011.
- 2.2.3 In recognition of the priority given to youth activities, and to mitigate the impact of the ending of the specific grants, Council agreed to the allocation of £30,000 for each regeneration area which was to be allocated to fund activities in consultation with the Area Committees. It was suggested that this might be enhanced by any allocation which the Area Committee might also make to fund youth activities in the area.
- 2.2.4 In addition to the area allocation, a city-wide allocation of £15,000 was also made which is to support activities for BME communities. Separate consideration is being given to the use of this allocation specifically with Young Asian Voices (YAV) who have successfully delivered previous activities in partnership with other voluntary sector providers.

#### **Current Position:**

- 2.2.5 Examples of the activities which were funded by PAYP and YOF funding are:
- Activities across 13 weeks of school holidays
  - Houghton Sunday morning Drop in for younger people (10-13) (average participation 5)
  - Schools work – informal education opportunities for young people at risk of exclusion (average participation of 19)

- Targeted NEET work via Job Club in partnership with Connexions (average participation of 4)

2.2.6 In response to the timing of the Easter Holidays and May half-term holidays, relative to funding decisions and Area Committee meetings, a decision was taken to provide a programme of holiday activities across the city which was funded from the £30,000 allocation. In Coalfields this was for a range of activities over two weeks in each ward and £2,000 in total. A similar programme has been considered for May half-term costing £1,000 in total. Participation information for Easter activities is outlined below and the project evaluations are available for member's consideration if required.

**Participation Information:**

Male 32  
 Female 9

**Age Breakdown:**

| Age    | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
|--------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Number | 2  | 5  | 4  | 10 | 6  | 1  | 7  | 5  | 1  |

**Attendance by Postcode:**

Of the young people who provided a postcode, the breakdown is as follows:

Copt Hill 9  
 Hetton 3  
 Houghton 2  
 Shiney Row 8  
 Other wards 2

2.2.7 Service providers will need time to plan activities across the school summer holidays if it is agreed that a programme should be put in place, and it would be helpful for Committee to agree or otherwise that a funded programme of activities is a priority.

2.2.8 Area Committee has allocated £10,000 SIB to pilot a targeted youth project for six months from March 2011. Committee may wish to consider utilising a proportion of the £30,000 described above to extend this pilot to March 2012 (subject to evaluation).

2.2.9 Area Committee has identified Play Provision (social and play activities for those under 13) as one of their priorities. Committee may wish to consider allocating a proportion of SIB funding to deliver activities against this priority to enhance the £30,000 as described above.

2.2.10 Area Committee has set up a Task and Result group for youth, which has now been incorporated, with a separate agenda item, into the XL Youth Village Steering Group. This group oversees the youth work in the Coalfield area and makes recommendations to Area Committee.

**2.3 Support for Older People**

Older People (women over 60 and men over 65) in Coalfield make up 20.2% (9,505) of the population. In Coalfield 1,657 residents over 65 are receiving nursing, community based or residential care services, this is 20.5% of the area's population. In relation to individual wards more residents in Shiney Row (22.1%), and Copt Hill (24.2%) are in receipt of care than the average for the area.

It was agreed that 'support for older people' would be a key priority for the area during 2011/12 and the actions outlined in the attached Work Plan have been developed as a result of meetings with Members and Partners throughout recent months.

It is proposed that a Support for Older People Task and Result group be established, and membership agreed, to develop and implement the actions to support the achievement of this priority

#### **2.4 Empty Properties**

As at January 2011 there were approximately 400 empty homes (private sector) across the area. Health, Housing and Adult Services are responsible for working with owners of residential properties in the private sector. A private sector housing officer (empty properties) has been in post since November 2010. The officer is dedicated to the Coalfield area.

During discussions and meetings with Members and relevant partners, it was agreed that 'empty properties' would be a key priority for 2011/12 and that the Assistant Housing and Neighbourhood Renewal Manager (Graeme Wilson) would develop an area based Empty property Action Plan in consultation with Area Committee.

It is proposed that the Lead Agent will regularly consult with, and update, Area Committee with regard to the development of the Action Plan.

#### **2.5 Neglected Land**

It has been 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.

It was agreed to add 'neglected land' to the key priorities for 2011/12 and the actions outlined in the attached Work Plan have been developed as a result of meetings with Members and Partners throughout recent months.

