

At a Meeting of the WEST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on WEDNESDAY, 25TH MAY, 2011 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor P. Gibson in the Chair

Councillors Essl, Gallagher, Gofton, L. Martin, Morrissey, Oliver, Porthouse, P. Smith, Waller, P. Watson, A. Wilson and T. Wright.

Also Present:-

Bill Blackett	Area Response Manager	Sunderland City Council
Angela Cousins	Area Community Co-ordinator	Sunderland City Council
Kevin Douglas	Internal Communications Officer	Sunderland City Council
Alan Duffy	Head of Operations	Gentoo
Julie Gray	Head of Community Services	Sunderland City Council
Peter Iveson	Station Manager	Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service
Edna Rochester		VCS Network
Sandra Mitchell	Head of PIP, Children's Services	Sunderland City Council
Keith Moore	Area Lead Executive	Sunderland City Council
Ann Morrison		VCS Network
David Noon	Principal Governance Services Officer	Sunderland City Council
Mark Overton	Consultant in Public Health	Sunderland TPCT
Richard Parry	Area Officer	Sunderland City Council
Kevin Jones	Acting Inspector	Northumbria Police
Bill Leach		VCS Network

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and those present introduced themselves.

In particular the Chairman welcomed Councillors Gallagher, Porthouse and Waller who were attending their first meeting as Members of the West Sunderland Area Committee.

Declarations of Interest

Item 2 – Community Chest, Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) and Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) – Financial Statement and Proposals for further Allocation of Resources.

With regard to the Community Chest allocation, Councillors P. Smith and Essl declared personal and prejudicial interests in the report as Council appointed representatives on the Board of Governors of Plains Farm Primary School. Both Members left the meeting room during consideration of the item.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Allan, Smiles, Tye, S. Watson, A. Wright and also on behalf of Cheryl Warcup (Northumbria Police), James Third (Nexus), Nonnie Crawford (STPCT), Julie Raine (City of Sunderland College), Jenny Scott (Sunderland City Council) and Lucy Malarky (Gentoo).

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 30th March, 2011

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 30th March, 2011 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

West Sunderland Area Committee – Annual Report

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) comprising the West Sunderland Area Committee's Annual Report which provided Members with a snapshot of the Committee's work over the 2010/11 municipal year concerning the following key priorities:-

- (i) Child Poverty
- (ii) Environmental and Street Improvement
- (iii) Health and Well Being, focusing on areas of concern and Risk Taking Lifestyle Behaviour
- (iv) Traffic and Parking
- (v) Youth and Play Provision, and
- (vi) Responsive Local Services

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Richard Parry, Area Officer presented the report assisted by Mark Overton and Bill Blackett who addressed questions and comments from Members in relation to their areas of expertise. In addition to information regarding the key priorities Members, were also apprised of the governance and operation of the Committee's meetings, its allocation of finance together with lessons learned and the next steps.

The Chairman having thanked Mr. Parry for his report, it was:-

2. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Sunderland West Area Committee: Work Plan 2011/12

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which presented for Members approval, a copy of the Committee's draft work plan for 2011/12.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Richard Parry, Area Officer presented the report and in relation to Youth and Play Provision introduced, Sandra Mitchell, Head of Early Intervention and Locality Services who provided Members with an update report (Annex 1b) on the allocation of £3,600 to provide activities during the Easter and May half-term school holidays.

With regard to the Work Programme, Mr. Parry advised that its purpose was to clearly identify the key priorities for the Area Committee to discuss, deliver actions and monitor throughout the year, with the overall outcome to improve the quality of life for residents within Sunderland West.

It would provide 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 was doing to make a difference within their neighbourhood.

If adopted, the work plan would inform the majority of work for Sunderland West Area Committee for 2011-2012, as it would 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 would be made up of six work streams, each of which represented a key priority for Committee, namely:-

1. Youth and Play provision; diversionary activities to alleviate Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) and disorder.
2. Traffic and Highways, including repairs, speeding and dangerous driving.
3. Job Prospects.
4. Health and Well Being, focusing on areas of concern and risk taking behaviour.
5. Child Poverty.
6. Environmental and Street Scene improvements, including shopping centres.

Consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that approval be given to the Work Plan as detailed in Annex 1 of the report together with the specific recommendations regarding each work stream as detailed in paragraph 4 of the report.

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

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) in respect of the above matter.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Richard Parry, Area Officer, presented the item informing Members of the following recommendations as detailed in the report:-

- (i) to note the financial statement for Area Committee funding for 2011/2012;
- (ii) to approve the granting of SIB funding of £3,000 in respect of the City Council's 'Sunderland Festival' project;
- (iii) to approve the granting of £2,700 SIB funding in respect of the Silksworth Miners Banner Group's 'Celebrating Mining Heritage' project; and
- (iv) to approve 9 proposals for support from the 2011/2012 Community Chest.

Consideration was given to the report and to the funding requests.

Accordingly it was:-

4. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the Area Committee's funding statement for 2011-12 be received and noted;
- (ii) approval be given to the granting of SIB funding of £3,000 to Sunderland City Council in respect of the Sunderland Festival project;
- (iii) approval be given to the granting of SIB funding of £2,700 to the Silksworth Miners Banner in respect of the 'Celebrating Mining Heritage' project; and
- (iv) approval be given to the granting of 9 Community Chest applications as detailed in Annex 1b of the report.

The Chairman then closed the meeting having thanked everyone for their attendance.

(Signed) P. GIBSON,
Chairman.

SUNDERLAND WEST AREA COMMITTEE

6th JULY 2011

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

COMMUNITY ACTION IN SUNDERLAND WEST – PROGRESS REVIEW

Work Plan 2011/12: Job Prospects

1. Why has it come to Committee?

- 1.1 The report provides an update of outstanding issues from the 2010/11 work plan and progress against agreed actions in the current year's (2011/12) work plan; **Annex 1a**.

2. Work Plan 2011/12: Job Prospects

- 2.1 At its last meeting, the committee agreed to establish a 'Task and Finish' group to develop project proposals for the consideration of Area Committee.
- 2.2 The Task and Finish group met on 9th June to discuss the key issues that the Area Committee had agreed were those identified as a means to deliver this priority. These key issues are:
- Increasing employability;
 - Support to increase the job skills of the most vulnerable and hard to reach;
 - Accredited training for volunteers to improve skills and confidence.
- 2.3 The Task and Finish group focussed its deliberations on the first two points, due to imminent changes to employability support, as a result of the Government's new Work Programme (WP). It is intended to address the third objective at a future meeting.

3. Background

- 3.1 Employability support is currently led by Job Linkage, a council funded service through Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF). Job Linkage is delivered by Sunderland North Community Business Centre (SNCBC) and works in partnership with Job Centre Plus and other enterprise agencies.
- 3.2 WNF came to an end in March of this year, but due to an under spend, the WNF Board agreed to allocate £500,000 on a retained Job Linkage service, to operate until the Work Programme is operational, on 1st October.
- 3.3 SNCBC has been selected as a local delivery agent in Sunderland for one of the regional providers of the Work Programme. This represents 63% of the delivery contract in Sunderland. The remaining 37% will be delivered by another prime contractor in the city centre.
- 3.4 The Work Programme contract is for SNCBC to work with 1022 people referred by Job Centre Plus, across the city in a 12 month period. This would equate to just over 200 residents from the West receiving a service. This compares to almost 1,000 West residents currently receiving a service.
- 3.5 The Work Programme specifically targets people on 'out of work' benefits, whereas Job Linkage also provides support to those seeking to enter the labour market, who may be on other benefits, such as income support or incapacity benefits.

4. Current Situation

4.1 In the West, Job Linkage currently operates from five locations:

- Thorney Close Action and Enterprise Centre (TCAEC);
- Grindon Action, Technology and Enterprise shop (GATES);
- Hylton Road, Pennywell;
- Farrington Jubilee Centre;
- Pallion Action Group.

