

At a meeting of the WEST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on WEDNESDAY, 4TH NOVEMBER, 2009 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor D. Forbes in the Chair

Councillors Allan, M. Dixon, D. Forbes, P. Gibson, Gofton, Oliver, J.B. Scott, P. Watson, S. Watson, A. Wilson, A. Wright and T. Wright.

Also Present:-

Keith Beardmore	Area Lead Executive	Sunderland City Council
Neil Cole	Planning Policy Manager	Sunderland City Council
Jodie Collins	Employee Communications Officer	Sunderland City Council
Angela Cousins	Partnership Manager	Sunderland City Council
Nonnie Crawford	Director of Public Health	Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust
Kevin Douglas	Media Officer	Sunderland City Council
Julie Gray	Head of Community Services	Sunderland City Council
Keith Hamilton	Deputy Manager, Planning Implementation	Sunderland City Council
Sandra Kenny	Family, Adult and Community Learning Manager	Sunderland City Council
Lucy Malarkey	Head of Neighbourhoods	Gentoo Sunderland
Andy Neal	Youth Development Group Manager	Sunderland City Council
Gerry O'Hanlon		Academy 360
Richard Parry	Area Officer	Sunderland City Council
Ian Pearson	Principal Engineer	Sunderland City Council
Julie Raine		City of Sunderland College
Richard Reading	Principal Trading Standards Manager	Sunderland City Council
Jenny Scott	Policy Officer (Inclusion)	Sunderland City Council
Vivienne Scott	Lead Personal Advisor	Sunderland City Council
Tim Smith	Deputy Highway Maintenance Manager	Sunderland City Council
Phil Spooner	Programme Manager	Sunderland City Council
Cheryl Warcup	Inspector	Northumbria Police

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Arnott, L. Martin, Morrissey, Old, P. Smith and Tye and also on behalf of Inspector Ken Robinson.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 10th September, 2009

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 10th September, 2009 (copy circulated), be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Questions to Area Committee – Feedback Report of the Chief Executive

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) in response to the question raised at the last meeting of the Committee by the Young Asian Voices Project regarding the lack of facilities for young people at weekends and evenings in the Barnes Park and Eden Vale area.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Sandra Mitchell, Head of Performance Improvement and Policy presented the report and in addition to the short term solutions identified, highlighted the following longer term issues:-

- the possibility of making an application to National School funding streams;
- options to provide sessions after January 2009;
- options to utilise other premises for youth activities;
- options to review caretakers' terms and conditions;
- police discussions with local businesses re: funding and use of premises.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Allan, Andy Neal, Youth Development Manager, advised that all community contractors such as A690 and Youth Asian Voices had a requirement to work in an integrated way with regard to equalities and diversity.

Councillor P. Watson having commended the report as a brilliant response to the question asked and congratulated those officers concerned, it was:-

2. RESOLVED that:-

- i) the report be received and noted; and

- ii) a further report be submitted to a future meeting on the longer term solutions for provision and funding.

Priority Theme West: A Learning Area Summary

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which highlighted the 'Learning' priorities identified by the Area Committee, key issues and their background, current activity delivered day to day by services, identified gaps in services together with options and proposals.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Richard Parry, Area Officer, presented the report and introduced Andy Neal, Youth Development Manager, and Sandra Kenny, Family Adult and Community Learning Manager, who provided Members with presentations on priorities in relation to Youth Development and Adult and Community Learning respectively.

With regard to the proposal that the Committee consider receiving an SIB application from the Youth Development Group (as detailed in paragraph 2.1 of the report), to enhance evening and weekend youth services with increased XL Youth Village and mobile neighbourhood provision, concern was expressed by Members as to whether it would be appropriate to fund a potentially city wide project from the Committee's own Strategic Initiatives Budget. Accordingly it was:-

3. RESOLVED that:-

- i) the reports on Youth Commissioning and family, adult and community learning provision provided by Mr. Neal and Ms. Kelly be received and noted;
- ii) the LSP be requested to review apprenticeship opportunities including the commitment of the public sector to the creation of more full apprenticeships either by seeking to provide opportunities within statutory sector organisations or the possibility of providing financial incentives to other employers;
- iii) the Committee receive a report on current family, adult and community learning including partners and learning providers, types of courses, community needs, gaps in provision, times and venues;
- iv) the request that the Committee consider receiving an SIB application from the Youth Development Group to enhance evening and weekend youth services be deferred pending the submission of a full report on the matter given Members' concerns regarding whether it was appropriate to fund a potential City wide project from the Committee's own Strategic Initiatives Budget.

- v) the Committee receive a report from the Youth Development Group, in light of youth work commissioning, on the range of services and providers for children and young people to enable an integrated approach to meeting needs and the planning and delivery of services

Thematic Feedback Report

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with an opportunity to discuss feedback on actions taken to date with regard to its priorities in relation to the themes of 'Safe' and 'Attractive and Inclusive'.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Richard Parry, Area Officer, introduced the report which provided feedback on:-

- i) illegal sales of alcohol to persons under 18 years of age; and
- ii) the current position with regard to empty properties and anti social behaviour across the City.