It is proposed that a Neglected Land Task and Result group be established, and membership agreed, to develop and implement the actions to support the achievement of this priority.

#### **2.6 Public Transport**

Residents within the Coalfields report the lowest satisfaction (57%) within the city with their local bus services. Residents aged 65+ are most likely to be very satisfied (40%) whilst those in the age group 25-34 being more likely to be dissatisfied (24%) with this service. Similarly residents within the Coalfields are least satisfied with the provision of local transport information (49%). Those residents aged 65+ are most likely to be satisfied (73%) with the service whilst those within the 35-54 age group most dissatisfied (17%).

A representative from Nexus attends Area Committee as a key partner and the membership of the Integrated Transport Authority (ITA) includes 3 Coalfield Area Councillors.

It was agreed that public transport issues would be dealt with through the existing mechanism, but that Area Committee would consider any local issues when addressing all other priorities. Therefore, it is proposed that Public Transport is removed from the Work Plan and added as an action against each of the other priorities.

### **3. Alignment of SIB Funding Against Priorities**

3.1 It has always been an ambition of the Committee, through its Work Plan, to take a more proactive role in the identification, development and funding of projects, which fulfil its priorities. The development of 2010/11 Task and Result Groups has begun this process.

- 3.2 It is proposed to further this process whereby the Area Committee will invite funding applications, where appropriate, from organisations, in order to deliver specific strategic priorities identified in the Work Plan. This process, known as a 'Call for Projects' will require the relevant Task and Result group, or Area Committee, to devise a project brief defining expected outcomes, budget and timescales.
- 3.3 It is proposed that the Task and Result Groups be allowed to recommend allocation of funding, which would be agreed by Committee, allowing the commissioning of activity that would provide the outcomes required to successfully contribute to the priority.

#### **4. Recommendation**

Members are requested to:

##### **Agree Annex 1**

##### **Youth Activities and Play Provision**

- Consider previous activities delivered and agree if any should continue as a priority
- Identify other priorities for enhanced youth activity, either at a universal or targeted level, which the Area Committee would request are progressed
- Note the use of £3,000 of the funding to provide activities during school holidays
- Agree that a programme of holiday activity be developed
- Agree that the Task and Result Group (youth) develop a recommendation for allocating a proportion of SIB 2011/12 budget, in line with Children Services Area funding of £30,000 to deliver positive activities for children and young people living in Coalfields
- Agree to receive a further report on the programme of activities to be delivered following Committee considerations as well as later report to evaluate the success of the programme

##### **Support for Older People**

- Agree to set up a Task and Result Group
- Agree membership of the Task and Result Group
- Agree the Lead Agent for this priority

##### **Empty Properties**

- Agree to work with the Lead Agent to develop and implement a Coalfield Empty Property Action Plan

##### **Neglected Land**

- Agree to set up a Task and Result Group
- Agree membership of the Task and Result Group
- Agree the Lead Agent for this priority

##### **Public Transport**

- Agree to remove this priority from the Work Plan and add as an action against each of the other priorities.

**Agree the Call for Projects protocol to be used in the allocation of SIB funding.**

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

**Background Papers:** Sunderland City Council Constitution, Section 10.2  
Terms of Reference of LAP Task and Finish Group  
Coalfield area Work Plan