In addition, the Jubilee Centre also provides outreach services at the Gentoo housing office in Silksworth. It should also be noted that New View, in Pallion, which was a Job Linkage outlet, closed on 31st March.

4.2 Job Linkage is an integral part of local service delivery, supporting through shared premises and service synchronicity, a range of community venues. For instance, Pennywell Job Linkage is a 'locality hub' providing a base for the citywide Fiscus (financial advice) team, an outreach base for Children's Centre, Connexions, Shaw Trust and ex offender services.

4.3 The funding for the delivery of the Work Programme will not support locality provision and is likely support the employment of up to two staff for the West.

4.4 April and May have seen an increase in demand for Job Linkage services, which will cease at the end of September and will see approximately 800 people lose support in the West. In addition, people recently unemployed may have to wait up to five years for service.

4.5 For the year 2010/11, the cost of Job Linkage's staff was in the region of £350,000 in the West. In addition, there were additional costs in the form of payments to Welfare Rights and other support services, free training and skills' development and travel to work costs for beneficiaries.

5. Changes

5.1 Unemployment in the West is 7.2%, broken down by ward as follows:

- Barnes, 5.2%;
- Pallion, 12.7%;
- Sandhill, 10.3%;
- Silksworth, 7.2%;
- St Anne's, 9%;
- St Chad, 6.8%.

However, these figures represent the claimant count. The official definition of unemployment, drawn from the Labour Force Survey (LFS), shows it at 12.3% for Sunderland. The implication of the LFS is that substantial numbers of people will not be able to access Work Programme support.

5.2 In addition, from the end of September the Work Programme will not provide the funding to sustain Job Linkage or locality working, which, in turn, is likely to begin to affect the viability of complementary services, such as adult and family learning.

5.3 Retaining a range of locality services is seen as integral to the delivery of a number of strategies, such as child and family poverty and concern has been expressed by the Teaching Primary Care Trust about local capacity to deliver 'Health Champions'.

6. Proposal

- 6.1 In order to meet the committee's objectives of increasing employability and the job skills of the most vulnerable and hard to reach, it is proposed to commit £180,000 of Area Committee budget, over a two year period, to support a local network of specialist, niche provision. This £90,000 per year compares to current Job Linkage expenditure, in excess of £350,000 per year, and will provide bespoke niche provision for the most vulnerable in the local community. Further, performance against outcomes will be monitored on an ongoing basis and reported annually and continued expenditure would be subject to this review.
- 6.2 This equates to £15,000 per ward per year and will support the delivery of specialist provision across the six wards. By integrating this delivery with the Work Programme delivery, it will maximise flexibility and effective working and the use of resources.
- 6.3 The services would be delivered through the existing four bases with additional provision in Silksworth, Pallion and in Barnes, utilising additional outreach venues and a mobile service that SNCBC operate.
- 6.4 By combining a local service provision with the resources from the Work Programme, this will provide six workers covering the West. Outputs per annum would be 690 residents supported with 180 into employment, in addition to the 200 people through the Work Programme.
- 6.5 The service provided will be advice, guidance and intensive support to individuals and sign posting and support to other complementary services. On the basis of previously achieved outcomes, it is anticipated that the annual rate of job retention will be 50%, which is 15 per ward at a cost of £1,000 per job.
- 6.6 The envisaged service, as well as being complemented by other locally based community services, will be supported by SNCBC's Employer Link Team, which works with 250 employers to source staff for them.

7. Sustainability

- 7.1 The proposal to commit £90,000 per year for two years, will provide a secure foundation to meet committee priorities. In addition, it is envisaged the Government's impending 'Family Initiative' will add to the menu of funding for community based employability provision.

Recommendation:

- Note the proposals outlined in the report and approve the allocation of £180,000 of Strategic Initiatives' Budget, subject to full appraisal and consultation, for the delivery of a West Job Prospects Initiative over a period of two years.

Contact Officer: Richard Parry, Sunderland West Area Officer
Tel: 0191 561 1217
Email: richard.parry@sunderland.gov.uk

SUNDERLAND WEST AREA COMMITTEE

6TH JULY 2011

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

COMMUNITY ACTION IN SUNDERLAND WEST – PROGRESS REVIEW

Work Plan 2011/12: Environmental and Street Scene Improvements, including Shopping Centres

1. Why has it come to Committee?

1.1 The report provides an update of outstanding issues from the 2010/11 work plan and progress against agreed actions in the current year's (2011/12) work plan; **Annex 1a**.

2. Work Plan 2011/11: Environmental and Street Scene Improvements, including Shopping Centres

2.1 At its last meeting, the committee agreed the continuation of the 'Task and Finish' group to develop project proposals for the consideration of Area Committee.

2.2 The Task and Finish group met on 30th June, after the publication of committee papers, and a verbal report will be given on progress to date.

2.3 Programmes of work from last financial year, at Thorndale Road and Pallion shops, have been incorporated into the work of the Task and Finish group and committee will receive a verbal update.

2.2 In addition, members will be aware of the completed works undertaken within Barnes Park and the highly successful celebration event held 21 May 2011, which marked the re-opening of the Park following a £3.6 million regeneration scheme. A progress report is attached at Annex 1b.

Recommendation:

- Note the progress of the Task and Finish group, as reported.
- Note the completion of the Barnes Park regeneration scheme.
- Consider future programmes of environmental improvement for consideration by the Task and Finish Group.

Contact officer: Richard Parry, Sunderland West Area Officer

Tel: 0191 561 1217; e-mail: richard.parry@sunderland.gov.uk

SUNDERLAND WEST AREA COMMITTEE

6TH JULY 2011

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

COMMUNITY ACTION IN SUNDERLAND WEST – PROGRESS REVIEW

Work Plan 2011/12: Health and Well Being, focussing on areas of concern and risk taking lifestyle behaviour

1. Why has it come to Committee?

- 1.1 The report provides an update of outstanding issues from the 2010/11 work plan and progress against agreed actions in the current year's (2011/12) work plan; **Annex 1a**.

2. Work Plan 2011/12: Health and Well being

- 2.1 At its last meeting, the committee agreed the continuation of the 'Task and Finish' group to develop project proposals for the consideration of Area Committee.
- 2.2 The Task and Finish group met on 25th May to discuss progress and developments with the committee's 'Health Champions' project.
- 2.3 The group has focussed on the main social determinants of health and has looked to develop a systematic approach to tackling lifestyle and risk taking behaviour and health inequalities. Further, the evidence suggests the main problem, at this stage, is not a lack of services to assist in the development of healthy behaviour, but a lack of connectivity between services and many of those most in need of them. This has led to the Health Champions project, agreed by committee last financial year.
- 2.4 There has been a good response from the local Voluntary and Community Sector and interest is growing, particularly in relation to 'Understanding Health Improvement'. The 'Health Champions' project is also aligned to the 'Achieving Marmot' project that is being led by the Council's Wellness Service, which is enabling even more individuals to receive the 'Understanding Health Improvement' course. However, engaging small voluntary groups can be a challenge as local volunteers may struggle to undertake training and organise their group's activities. Different delivery models are being investigated, for example, delivering a three hour module as three one hour sessions. In addition, the importance of local delivery to local groups and individuals is seen as critical to the project's success. Work is continuing to target groups and organisations who can play a role in developing Health Champions.
- 2.5 Schools are being contacted and a youth project has a Peer Education and Mentoring programme involving 15 young people who will qualify as Health Champions and illustrates the project developing its work for young people.
- 2.6 As part of the continuing programme of raising the project's profile, the Teaching Primary Care Trust (TPCT) is investigating an infrastructure of support for Health champions, which could involve an award ceremony and the creation of a virtual network, newsletter and further training opportunities.
- 2.7 The Sunderland Local Engagement Board has been involved in consultations on the progress and development of Health Champions, specifically on the themes of:
- The project's learning modules;

- Groups of people to target as Health Champions;
- Developing the project to enable members of the public to become Health Champions;
- Improving the approach of the Health Champions project.

This and other consultations and a project evaluation will help to determine the future direction of the project.

Recommendation:

- To note the progress of the Health and Well Being Task and Finish group and the progress of the West Health Champions project.

Contact officer: Richard Parry, Sunderland West Area Officer
Tel: 0191 561 1217; e-mail: richard.parry@sunderland.gov.uk

SUNDERLAND WEST AREA COMMITTEE

6TH JULY 2011

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

COMMUNITY ACTION IN SUNDERLAND WEST – PROGRESS REVIEW

Work Plan 2011/12: Youth and play provision: diversionary activities to alleviate Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) and disorder

1. Why has it come to Committee?

- 1.1 The report provides an update of outstanding issues from the 2010/11 work plan and progress against agreed actions in the current year's (2011/12) work plan; **Annex 1a**.

2. Work plan 2011/12: Youth and play provision

- 2.1 At its last meeting the committee agreed to establish a 'Task and Finish' group to develop project proposals to report to Area Committee.
- 2.2 The Task and Finish group met on 16th June to discuss the key issues that the Area Committee had agreed were those identified as a means to deliver this priority. These key issues are:
- Out of school activity for 8 – 12 year olds;
 - Holiday activity provision;
 - Community leader training to assist the transition for volunteers;
 - Map anti social behaviour and possible activity to alleviate it.

The Task and Finish group focussed its deliberations on the second point, due to the imminence of the school summer holidays.

- 2.3 In addition to this at the last meeting of the Area Committee, Children's Services allocated £30,000 to each area of the city to be considered for delivery of youth provision. It was agreed within Area Committee that this funding would be used to provide positive activities for children and young people and the planning and expenditure would be discussed and recommendations made through the Task and Finish Group for youth and play provision. It should be noted that £3,600 of this money was allocated to Easter holiday activities.
- 2.4 The Task and Finish group proposed that activities in the West would be coordinated and subject to a single publicity and funding regime. It was further proposed that the programme of holiday activities should include all age ranges from play provision for 8-12 year olds and youth provision for over 13s. The activities are being organised on a ward basis, across the age ranges and are being coordinated at an area level. Transport and other resources will be shared and existing services, such as mobile provision and XL Youth Villages will be part of the activity programme. The proposed programme is currently being finalised and details will be circulated at the committee meeting.
- 2.5 To deliver the holiday activity programme, it is proposed to allocate up to £7,000 per ward. It is proposed this be funded from the Strategic Initiatives Budget and that a single collaborative bid be approved in principle. This would enable the committee to allocate the Children's Services funding to other positive activities for children and young people.

Recommendation:

- Note the up the work of the Task and Finish Group;
- Agree the draft programme of activities;
- Approve the allocation of up to £42,000, £7,000 per ward, subject to full consultation and appraisal, for the delivery of the West Holiday Activities programme.

Contact officer: Richard Parry, Sunderland West Area Officer
Tel: 0191 561 1217; e-mail: richard.parry@sunderland.gov.uk

Priority	Issue	Local Action to Influence Services	Lead Agent	Progress Report	Area Committee's Influencing	Outcome Measure	Date	RAG
Youth and play provision; diversionary activities to alleviate ASB and disorder	Lack of out of school activity for 8-12 yr olds	Task and Finish Group to map provision and need and develop options for the Area Committee	Jane Eland Jane Wheeler, Insp Kevin Jones	Task and Finish group to report to Sept meeting	Identification of gaps in service; commission activity	Increase no. of young people engaged in positive activities.	Sep-11	Yellow
	Lack of holiday activity provision			Task and Finish group has drawn up proposals for the committee. Proposed expenditure of £42,000 SIB.	Ensure services meet local requirements	Increase no. of young people engaged in positive activities.	Jul-11	Green
	There is a need for Community Leader training to assist the transition for volunteers			Task and Finish group to report to Sept meeting	Consult, engage and involve local partners in developments	Increase the no. of young people influencing local decisions	Sep-11	Yellow
	Map youth anti social behaviour and possible activity to alleviate it			Task and Finish group to report to Sept meeting	Identify and review services/activities and the success	Identify projects and agencies to commission	Sep-11	Yellow
Priority	Issue	Local Action to Influence Services	Lead Agent	Progress Report	Area Committee's Influencing	Outcome Measure	Date	RAG
Traffic and highways, including repairs, speeding and dangerous driving	Programmes for 20mph safety zones	Future programmes to be brought to committee	Andrew Jackman	Area Committee to receive proposals for work programmes	Ensure services meet local requirements	Ensure local initiatives meet local requirements	Sep-11	Yellow
	New assessment system for prioritising road safety and speed reduction schemes	For 2012/13, works identified and proposed through new system will be brought to committee for approval			Actively review activities of agencies and services within the area		Sep-11	Yellow
	Area and zonal approach to routine maintenance and minor works	2012/13 programme will be brought to committee for consideration of areas and zones to be included			Ensure services meet local requirements		Sep-11	Yellow
Priority	Issue	Local Action to Influence Services	Lead Agent	Progress Report	Area Committee's Influencing	Outcome Measure	Date	RAG

Job Prospects	Increasing employability	Task and Finish Group to map provision and need and develop options for the Area Committee	Karen Alexander, Nikki Vokes	Task and Finish group has developed proposals for committee. Proposed expenditure of £180,000 SIB over 2 years	Supporting Economic Masterplan	Increasing opportunities for employment, enterprise and guidance	Jun-11	
	Support to increase job skills of the most vulnerable and hard to reach	Options to develop specialist, intensive support			Initiatives are delivered to meet local requirements		Jul-11	
	Accredited training for volunteers to improve skills and confidence	Develop a training programme to help volunteers gain work related skills			Link to volunteer training within Youth and Play priority. To be developed at future Task and Finish group	Involve partners in developing a work plan.	Increasing links between volunteering and employment opportunities	
Priority	Issue	Local Action to Influence Services	Lead Agent	Progress Report	Area Committee's Influencing	Outcome Measure	Date	RAG
Health and well being, focussing on areas of concern and risk taking behaviour	Task and Finish Group	Task and Finish Group to continue to propose options to Area Committee	Gillian Gibson, Victoria French	Task and Finish Group to meet on 25 July to develop further options for committee	Involve partners and residents	Ensure local initiatives meet local requirements	May-11	
	'Health Champions' project	Continue to roll out training		New programme for June - October published	Ensure services meet local requirements	Increase in trained champions	Jul-11	
	Further engage and support local partners in the delivery of local priorities	Develop closer links with partner organisations and other agendas: children and young people; families; older people; child and family poverty		Sunderland Local Engagement Board, partners and VCS being engaged.	Involve partners in developing work programme	Embedding health and lifestyle services in local provision	Sep-11	
	Community engagement and connecting people to services	Develop closer links with local VCS and neighbourhood projects		Neighbourhood organisation being targetted, new ways of course delivery being examined	Involve residents and VCS in developing the work programme		Sep-11	
Priority	Issue	Local Action to Influence Services	Lead Agent	Progress Report	Area Committee's Influencing	Outcome Measure	Date	RAG
Child Poverty	City's Child and Family Poverty Strategy has been approved	Neighbourhood model of service delivery is being piloted	Raj Singh	Results of pilot will be reported to Area Committee	Initiatives are delivered to meet local requirements	Development of local projects in support of new models of	Nov-11	