**Annex 1:** Coalfield Area Committee: Work Plan 2011/12  
Page 38 of 48

| Priority  | Issue  | Local Action to Influence Services                              | Lead Agent                    | Progress Report   | Area Committee's Influencing Role                     | Outcome Measure  | RAG                                 |  |
|---|--|---|-------------------------------|---|---|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| Support for Older People                                  | Range of local services being delivered - need co-ordinated approach | Set up Task and Result Group                                    | Pauline Hopper                |   |   | T&R membership agreed                                      |                                     |  |
|   | Content and quality of current services                              | Audit of local services provided for older people               |                               |   | Highlight areas of concern to HHAS                    | Improved service provision                                 |                                     |  |
|   | Accessibility to services  | Audit of where local services are delivered/accessible          |                               |   |   |  |                                     |  |
|   | Mobility and 'getting around'  |   |                               |   |   |  |                                     |  |
|   | Money and debt advice – mobile and outreach services                 | Promote on line or telephone support. Develop outreach services |                               |   |   | Partnership working e.g. DWP                               | More outreach and accessible advice |  |
|   | Promote support available – market and advertise                     |   |                               |   |   | Promote services to local people                           |                                     |  |
|   | Volunteers for services available e.g. allotments                    | Encourage and develop local communities to become volunteers    | Area Network Volunteer Centre |   |   | Identify volunteering opportunities and training available | Number of volunteers engaged        |  |
| Social interaction (especially those in residential care) |  |   |                               |   |   |  |                                     |  |
| Priority  | Issue  | Local Action to Influence Services                              | Lead Agent                    | Progress Report   | Area Committee's Influencing Role                     | Outcome Measure  | RAG                                 |  |
| Empty properties  | Planned approach   | Development of an area based Empty Properties Action Plan       | Graeme Wilson                 | A draft has been prepared and will be presented to Area Committee by lead agent | Input into development of plan                        | Area Plan with targets agreed                              |                                     |  |
|   | Enforcement  | Identify nuisance properties                                    | Liz McEvoy                    | The Empty Properties Officer has followed up properties highlighted to date     | Support enforcement process                           | Number of notices issued                                   |                                     |  |
|   | Private landlords  | Develop landlord forum  | Liz McEvoy                    |   | Encourage local landlords to participate              | Number of accredited landlords                             |                                     |  |
|   | Learn from best practice (e.g. square root group)                    |   | Area Committee                |   | Encourage partnership working and community ownership |  |                                     |  |

|                  |  |   |                              |   |   |  |            |
|------------------|--|---|------------------------------|---|---|--|------------|
|                  | Identify 1 or 2 hotspots for improvement                             |   | Graeme Wilson                |   | Develop improvements to meet local need   | Properties brought back into use                           |            |
|                  | HCA funding - explore further and consider match                     |   | Graeme Wilson                | An application for funding has been submitted to the HCA. Feedback will be given by lead agent at the next meeting          | Add support to application  | Funding secured/ funding allocated                         |            |
| <b>Priority</b>  | <b>Issue</b>   | <b>Local Action to Influence Services</b> | <b>Lead Agent</b>            | <b>Progress Report</b>  | <b>Area Committee's Influencing Role</b>  | <b>Outcome Measure</b>                                     | <b>RAG</b> |
| Neglected land   | Need co-ordinated approach/action plan                               | Set up Task and Result Group              | Pauline Hopper               |   |   | T&R membership agreed                                      |            |
|                  | Identify neglected land  | Carry out audit of relevant sites         | Dave Ellison                 |   | Development of land use to meet resident need   | Audit produced   |            |
|                  | Industrial sites/fly   |   | Dave Ellison                 |   |   |  |            |
|                  | Ownership (SLM large and small plots)                                |   | Craig Logue/Ian Crosby       |   | Development of land use   | SLM system updated   |            |
|                  | Investigate adverse possession of appropriate sites                  |   | Property Services            |   |   |  |            |
|                  | Involve Property Services in addressing issues                       |   | Colin Clark                  |   |   |  |            |
|                  | Work with landowners - eg Lambton Estates                            |   | Colin Clark                  |   |   |  |            |
|                  | Link with other priorities - unadopted roads, empty properties etc.. |   | Pauline Hopper/ Dave Ellison |   |   |  |            |
|                  | Unfinished developments  |   | Building Control             |   |   |  |            |
| <b>Priority</b>  | <b>Issue</b>   | <b>Local Action to Influence Services</b> | <b>Lead Agent</b>            | <b>Progress Report</b>  | <b>Area Committee's Influencing Role</b>  | <b>Outcome Measure</b>                                     | <b>RAG</b> |
| Public transport | Adequate service provision for local residents                       |   |                              | It is proposed that this priority is removed from the action plan and added as an issue within each of the priorities above | James Third to attend each Area Committee as a key member. Area Committee to feed views etc.. Via James | Public transport considered when addressing all priorities |            |



**COALFIELD AREA COMMITTEE**  
**1 JUNE 2011**  
**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I**

**Title of Report:**  
 Community Chest, Strategic Initiative Budget (SIB) and Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) - Financial Statement and Proposals for Further Allocation of Resources

**Author(s):**  
 Chief Executive

**Purpose of Report:**  
 This report requests Area Committee to consider proposals for the allocation of the Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) and Community Chest to support initiatives that will deliver activity against priorities for 2011/12.