	Child Poverty Needs Assessment has been approved					delivery		
Priority	Issue	Local Action to Influence Services	Lead Agent	Progress Report	Area Committee's Influencing	Outcome Measure	Date	RAG
Environmental and street scene improvements, including shopping centres	Task and Finish Group	Task and Finish Group to continue to propose options to Area Committee	Bill Blackett	Task and Finish group meets 30 June, verbal report on options to July's Area Committee	Identify projects for progression	Activity to improve quality of local environment	Jul-11	
	Responsive Local Services	Continue to respond to local needs and concerns		Identify areas where services can be targetted/decreased to ensure maximum impact and resident satisfaction. Verbal update to committee	Ensure services meet local requirements	Reduction in service requests and complaints	Jul-11	
	Greenspace audit and Green Infrastructure	Review proposed ground improvements against policies and link with other priorities		Green Infrastructure Strategy Framework in place. Will inform proposals for improvements	Development of land use to meet local needs	Linking land improvements to Framework	Jul-11	
	Derelict/neglected land	Audit and prioritise land for potential works		Lists being collated	Identification of problem areas and where greatest impact will be achieved	Improvements to the local environment	Sep-11	
	Shopping centres and public areas	Audit and prioritise potential improvements to public areas						
	Derelict/neglected buildings	Audit and prioritise as part of improvement programmes					To be included as part of improvement schemes	
Priority	Issue	Local Action to Influence Services	Lead Agent	Progress Report	Area Committee's Influencing Role	Outcome Measure	Date	RAG
Eden Vale	Task and Finish Group	Establish a Project Group to implement the Action Plan and co-ordinate activities across Eden Vale and Thornhill area.	Richard Parry Nicol Trueman	Action Plan covering environment, children and young people, ASB and community cohesion drawn up. Project Group to begin implementation	Identify projects for progression	Coordination of services, development of new initiatives	Jul-11	

LOCAL AREA PRIORITIES

Priority: An Attractive and Cared for Environment							
Issue	Date	Lead	Actions	Progress	Outcomes	Outcome Measure	RAG
Dog Fouling	Jan-11	aa	Respond to requests quickly within agreed timescales		Reduction in dog fouling.	Service requests. Complaints.	
			Audit of dog bins to ensure in correct locations		Reduction in complaints regarding dog	Compliments. Enforcement activity	
			Target areas of high reporting				
Graffiti							
Litter							
Fly tipping							
Shopping Ctrs							
Road and Footpath maintenance							

A separate sheet could be held for each priority or in one sheet.

SUNDERLAND WEST AREA COMMITTEE

6 JULY 2011

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CITY SERVICES

BARNES PARK REGENERATION – FINAL REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update West Area Committee on the completed works undertaken within Barnes Park and the highly successful celebration event held 21 May 2011, which marked the re-opening of the Park following a £3.6 million regeneration scheme.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 It was agreed by Cabinet on 3 June 2009, following the award of the Heritage Lottery Fund Grant in April 2009, to proceed to procure appropriate works with appointed contractors and to accept the Heritage Lottery Fund grant of £2,420,000. The overall project value is £3,661,000.
- 2.2 A key element of the redevelopment was to make the whole park - and particularly the play areas - accessible to all, including those who are severely disabled. As well as specialist play equipment there is a changing/toilet pavilion fully equipped to support those caring for disabled children and adults and parking – including a number of disabled parking bays.
- 2.3 The 18 month redevelopment project commenced on the 19 October 2009 following the appointment of the main contractor – Brambledown in September 2009. The first phase of the project opened 21 May 2010 with phase two of the works due for completion in spring 2011.

3. COMPLETION OF PHASE TWO WORKS

- 3.1 Works were completed on schedule for phase two of the park and the park re-opened to the public, with a large-scale celebration event held on Saturday 21 May 2011.
- 3.2 The final works within phase 2 of the Barnes Park development included:
- Installation of bridge over lake
 - Installation of planting around lake, safety fencing and picnic tables
 - Installation of signage and interpretation
 - Installation of litter bins and dog bins
 - Time capsule buried
 - Bandstand completed
 - Wooden sculptures within the Park including new bridges over stream
 - Completion of woodland themed play area
 - All footpaths resurfaced including granite edging stone
 - All fencing painted
 - Grass seeded (albeit grass growth has been slow due to dry spring weather)
 - Installation of orchard trees adjacent to grand staircase

4. COMMUNICATION

- 4.1 The communication and media campaign to publicise the re-opening of Barnes Park – the most accessible Park in the region - was highly successful with BBC News, ITV News, Sun-FM, Radio Newcastle, Sunderland Echo, The Journal and The Chronicle, all promoting Barnes Park, with exceptionally positive features relating to the regeneration works and the ‘accessibility angle’ in relation to disabled facilities.
- 4.2 The Barnes Park website, www.sunderland.gov.uk/barnespark continues to be updated regularly to ensure the public are well informed. The website will continue to be updated by the Community Development and Education Officer, ensuring visitors (and potential visitors), are aware of activities and facilities available.
- 4.3 Robust communication has been critical throughout the whole project, ensuring the project gained maximum positive publicity and to minimise any complaints that may have arose during the regeneration works.
- 4.4 Detailed signage has been installed within the Park to highlight to visitors the major features and to enable them to enjoy the wildlife within the Park, particularly around the Lakeside. An information leaflet has also been produced to coincide with the re-opening of the Park, enabling visitors to navigate themselves around the Park and to experience all of the new features.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- 5.1 The Barnes Park Community Development and Education Officer, has been working with local schools and with partners throughout the whole project – planting trees, developing the time capsule and reviewing the artefacts found during the regeneration works as an example.
- 5.2 The Time Capsule project was a great success with the support of the local community and schools. An information article was published in January and March within the Sunderland Echo. The time capsule was buried in March by the Mayor, and a commemorative plaque marks the spot where the time capsule lies beneath, stating that the capsule is due to be re-opened in 2060.

6. CELEBRATION EVENT – SATURDAY 21 MAY 2011

- 6.1 A successful celebration event was held on Saturday 21 May 2011 to celebrate the re-opening of Barnes Park. The event commenced at 12noon with the Park gates opening for the first time – hundreds of children and families flooded through the gates throughout the day with children squealing with excitement at the new Woodland Play Area!
- 6.2 The event included guided tours and ‘Wellness Walks and Games’ around the park, various craft activities including willow weaving, hanging basket and flower arranging, face painting and glass painting. There were Storytellers within the park, musical bands playing on the refurbished bandstand and the Friends of Barnes Park encouraged visitors to play a game of bowls.

- 6.3 A small marquee was placed on the grass adjacent to the Barnes Park Road entrance to allow invited guests to gather and share a cup of tea whilst hearing a short speech from the Mayor of Sunderland and the Chair of the Heritage Lottery Fund, Chris Mullen. The project team were available to guide invited guests around the park to highlight key features. The newly refurbished Coach House Café was open throughout the day to service refreshments to park visitors.

7. GREEN FLAG STATUS

- 7.1 An application for Green Flag status for Barnes Park was submitted earlier in the year, with the Green Flag judges visiting Barnes Park on 6 May 2011. The judges were impressed with Barnes Park during their visit, commenting particularly on the Sensory Garden and the Lake.
- 7.2 Notification of the result for the Green Flag Award will be received during July 2011. West Area Committee will be advised of the Green Flag status when known.