**Description of Decision:**  
 The Committee is requested to approve the following from the 2011/12 budget:

**Annex 1:**

- Approve 4 SIB proposals from the 2011/12 budget as outlined in 2.1.
- Approve 1 SIP proposal from underspend from 2010/11 as outlined in 2.2

**Annex 2:**

- Approve 16 Community Chest requests from the 2011/12 budget as outlined in 2.3

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

**Suggested reason(s) for Decision:**

SIB is a budget delegated to Area Committee in order to commission activity that delivers actions against the key strategic priorities identified in the Coalfield Work Plan. Its main purpose is to benefit the local community and to attract other funding into the area.

The Area Committee has a total SIB budget of £238,257 for 2011/12, which includes £1,564 returned to budget from a previously funded project.

SIP is a budget delegated to Area Committee in order to commission activity that delivers actions against the key strategic priorities identified in the Coalfield Work Plan. A total budget of £4,453 is available due to savings made on a previously funded project.

The Community Chest forms part of SIB, of which £250,000 is available for the scheme in 2011/2012 across all wards. £10,000 is available for each ward (Copt Hill, Hetton, Houghton and Shiny Row) in addition, £2,880 was carried over from previous years, making this years total balance £42,880.

**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 Committees:

## COALFIELD AREA COMMITTEE

1 June 2011

### REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

#### Community Chest, Strategic Initiative Budget (SIB) and Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) – Financial Update and Proposals for Further Allocation of Resources

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

1.1 Area Committee has delegated budgets to allocate to specific strategic priorities identified in the Work Plan, with the overall aim to benefit the wider community and to attract other funding into the area. This report provides an update position on progress in relation to allocating SIB, SIP and Community Chest.

##### 2. Funding streams 2011/2012 as at 1 June 2011

###### 2.1 SIB

Following the March 2011 Committee meeting there was no remaining balance as all funds had been fully allocated during 2010/11. The budget available for 2011/12 is £238,257. This amount includes £1,564 returned to budget from the Community Leaders of the Future project.

The following projects detailed in **Annex 1** are presented to Committee for consideration:

|   |         |                |
|---|---------|----------------|
| 1. Easington Lane Lighting                | £3,500  | <b>Approve</b> |
| 2. Elemore Vale Steelworks                | £6,000  | <b>Approve</b> |
| 3. The Sunderland Festival                | £3,000  | <b>Approve</b> |
| 4. Grangewood Play Site Footpath Lighting | £13,775 | <b>Approve</b> |

Projects presented total £26,275. Should all of the proposals be approved the remaining balance for the 2011/2012 allocation would be £211,982.

###### 2.2 SIP

Following the March 2011 Committee meeting there was no remaining balance for SIP as all funds had been fully allocated during 2010/11. However, due to an underspend on projects in the Shiney Row ward a balance of £4,453 remains.

The following project detailed in **Annex 1** is presented to Committee for consideration:

|   |        |                |
|---|--------|----------------|
| 1. Grangewood Play Site Footpath Lighting | £4,453 | <b>Approve</b> |
|---|--------|----------------|

Should this project proposal be approved there would be no remaining balance for SIP.

###### 2.3 Community Chest

The table below details the Community Chest funding available for each ward. The total available includes underspend from 2010/11 and any unclaimed money from 2008/09. In future years unclaimed Community Chest will be reviewed every 12 months and be returned to the relevant ward budget where appropriate. For projects which have received funding from more than one ward the unclaimed money will be returned in relevant proportions to all contributing wards. The table also totals project proposals

presented to this meeting set out in **Annex 2**, together with the balances remaining should these proposals be approved.

| <b>Ward</b>  | <b>Budget Available</b> | <b>Project Proposals</b> | <b>Balance</b> |
|--------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| Copt Hill    | £10,900                 | £1,625                   | £9,275         |
| Hetton       | £10,305                 | £705                     | £9,600         |
| Houghton     | £10,731                 | £1,875                   | £8,856         |
| Shiney Row   | £10,944                 | £1,695                   | £9,249         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>£42,880</b>          | <b>£5,900</b>            | <b>£36,980</b> |

### **3 Recommendations**

Committee is requested to:

- Note the financial information set out in sections 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3.
- Approve the recommendations set out in Annex 1 (SIB/SIP applications)
- Approve the proposals for support from 2011/2012 Community Chest set out in Annex 2.

**Contact Officer:** Pauline Hopper, Coalfield Area Officer  
5617912, [pauline.hopper@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:pauline.hopper@sunderland.gov.uk)

**Annex 1** Summary of SIB/SIP project applications

**Annex 2** Community Chest proposals

### Summary of SIB/SIP Funding Applications

|   |   |                |
|---|---|----------------|
| 1 | <b>Easington Lane Lighting</b>                | <b>SIB</b>     |
| 2 | <b>Elemore Vale Steelworks</b>                | <b>SIB</b>     |
| 3 | <b>Sunderland Festival</b>                    | <b>SIB</b>     |
| 4 | <b>Grangewood Play Site footpath lighting</b> | <b>SIP/SIB</b> |

#### Application No1 – Easington Lane Lighting

|                              |                   |                            |
|------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Total cost of Project</b> | <b>Total SIB</b>  | <b>Total match funding</b> |
| £8,500                       | £3,500            | £5,000                     |
| <b>Project Duration</b>      | <b>Start Date</b> | <b>End Date</b>            |
| 2 months                     | June 2011         | July 2011                  |

#### **The Project**

The project will install three lighting columns along a footpath leading from Easington Lane High Street (next to the library), behind Jubilee House and to the Flatts Youth Centre. The area is currently unlit and as a result many residents feel unsafe. Young people use the area to access the youth provision, residents use as a short cut and dog walkers use the open space to exercise their pets. Some users of the footpath feel threatened when the surrounding area is not visible. The installation, maintenance and power supply costs are included in the project total and will ensure the area is inspected on a regular basis. The project will contribute to the safe priority of reducing the fear of crime and also to the youth disorder priority identified for Easington Lane in particular. Any opportunity for disorder at this location will be minimised by the introduction of lighting. £4,000 has been secured from mainstream highways budgets and £1,000 from the Coalfield LMAPS.

#### **Need for the Project**

The issue has been raised at LMAPS and has also been the subject of a series of special meetings to discuss crime and the fear of crime in the Easington Lane area. The police have highlighted problems caused by the footpath not being lit and local residents have also expressed concern. Work is ongoing to encourage young people to participate in positive activities and to engage them in projects and programmes to improve their neighbourhood. Young people have been consulted as part of the XL youth village and additional youth sessions at the Flatts. The design has been produced in consultation with Aurora (the PFI contractor).

#### **Outputs of the Project**

|    |   |   |
|----|---|---|
| S1 | Community venues with improved security | 1 |
|----|---|---|

#### **Key Milestones for the Project**

|                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| Work commences | Mid June 2011 |
| Work complete  | July 2011     |

#### **Recommendation: Approve**

The project meets the objectives set out in the Local Area Plan and the Work Plan for 2010/11. The Police support this project, have identified an evidence based need for this improvement to take place. The initial project idea was developed by LMAPS and the Youth Disorder Task and Result Group.

#### Application No 2 – Elemore Vale Steelworks

|                              |                   |                            |
|------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Total cost of Project</b> | <b>Total SIB</b>  | <b>Total match funding</b> |
| £6,000                       | £6,000            | See below                  |
| <b>Project Duration</b>      | <b>Start Date</b> | <b>End Date</b>            |
| 4 months                     | June 2011         | September 2011             |

## The Project

Elemore Vale has been subject to a recently completed £20,000 project funded by the Woodland Trust, to install a series of preventative measure to reduce motor cycle disorder in the area. The work has already seen good results and positive feedback from local residents and the local Police. It has been reported that the work could benefit from being slightly extended, and this project will install steelworks in two weakness points to ensure maximum effectiveness. The estimated costs are £6,000 but will be confirmed once a final design has been agreed.

## Need for the Project

The subject of motorcycle disorder has been raised by both LMAPS and Coalfield Area Committee over the last year. The issue has been identified as a priority for Committee and has been escalated to the Safer Sunderland Partnership. Intelligence from the Police suggests that Elemore Vale is a motorcycle disorder 'hotspot' and installation of these additional barriers will further support the operations already in place.