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1 Members are asked to note the contents of this report.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.1 The following background papers were relied upon to compile this report.
- a. Parks for People Stage 1 Application to the Heritage Lottery Fund
 - b. Parks for People Stage 2 Application to the Heritage Lottery Fund
 - c. Barnes Park Cabinet Report 8 November 2006
 - d. Barnes Park Cabinet Report 3 June 2009
 - e. West Area Committee Update Report 4 November 2009
 - f. West Area Committee Update Report 1 March 2010
 - g. West Area Committee Update Report 21 October 2010
 - h. West Area Committee Update Report February 2011

SUNDERLAND WEST AREA COMMITTEE

6th July 2011

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I

Title of Report:

Reviewing Progress

Author(s):

Chief Executive

Purpose of Report:

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

This report denotes an item relating to an executive function

Description of Decision:

The Committee is requested to approve the following:

- Note the financial statement for Area Committee funding for 2011/12
- Annex 1c: i) Approve six proposals from the 2011/12 SIB budget:
 1. £5,000 for Farringdon Detached Football Club's 'Minibus' project;;
 2. £42,000 for the Pennywell/Tansy Centre 'Development Officer' project;
 3. £18,000 for Richard Avenue Primary Schools 'Community Learning Centre' project;
 4. £3,000 for the City Council's 'Houghton Feast' project;
 5. £14,700 for Red Machine Allotment's 'Wild Patch' project;
 6. £6,000 for St Mary and St Peter's Community Project's 'Heating' project.
- Annex 1d: approve 26 proposals for support from 2011/12 community Chest budget.

Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework?

Yes

Suggested reason(s) for Decision:

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

The Community Chest forms part of the Strategic Initiatives Budget and £250,000 is available for the scheme in 2011/2012; £10,000 for each Ward.

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

Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected:

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

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

Is it included in the Forward Plan?
No

Relevant Scrutiny Committee:

SUNDERLAND WEST AREA COMMITTEE

6th July 2011

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Community Chest, Strategic Initiative Budget (SIB) and Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) – Financial Statement 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. The report provides a financial statement and update on progress in relation to allocating SIB, SIP and Community Chest.

2 Financial statement: West Area Committee Funding streams 2011-2012 as at 6th July 2011

2.1

<u>SIB: West SIB Statement July 2011</u>				
* £331,887 was allocated for 2011 - 2012, £322,546 was carried over from 2010 – 2011 Providing a Balance of £654,433				
	Committee Date	Budget	Approvals	Balance
List of approved projects from 2011 - 12				
Sunderland Festival Celebrating Mining Heritage	25.5.2011	£654,433	£3,000	£651,433
	25.5.2011	£651,433	£2,700	£648,733
Funding returned		-	-	-
Balance	-	£648,733	£5,700	£648,733

<u>SIP: West Statement July 2011</u>			
	SIP Budget	Approvals	Balance
Available Funding 2011/2012	£83,230	-	£83,230
Balance	£83,230	-	£83,230

<u>Community Chest: West Statement July 2011</u>			
Ward	Budget	Approvals	Balance
Barnes	£11,715	£266	£11,449
Pallion	£17,420	£1,500	£15,920

Sandhill	£19,434		£19,434
Silksworth	£13,236	£3,500	£9,736
St Anne's	£10,624		£10,624
St Chad's	£10,634	£1,366	£9,268
Total	£83,063	£6,632	£76,431

2.2 Strategic Initiatives Budget

At the May 2011 Committee meeting, a balance of £654,433 remained. At that meeting, £5,700 was allocated, leaving £648,733 available.

2.2.1 The following projects detailed in **Annex 1a** are presented to Committee for approval:

1. Farringdon Detached Football Club	£5,000	Approve
2. Pennywell/Tansy Community Centres	£42,000	Approve
3. Plains Farm Community Youth Centre	£19,000	Defer
4. Richard Avenue Primary School	£18,000	Approve
5. Houghton Feast	£3,000	Approve
6. Red Machine Allotments	£14,700	Approve
7. St Mary and St Peter's Project	£6,000	Approve

2.2.2 Projects presented total £88,700. Should the proposals be approved the remaining balance for the 2011/2012 allocation would be £560,033.

2.2.3 In addition, the 'Reviewing Progress' reports have proposed allocating a further total of £222,000 aligned to the 'Job Prospects' and 'Youth and play' priorities. Should this be approved, the remaining allocation would be £338,033

2.3 Strategic Investment Plan

2.3.1 Following the May 2011 Committee meeting, £83,230 remained to be allocated. There have been no proposals for funding since the last Committee.

2.4 Community Chest

2.4.1 The table below details the balances allocated following the last meeting. The total project proposals received are set out in **Annex 1b**, together with the balances remaining should these proposals be approved.

Ward	Budget Remaining	Project Proposals	Balance
Barnes	£11,449	£520	£10,929
Pallion	£15,920	£2,303	£13,617
Sandhill	£19,434	£3,470	£15,964
Silksworth	£9,736	£2,060	£7,676
St Anne's	£10,624	£2,386	£8,238
St Chad's	£9,268	£3,290	£5,978
Total	£76,431	£14,029	£62,402

Recommendations

Committee is requested to:

- Note the financial statement set out in section 2.1.
- Approve the recommendations set out in Annex 1c (SIB/SIP applications)
- Approve the proposals for support from 2011/2012 Community Chest set out in Annex 1d.

Contact Officer: Richard Parry, Sunderland West Area Officer
5611217, Richard.parry@sunderland.gov.uk

**West Area Committee, 6th July 2011
SIB Applications: summary**

Application 1

Name of Project	New Minibus
Lead Organisation	Farringdon Detached Football Club

Total cost of Project	Total Match Funding	Total SIB requested
£30,500	£22,500	£5,000
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
1 month	July 2011	July 2011

The Project

The Project is to purchase a new accessible minibus to replace a vehicle, which is well past its useful, safe life. By working with the Variety Club of Great Britain, the Club have been matched with a corporate sponsor and have also received funding from the Sherburn Trust, as well as fundraising themselves.

Need for Project

The New minibus will provide transport for players to get to training and football matches, particularly away matches, It will also allow us the club to compete in more Tournaments further afield.

There are teams from 5 to 16 Years old and players of all abilities. The club is an FA Chartered Club and provides an inclusive progression route for young players.

Outputs for Projects

Output	Target 2011
S5: No. of young people benefiting from youth inclusion/diversionary work	120
A1: Number of improved community facilities, or equipment	1

Financial Information

Item and Description	Total Costs
Cost of minibus	£30,500

Recommendation: Approve

Application 2

Name of Project	Development Officer
Lead Organisation	Pennywell and Tansy Community Centres

Total cost of Project	Total Match Funding	Total SIB requested
------------------------------	----------------------------	----------------------------

£52,000	£10,000	£42,000
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
Two years	September 2011	August 2013

The Project

The project is to employ a Development Officer to work with both the Tansy Centre and Pennywell Community Centre to deliver informal learning opportunities, youth provision, funding strategies and manage both facilities to improve the quality of provision for the benefit of local people and their families.

Need for Project

St Anne's is a ward, which features highly in the Index of Multiple Deprivation. Important to the local communities are the local Community Centres, which provide a major focus for community involvement and local service delivery. Both management committee's at the centres have requested help with the development and management of their centres. Both have very willing volunteers but are unable to meet all of the demands made upon them. They see the employment of a Development Officer who is responsible for both buildings, and their services, as key to the future success of the projects and their sustainability within their local communities.

Outputs for Project

Output	Target 2011/13
P3:: No. of people volunteering	85
L5: No. of adults obtaining qualifications	115
A2: No. of people using new or improved community facilities	135
S5: No. of young people benefiting from youth inclusion projects	840

Financial Information

Item and Description	Total Costs
Salary	£52,000

Recommendation: Approve

Application 3

Name of Project	Structural Improvements
Lead Organisation	Plains Farm Community Youth Centre

Total cost of Project	Total Match Funding	Total SIB requested
£19,000		£19,000
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
Three months	August 2011	October 2011

The Project

The project will provide an essential update to the club, enabling it to provide the facility in a safe environment. This project is to strengthen and repair the ceiling, with concurrent replacement of lighting and extractors. The club, which has produced ABA title holders and a Commonwealth Champion, are planning to embark on a major fundraising and refurbishment programme.

Need for Project

Plains Farm is an area, which features highly in the Index of Multiple Deprivation. The club has a successful track record of working with local young people and providing structure to their lives. The clubs volunteer coaches have increased in number as former boxers remain to train the next generation of members. The facility is in need of refurbishment, which the club is committed to following through, with its ceiling being in urgent need of attention.

Outputs for Project

Output	Target 2011
A1: No. of new or improved community facilities	1

Financial Information

Item and Description	Total Costs
Ceiling: timbers, insulation, board and plaster	£15,000
Lights and extractors	£4,000
Total	£19,000

Recommendation: Defer, to ensure financial sustainability of project

Application 4

Name of Project	Community Learning Centre
Lead Organisation	Richard Avenue Primary School

Total cost of Project	Total Match Funding	Total SIB requested
£98,560	£80,560 (School, £68,560; East AC, £12,000)	£18,000
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
One month	August 2011	September 2011

The Project

The project is seeking capital costs to provide a community building or dedicated youth provision that will offer services to the community, an example of which is shown below.

Proposed Community and School Usage:

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
8 – 9	Breakfast Club*					

9 – 10	Numeracy, Literacy class (City Of S' College)*	Womens Art Class*	Getting Ready for Nursery, Common childhood illnesses (Health)*	Messy Play for Toddlers (Child-Centre outreach)*	Weaning Class (Health V)*	
10 – 11						
11-12.30						
12.30-1.30	Lunchtime Activities*					
1.30-2.30	Dance Class (Family Learning)*			BME Weaning class (Health V)		
2.30-3.30						
3.30-5.15	After School Activities*					
5.15 - 6	Caretakers Cleaning Time					
6 – 8	Zumba Class* LAF Project	LAF Project	Youth Activities	Zumba Class* Karate Class*	Youth Activities	
	School					
	Extra Curriculum					
	Community					

The school have committed funding to upgrade and refurbish a section of the school. The use of the building throughout the day would adhere to safeguarding recommendations, allowing residents easy access throughout the day, providing a local community venue in the heart of the area. The remaining cost needed to deliver the project is £30,000. The school are approaching both East and West Area Committee for the funding, splitting the request 40-60%, as 40% of children and families that use the school live in the East area, 60% in the West.

Project Need

The school is in an area that has experienced some difficulties and is part of the multi agency 'Eden Vale Project Group' that is formulating an action plan for the area. As well as building upon the existing community activities, the facility will fill the acknowledged shortage of youth activity space in the area, particularly for younger children. The window of opportunity presented by the school holidays will enable the project to make a significant impact to the area.

Outputs of the Project

Output Code	2011-12
L2 – number of people accessing learning	180
S6 – number of additional young people engaged in youth	105

provision	
H1 – number of people benefit from healthy lifestyle	150
A1 – number of new community facilities	1

Financial Information

Item and Description	Total Costs	SIB Contribution
Capital Build	£98,560	£18,000
Total	£98,560	£18,000

Recommendation: Approve

Application 5

Name of Project	Houghton Feast
Lead Organisation	Sunderland City Council

Total cost of Project	Total Match Funding	Total SIB requested
£41,000	£24,000	£3,000, West; £14,000, other areas
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
5 months	July 2011	November 2011

The Project

Houghton Feast 2011 will commence with an opening ceremony on Friday 7th October. Taking inspiration from the Saxon stone carvings of Wyverns, which can be found in St Michael's Church, the Festival will this year be based on the theme of myths and legends with particular focus on the Lambton Worm. Community workshops will take place across the city in the run up to the event. These workshops will be led by a key writer in residence who will use the legend of the Lambton Worm as a foundation to create a new story with community members. This story will then be brought to life by professional artists and community participants during workshops in schools and community venues. These workshops will result in a short, high quality performance using sound and light during the Friday night ceremony. Friday's performance will then link directly to the Saturday parade which will feature children from all areas of the City who have taken part in the preparation workshops.

Workshops will take place in each of the 5 Areas across Sunderland in an effort to build audiences for and raise the profile of Houghton Feast. Participants will have the opportunity of being involved in the Saturday Parade.

Need for Project

The theme of Myths and Legends was selected through consultation with local school and community groups. The Houghton Feast Steering Group have also been involved in the development of this concept. In previous years several schools have expressed an interest to be involved with the Houghton

Feast Workshops, this new approach will allow more schools and community groups to participate in the process.

The funding from West Area Committee will provide access to the festival activity for a greater number of people providing opportunities to participate in the Saturday parade and the overall festival programme.

Outputs for Project

S5	Young people benefiting from youth inclusion projects	20
A3	Community and voluntary groups supported	1
A6	Community or educational events held	7

Financial Information

Item and Description	Total Costs
Core event infrastructure	£26,000
Artists' Fees	£15,000
Total	£41,000

Recommendation: Approve

Application 6

Name of Project	Wild Patch
Lead Organisation	Red Machine Allotment Association

Total cost of Project	Total Match Funding	Total SIB requested
£64,700	£50,000	£14,700
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
Five months	July 2011	November 2011

The Project

The aim of the project is to transform three vacant allotment plots, historically susceptible to flooding, into an accessible space that can be utilised as a community allotment. The project will require new fencing and it is also proposed to upgrade the internal fencing providing uniformity to the site.

The three plots will be turned into a swamp/bog area with a pond in the middle to direct water into this area. This will assist with the creation of a haven for biodiversity including habitats for amphibians and invertebrates as well as encouraging other animals such as ducks. The remainder of the area would be turned into a heritage orchard and a place created for beehives. There will be seating and accessible pathways.

Red Machine Allotment Association (RMAA) working in conjunction with Groundwork will engage local residents and other local community groups in

this project by developing a user group to oversee the access and maintainance of the garden.

A decision on match funding is expected in July. Should this prove unsuccessful, a further application to another environmental funder has been submitted. However, this would result in a delay to the project.

Need for Project

The need for this project arose from a discussion between the RMAA and Groundwork. The Association has had dialogue with Sunderland City Council about the flooding and drainage issues. The City Council agreed to investigate further and recommended a range of solutions that both parties believed were prohibitively expensive. Groundwork was looking to work with an allotment site in the west of the City as a community garden and this site offered the best option.

Outputs for Project

Output	Target 2011/13
A1: No of new or improved community facilities improved	1
A2: No. of people using new or improved community facilities	90
A6: No. of community or educational events held	2

Financial Information

Item and Description	Total Costs
Community garden and wild patch	£50,000
Fencing	£14,700
Total	£64,700

Recommendation: Approve, subject to confirmation of match funding

Application 7

Name of Project	Heating System Adaptation
Lead Organisation	St Mary and St Peter's Community Project

Total cost of Project	Total Match Funding	Total SIB requested
£6,000		£6,000
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
One month	August 2011	August 2011

The Project

The project is to renew the central heating system within the Community Project's premises.

The Community Project offers a wide and diverse range of activities and opportunities for local residents, including social events and clubs, wellness and fitness programmes, including smoking cessation and support. There are

craft and computer classes available as well as housing various other community activities for young people such as dancing classes, karate, and offering premises to Relate relationship counselling and guidance. There is also a very popular and successful Toddler Group offering fun activities and parental support.