## Outputs of the Project

|    |   |   |
|----|---|---|
| S1 | Community venues with improved security | 1 |
|----|---|---|

## Key Milestones for the Project

|                |           |
|----------------|-----------|
| Work commences | June 2011 |
| Work complete  | Sept 2011 |

## Recommendation: Approve

The project meets the priority of Motor Cycle disorder identified in the 2010/11 Work Plan. The newly completed works funded by the Woodland Trust have shown great benefits and this project will enhance and complement existing preventative measures.

### Application No 3 – Sunderland Festival

| Total cost of Project | Total SIB                                  | Total match funding |
|-----------------------|--|---------------------|
| £60,000               | £15,000 in total,<br>£3,000 from Coalfield | £45,000             |
| Project Duration      | Start Date                                 | End Date            |
| 3 day festival        | June 2011 (planning<br>and organisation)   | July 2011           |

## The Project

The new Sunderland Festival will take place between 1 - 4 July 2011. The festival will be city wide with the main site located at North Area Playing Fields. Because of the location of the main site in Washington and the link to Independence Day the festival's theme will be Americana. Daytime Saturday & Sunday programme will include Classic American Car Display, American Football Display, Baseball and Basketball Demonstrations and competition, Fun Fair, Kite Flying, Cheerleading demonstrations and Music and dance performances from schools across Sunderland. The main site will feature: Local & regional Bands night - Friday 1 July and Country & Western evening - Saturday 2 July

The emphasis of activity on the main site will be on participation as well as enjoying the entertainment. In addition to activity on the main site there will be a drive in movie at Herrington Country Park on Saturday 2 July 2011. The funding from Coalfield Area Committee will also provide access to the festival activity for a greater number of people. This will include reduced car parking fees, reduced catering prices, and transport for groups wishing to perform at the festival

## Need for the Project

Sunderland International Friendship Festival and prior to that the Kite Festival, on the North Area Playing Fields site have attracted significant visitors from the wider area.

The new Sunderland Festival will have activity taking place across the city throughout the weekend providing greater opportunities for people to see and participate in American themed activity. There will be activity taking place in each of the 5 areas of the city enabling residents to take in something on their own doorstep as well as in a neighbouring area.

The festival will also encourage participation whether that is children and young people showcasing their music and dance talent or the opportunity to play American Football, Basketball or Baseball, Kite flying or joining in a wide range of childrens activity.

The funding from Coalfield Area Committee will provide access to the festival activity for a greater number of people. This will include reduced car parking fees, reduced catering prices, and transport for groups wishing to perform at the festival.

### Outputs of the Project

|    |  |     |
|----|--|-----|
| S5 | Young people benefiting from diversionary activities | 50  |
| P3 | Number of people volunteering                        | 100 |
| A6 | Number of community events held                      | 5   |

### Key Milestones for the Project

|                               |           |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Promotion of events           | June 2011 |
| Successful delivery of events | July 2011 |
| Evaluation/Debrief            | Sept 2011 |

**Recommendation: Approve** with conditions a) that bands from the local Coalfield area are invited to participate, and b) that consideration be given to ensuring transport links from the Coalfield area to Washington are adequate

### Application No 4 – Grangewood Play Site footpath lighting

|                              |                   |                  |
|------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| <b>Total cost of Project</b> | <b>Total SIP</b>  | <b>Total SIB</b> |
| £18,228                      | £4,453            | £13,775          |
| <b>Project Duration</b>      | <b>Start Date</b> | <b>End Date</b>  |
| 3 months                     | June 2011         | August 2011      |

### The Project

The project will install a total of six lighting columns on two footpaths behind the Grangewood Surgery at Shiny Row. The area currently is well used by residents and visitors using the footpaths to access the play area, doctors' surgery and other amenities. The plan has been designed by Aurora to provide adequate lighting across the whole site. The costs will include supply, installation, power and maintenance of the columns. Due to underspend there is £4,453 SIP from the Shiny Row ward, the balance requested from SIB is £13,775.

### Need for the Project

This is a popular, well used, footpath and the need has been highlighted by the local community, via their ward councillors. Residents in the surrounding housing estate/streets have identified the need to enable them to access the location without feeling unsafe.