Need for Project

The Community Project is very well attended with all groups being well subscribed to and a number having a waiting list. All users enjoy the Project but find it difficult to sustain the cold weather months with ineffective heating systems. There are a number of predominantly elderly users and those with young children who have indicated the difficulties the cold conditions cause them. It is felt this could threaten the viability of a number of groups, as well as a number of services, particularly the wellness and health activities provision, delivered in partnership with the Council and Teaching Primary Care Trust

Outputs for Project

Output	Target 2011
A1: No. of new or improved community facilities	1

Financial Information

Item and Description	Total Costs
Adaptation of boiler to create sealed system	£6,000

Recommendation: Approve

**COMMUNITY CHEST 2011/2012 WEST AREA
PROJECTS PROPOSED FOR APPROVAL**

Ward	Project	Amount	Allocation 2011/2012	Project Proposals	Previous Approvals	Balance Remaining
BARNES	Sunderland Bowling Club- Refurbishment of the toilets within Sunderland Bowling Club Pavilion	500				
	Sunderland Armed Forces Network- To carry out administration and publicity to engage and identify veterans and families	20				
	Totals		11715	520	266	10929
PALLION	Pallion Action Group- To enable 10 young people to sign up for the Duke of Edinburgh award	140				
	Millfield Pallion Panthers- To purchase a new away strip	247				
	Secret Oasis, Pallion Action Group- Entertainment on the launch date	446				
	Four Seasons Activity Group- Cost of campsite hire, transport, equipment and external facilitators	500				
	Sunderland Armed Forces Network- To carry out administration and publicity to engage and identify veterans and families	20				
	Multicultural Womens Group- To purchase items to enhance participation in sessions aimed to improve social and emotional well being.	950				
	Totals		17420	2303	1500	13617
SANDHILL	A690 Youth Initiative- To purchase 6 baby simulators.	1500				
	St Aldate's Residents Club- Day outing and Christmas meal	750				
	Gardiner Road Bowls Club- To purchase uniforms to compete in league matches	450				
	Greenside Court Gardening Club- A programme of activities including bus trip, meal, Christmas lunch and evening party	750				
	Sunderland Armed Forces Network- To carry out	20				

	administration and publicity to engage and identify veterans and families					
	Totals		19434	3470	--	15964
SILKSWORTH	Tom Urwin Gardening Club- To revamp and transform the communal garden	200				
	Tapping the way to health- Tuition costs for tap dancing	540				
	Youth Almighty Project- To pay for activities for the Party in the Park event at Silksworth Recreational Park	500				
	New Silksworth Football Club- Provision of football strips, facilities, weekly training and coaching at Farringdon Academy	500				
	Ashkirk Core and Cluster Scheme- Contribution toward summer play scheme	300				
	Sunderland Armed Forces Network- To carry out administration and publicity to engage and identify veterans and families	20				
	Totals		13236	2060	3500	7676
ST ANNES	Pennywell Youth Project- To purchase new equipment for chill out room	900				
	Hanging baskets- To plant hanging baskets in South Hylton Village and Portsmouth Road	561				
	South Hylton Rangers Junior FC- To purchase new training equipment and to fund courses required to become FA chartered standard club	425				
	Pennywell Comrades FC- New football strips along with training bibs, tracksuits, nets plus flags	500				
	Totals		10624	2386	-	8238
ST. CHAD'S	Herrington Flower Club- Floral display at village show and contribution toward open meeting	650				
	Middle Herrington Methodist Church- Purchase notice board and frame boards for external use	600				
	Ashkirk Core and Cluster Scheme- Summer play scheme to combat negative effects of homelessness. Cook and Eat sessions throughout the year	500 300				
	St Aidans Community Group- Football, fitness, healthy eating and fishing coaching throughout the school holidays	400				

	Sunderland Cardiac Support Group- Gym based rehabilitation	500				
	Sunderland Diabetes Support Group- Contribution toward monochrome laser printer	20				
	Altrincham Tower Friendly Club- To promote community cohesion and take members for a meal	300				
	Sunderland Armed Forces Network- To carry out administration and publicity to engage and identify veterans and families	20				
	Totals		10634	3290	1366	5978
Totals					-	

Sunderland West Area Committee

6th July 2011

Report of the Executive Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services

Influencing Practice, Policy, Strategy – Empty Property Action Plan 2011-12

1. Why has it come to Committee?

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

2. Background

- 2.1 The Council has always been proactive in working with its partners to bring empty properties back into occupation. To this end the Council has produced its second Empty Property Strategy which serves as a tool to ensure that communities are sustainable at a strategic level. Additionally, at a local level, it ensures early intervention prevents residential empty properties causing problems to neighbourhoods and provides local people with local homes.

3. Empty Property Strategy

- 3.1 There are six overarching strategic priorities for Sunderland identified within the Sunderland Housing Priorities Plan SHPP; two of which are directly related to bringing empty properties back into residential use, which is:
- to improve the existing housing stock by accelerating housing market renewal including block improvement schemes, demolitions, reducing the numbers of empty properties and effective licensing of landlords
 - working with owners to invest in empty properties and bring them back into use and to consider different models of investment in the private rented sector

The success of the Empty Property Strategy can be measured as follows:

Date	Reoccupied	Demolished	Total	Target
2007-2008	240	8	248	200
2008 - 2009	329	77	406	369
2009 - 2010	291	49	340	375
2010 - 2011	321	0	362	355

- 3.2 As part of the Government's Affordable Housing Programme £100m has been set aside for tackling empty properties. We are currently looking at involving Registered Providers across the city, which would include bringing back into use a range of properties.
- 3.3 The Government's New Homes Bonus also proposes that it will match fund the additional council tax raised by councils for bringing long term empty properties back into use. The number of empty properties (according to Government and Council Tax definitions) will be measured in October of each year. Any decreases in empty properties from one year to the next will be rewarded through the New Homes Bonus. The definition also includes empty Social Housing Registered Social Landlord properties in the City.

3.4 It was announced in January 2011, that the Government will use secondary legislation to introduce new constraints relating to Empty Dwelling Management Orders (EDMOs). The constraints allow local authorities to utilise EDMOs only if a property has been empty for two years and is attracting vandalism and anti social behaviour. This will be closely monitored as part of this project.

4. Aims and Objectives:

4.1 The Empty Property Service aims to:

‘Provide a proactive and innovative approach to the reduction in the number of empty properties in Sunderland to assist in the creation of sustainable communities in all neighbourhoods’.

This will be achieved by:

1. Developing a comprehensive and locality based empty property service which raises awareness of empty homes issues.
2. Using a preventative and innovative approach to reoccupy empty properties.
3. Ensuring reoccupied properties are sustainable within their neighbourhoods.
4. Responding to the needs and requirements of property owners, partners and neighbourhoods.
5. Involving a range of partners and individuals to encourage action and make best use of limited resources.

4.2 Throughout 2011-2012, the Empty Property service will prioritise the following across Sunderland:

1. Strive to reduce the number of empty properties across Sunderland to the city average of 2.47% as at the end of April 2011.
2. Reoccupy 360 empty properties across Sunderland with internal and external partners, focusing on 200 empty properties within wards where empty properties are higher than the city average as at the end of April 2011 and working within the context of the New Homes Bonus.
3. Reduce homelessness across the City.
4. Promote the Landlord accreditation scheme.
5. Look to target the worst hot spot areas as a first priority, especially in wards where empty properties are higher than the city average as at the end of April 2011.
6. To work closely with Officers in Environmental Services to explore the most effective way of bringing empty commercial premises back into use.
7. To work closely with partners to explore the effect and impact of the New Homes Bonus on empty properties.

4.3 Benefits of introducing the Empty Property Action Plan are:

Customer/Community Benefits	Council Benefit
Empty properties returned into occupation	Increase in income to the Council through payment of full Council Tax Attract payment of New Homes Bonus.
Reduction in empty properties being targeted	Reduction in number of requests for service regarding empty properties.
More homes available for homeless people	Reduction in costs of works in default.
More sustainable communities	Reduction in homelessness.

5. Empty Property Action Plan

- 5.1 The action plan, see Annex 1, will help contribute towards the Council's values: proud, decent and together in the way we treat our customers and work in partnership to achieve the community's needs. It is also part of a series of Directorate projects and has been monitored by the Directorate Change Team. Currently, the project does not include empty commercial properties but the most effective way to bring commercial empty properties back to use will be explored within the Council and with external partners.
- 5.2 Officers will work together with owners of empty properties and external agencies to ensure the property is brought back into occupation or to prevent them from becoming empty in the first place. The solution to empty properties lies often in a partnership approach. Officers will also undertake inspections as necessary to ensure that the property meets the Decent Homes Standard. The primary focus will be prevention and early intervention.
- 5.3 At April 2011 the numbers of empty properties across each of the local areas and across the City as a whole are set out in Annex 2. The statistics and analysis below are based on the figures from April 2011. The proportion of Private Sector Stock empty is as a percentage in each ward area.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 Empty properties are a priority in each of the local areas and this is reflected in the local work plans. The attached action plan provides a more local examination of the issues and provides an innovative local action plan aimed at specifically addressing those local issues in relation to bringing empty properties back into use and creating a greater housing resource for the City.
- 6.2 Project work is proving to be successful in various areas and it is hoped that this work will be continued and expanded to other wards, particularly those wards that do not meet the city average as at April 2011. This involves officers tackling empty properties, anti social behaviour, landlord accreditation and issues of disrepair in partnership with Housing Providers the police and other local partners. This is in response to concerns from local residents and ward members.
- 6.3 This action plan will be monitored quarterly and reviewed after one year by the Housing and Neighbourhood Renewal Senior Management Team and Area Committee. The information will also be made available to all local partners and the public should they request it.

7. Recommendations

Members are requested to:

- Note the content of the report and draft action plan
- Consider and provide feedback on the locality aims and actions in Sunderland West Action Plan (draft)
- Identify and feedback information regarding empty properties
- Agree to review the action plan after one year

Annex 2: Empty Properties at a ward level, as at 1 April 2011

Background papers

- The Housing Act 2004
- Empty Property Strategy (2007-2011)
- Local Area Plans (LAPS) (2009-2011)
- The following websites were used as reference and for benchmarking:
 - <http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingsupply/newhomesbonus/newhomesbonusquestions/>
 - <http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk>
 - <http://www.camden.gov.uk>
 - <http://www.newcastle.gov.uk/>

Contact Officer:

Graeme Wilson, Assistant Housing and Neighbourhood Renewal Manager,
Tel 0191 561 2034, email: Graeme.wilson1@sunderland.gov.uk

Annex 1: Sunderland West Empty Properties Action Plan

Background information:

Sunderland West covers the wards of Barnes, Pallion, Sandhill, Silksworth, St Anne's and St. Chad's wards.

Empty Properties at April 2011:

Total		Empty for or between 1-2 years		Empty for five years or more	
No.	Proportion of Private Sector Stock Empty (H18)%	No.	% Area	No.	% Area
415	2.11	280	66%	49	12%

Top 3 Types of empty properties in the West:

Type	No.	% Area
Semi detached	167	40%
Flats or maisonettes	55	13.2%
Terraced properties	155	37%

Pallion Ward (see App 1) has a higher percentage of empty properties than the current City Average. Examining the age of empty properties, by far the highest proportion is in pre 1919 properties (148/36%). This is likely to be mainly in Barnes and Pallion wards where there are a higher proportion of pre 1919 properties in the private rented sector.

Empty Properties per ward:

Ward	No.	% Area	City %
Barnes	89	21.5	2.15
Pallion	88	21.5	3.07
Sandhill	59	14.5	2.19
Silksworth	70	17	1.95
St Chad's	65	15.5	1.47
St Anne's	44	10.	1.79

Gentoo has substantially completed its demolition at Pennywell. Further demolition is required at High Ford which will be May/June 2011.

Project work is currently being undertaken in the Eden Vale area of the Barnes Ward with officers tackling empty properties, anti social behaviour, landlord accreditation and issues of disrepair until October 2011. This is in response to requests from the local community and local ward members.

Population

West Sunderland has 67,340 residents, 24% of the City's population. According to figures and categories used in the Census 2001, the area has a predominantly White Ethnic Group.

Sunderland West Empty Property Action Plan 2011/12

LOCALITY AIM	ACTIONS	PERFORMANCE MEASURE	TIMESCALES	RESPONSIBILITY
Reduce the number of empty properties in the West to the city average of 2.47% (As at April 2011). Return 30 empty properties in Sunderland West back into use of which 13 will be in the Pallion ward.	Investigate the cause of empty properties in the Pallion ward and tackle these issues with local partners.	Reduce empty properties by 30%	March 2012	EPA/Sunderland Royal Hospital, University and Voluntary Sector
	Match empty properties with residents on the homeless register.	Reduce Homelessness by 5% citywide	March 2012	EPO, EPA and HOT
To work innovatively and preventively to ensure that the number of potential future empty properties is minimised. New homes are not registered as empty; providing greater housing choice.	Ensure new builds in the St Anne's Ward do not remain empty for longer than six months by actively engaging with Gentoo to promote affordable housing	50% of new builds in the St Anne's Ward not registered as a long term empty property	March 2012	Gentoo and EPA
	To inspect and liaise with all empty property owners in the Eden Vale area to return back into use.	Return 20% of the properties in Eden Vale alone back to use	October 2011	EPA, ASB officer, residents, owners Local and Voluntary Sector
	Undertake proactive visits and external inspections to all properties empty for over one year, with particular focus on the Pallion Ward.	Daily/monthly inspections completed by officer. All wards reduced to the current city average.	March 2012	EPA Council Tax Section Planning enforcement Section
	Develop a tool to risk assess, identify and prioritise problematic empty properties	Tool established and implemented Problematic empty properties identified	June 2011	Empty Property Officer and EPA
	Prioritise identified problematic empty properties to ensure re-occupation, and where appropriate use the additional tools provided by the Housing Act 2004 to tackle problems within the private sector, with particular focus on the Pallion Ward.	50% of empty problematic properties brought back to use	March 2012	EPO, EPA, Social Services SS

	Get breakdown of empty properties by New Homes Bonus definition and identify location and any trends. Prioritise which properties to focus resources on.	Monthly locality report New Homes Bonus returns	June 2011	Housing Analysis Officer (HAO), and EPO.

As at April 2011

Long Term Empty Properties by Period Empty

ARF	Ward	Period Empty							Proportion of Private Sector Stock Empty (H18)
		6 Months - under 1 year	1 Year - under 2 years	2 Years - under 3 years	3 Years - under 4 years	4 Years - under 5 years	Over 5 years	Grand Total	
Sunderland West	Barnes	32	27	4	9	3	14	89	2.02%
	Pallion	27	30	14	4	4	9	88	2.97%
	Sandhill	22	16	7	8		6	59	2.12%
	Silksworth	20	33	7	3	2	5	70	2.01%
	St Anne's	16	12	4	2	2	8	44	1.50%
	St Chad's	27	18	9	2	2	7	65	2.11%
Sunderland West Total		144	136	45	28	13	49	415	2.11%

Sunderland West Area Committee

6th July 2011.

Report of the Chief Executive

Influencing Practice, Policy and Strategy

1. Why has it come to Committee?

- 1.1. This report offers Members the opportunity for consultation on plans and strategies relevant to the West area. It also provides information and updates which will encourage Members to feed into proposals for service or policy change and facilitates the referral of outcomes of issues previously identified.

2. Information, Advice and Guidance Services

- 2.1 The Council is currently reviewing its services, which provide information, advice and guidance to customers. This is to ensure a standard quality of service across the Council. Officers from the Business, Improvement and Advice Services Team will present an update at Committee on the Information, Advice and Guidance review, seeking members' views and feedback.

3. Contact Officer: Richard Parry, Area Officer for Sunderland West
Tel: 0191 561 1217, e-mail: Richard.parry@sunderland.gov.uk