### Outputs of the Project

|    |   |   |
|----|---|---|
| S5 | Community venues with improved security | 1 |
|----|---|---|

### Key Milestones for the Project

|                      |             |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Commencement of work | June 2011   |
| Completion of work   | August 2011 |

### Recommendation: Approve

The project will contribute to the Play priority and provide a safer environment for local people.

## COMMUNITY CHEST 2011/2012 COALFIELD AREA - PROJECTS PROPOSED FOR APPROVAL

| Ward              | Project  | Amount | Allocation 2011/2012 | Project Proposals | Previous Approvals | Balance Remaining |
|-------------------|--|--------|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Copt Hill</b>  | <b>Friends of Rectory Park</b> – Improvements in park to install a heritage seat and fill in a redundant gateway with matching stone   | 800    |                      |                   |                    |                   |
|                   | <b>The Hetton Centre</b> – Contribution to costs for publicity, literature and hire of premises and equipment for the Eppleton Colliery Disaster 60 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary memorial       | 250    |                      |                   |                    |                   |
|                   | <b>Age UK</b> – Contribution towards catering and entertainment for the Queen of Eventide tea and a contribution towards refreshments for the Houghton Feast tea dance                       | 75     |                      |                   |                    |                   |
|                   | <b>Hetton Lyons F.C</b> – To provide equipment, clothing for children aged 6 to 18 to participate in football activities.  | 500    |                      |                   |                    |                   |
|                   | <b>Totals</b>  |        | <b>10,900</b>        | <b>1,625</b>      | <b>0</b>           | <b>9,275</b>      |
| <b>Hetton</b>     | <b>Hetton &amp; Eppleton Community Hall</b> – Refreshments for an annual social evening in September 2011  | 180    |                      |                   |                    |                   |
|                   | <b>Age UK</b> - Transport, displays and refreshments for International Day of Older People on 4 October 2011   | 200    |                      |                   |                    |                   |
|                   | <b>The Hetton Centre</b> – Contribution to costs for publicity, literature and hire of premises and equipment for the Eppleton Colliery Disaster 60 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary memorial event | 250    |                      |                   |                    |                   |
|                   | <b>Age UK</b> – Contribution towards catering and entertainment for the Queen of Eventide tea and a contribution towards refreshments for the Houghton Feast tea dance                       | 75     |                      |                   |                    |                   |
|                   | <b>Totals</b>  |        | <b>10,305</b>        | <b>705</b>        | <b>0</b>           | <b>9,600</b>      |
| <b>Houghton</b>   | <b>Friends of Rectory Park</b> – Improvements in park to install a heritage seat and fill in a redundant gateway with matching stone   | 800    |                      |                   |                    |                   |
|                   | <b>Age UK</b> – Contribution towards catering and entertainment for the Queen of Eventide tea and a contribution towards refreshments for the Houghton Feast tea dance                       | 75     |                      |                   |                    |                   |
|                   | <b>Houghton Town Bowls Club</b> – Contribution towards refurbishment of bowls club   | 1000   |                      |                   |                    |                   |
|                   | <b>Totals</b>  |        | <b>10,731</b>        | <b>1,875</b>      | <b>0</b>           | <b>8,856</b>      |
| <b>Shiney Row</b> | <b>Monument View</b> – Materials for the construction of an outside wooden classroom   | 500    |                      |                   |                    |                   |
|                   | <b>Age UK</b> – Contribution towards catering and entertainment  | 75     |                      |                   |                    |                   |

|               |  |     |               |              |          |               |
|---------------|--|-----|---------------|--------------|----------|---------------|
|               | for the Queen of Eventide tea and a contribution towards refreshments for the Houghton Feast tea dance                         |     |               |              |          |               |
|               | <b>St Aidan's Community Group</b> – Contribution towards Stage 1 of the refurbishment of the community village hall            | 500 |               |              |          |               |
|               | <b>Durham Miners Gala</b> – Hire of a band and two coaches to enable a banner march from Herrington WMC to Durham on Gala Day. | 500 |               |              |          |               |
|               | <b>Friends of West Herrington</b> – Environmental improvements to West Herrington Village.                                     | 120 |               |              |          |               |
|               | <b>Totals</b>  |     | <b>10,944</b> | <b>1,695</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>9,249</b>  |
| <b>TOTALS</b> |  |     | <b>42,880</b> | <b>4,900</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>37,980</b> |