In response to the presentation provided by Inspector Warcup and Richard Reading, Principal Trading Standards Officer, Councillor Oliver referred to the advanced notices given in respect of surveillance/test purchase exercises. He asked what could be done to overcome the problem of businesses tightening up for the period of the exercises then resuming under age sales at the conclusion? Mr. Reading replied that he was unable to give a guarantee that this would not be the case. 68 premises had been written to but only a small sample had received a visit. Dates of inspections were not specified; the letter referred only to the possibility of test purchases being undertaken within the next few weeks. If sufficient intelligence had been collected about a particular establishment then covert surveillance could be undertaken.

Councillor P. Watson believed the work undertaken by Mr. Reading and Inspector Warcup represented a valiant attempt to tackle the problem and was extremely welcome. He was pleased that all agencies and partners concerned took the problem seriously.

Councillor Allan congratulated Mr. Reading and Inspector Warcup on their endeavours but stated that alcohol was still getting to young people. Groups of often intimidating young people still congregated outside retailers asking adults to buy alcohol on their behalf. Others sometimes engaged in 'steaming' to steal alcohol from stores.

There being no further questions, it was:-

- 3. RESOLVED that:-

- i) the feedback reports on illegal alcohol sales and empty properties and anti social behaviour be received and noted;
- ii) approval be given to the actions identified in Annex 1 and Annex 2 of the report;
- iii) a feedback report be submitted to a future meeting on the test purchase exercises held on 28th October and the weekend of 7th/8th October, 2009.

Barnes Park Regeneration Update – Appointment of Contractor and Commencement of Works on Site

The Executive Director of City Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which updated the West Sunderland Area Committee on the appointment of the contractor to undertake the regeneration works within Barnes Park and the subsequent commencement of works on site, following approval by Cabinet at its meeting held on 3rd June, 2009.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Les Clark, Head of Street Scene Services, presented the report advising Members of:-

- i) the background to the development;
- ii) the current position;
- iii) consultations undertaken as part of the application process;
- iv) the Barnes Park Centenary Event; and
- v) key milestones for the future.

Mr. Clarke advised that he had only been in post for 3 days and therefore did not have a detailed knowledge of the project, however, he would follow up in writing any Members' questions he was unable to address at the meeting.

Councillor Allan thanked Mr. Clark for a 'tremendous' report which was the ongoing result of decisions previously taken by the Committee. He paid tribute to the work undertaken by the officers and Portfolio holder in delivering the project to date.

4. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Review of the Local Area Plans (LAP)

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with details of the process and principles underlying the LAP review.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Richard Parry, Area Officer, having presented the report and encouraged Members and partners to take part in the self assessments and Members' surveys, it was:-

5. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Responsive Local Services

The Executive Director of City Services and the Chief Executive submitted a joint report (copy circulated) on the Responsive Local Services Project which had been designed to satisfy the service delivery element of the Community Leadership Programme ensuring that in delivering its day to day services, the Council was more responsive to the needs and expectations of its customers and engaged with citizens more effectively.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Phil Spooner Community Leadership Project, Programme Manager presented the report advising of the rationale behind the initiative, the current position, reporting arrangements for the Area Committees, together with the establishment of local problem solving groups and the need to communicate the linking of service improvements with Community Leadership.

Councillor P. Watson stated that the project was 'massive'. It amounted to double devolution bringing decision making into people's homes. The public would be able to contact their elected representative to describe their experiences who would bring these views directly to where services were devised, enabling the public to shape and influence them. The project was about empowering people and putting Councillors at the cutting edge. At the moment the Council was more reactive in nature. Councillor Watson believed that the scope of the scheme would only be limited by how active Councillors were in their wards.

Councillor M. Dixon welcomed the report and advised that in his experience the Council's response to feedback from Members had been good. He thanked officers for the work they had undertaken in this regard.

6. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Financial Statements and Funding Requests

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) in respect of the above matter which sought Committee approval for the following recommendations:-

- i) to approve the 27 proposals for support from the 2009/10 Community Chest as detailed in Anne 1 of the report;

- ii) to note the financial statement for 2009/10 as detailed in Annex 2 of the report;
- iii) to approve the proposal for support from the 2009/10 SIB in respect of the TWFRS Phoenix Project as detailed in Annex 3 of the report;
- iv) to approve the recommendations for the allocation of SIP as detailed in Annex 4 of the report;
- v) to note the SIB project update as detailed in Annex 5 of the report.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Richard Parry, Area Officer, presented the report and advised Members that following the September meeting a balance of £332,634 remained to be allocated from the 2009/2010 budget. Should the Committee approve the application before it in respect of the Phoenix Project, the remaining balance would be £314,814.

Councillor Oliver referred to the application for £950 Community Chest funding in respect of the purchase and planting of bulbs and trees in the St, Chad's Ward and requested that the Committee give consideration to an additional application of £550 in respect of shrubbery.

In accordance with Section 100(B) of the Local Government Act 1972 the Chairman agreed that the request would be treated as a matter of urgent business at this meeting to allow the timely planting of the purchases.

The Chairman then put Councillor Oliver's request to the Committee and it was agreed accordingly.

Councillor M. Dixon referred to the West Live Project Update at Annex 5 and asked for an update with regard to the A690 Christmas Light Project. Julie Gray, Head of Community Services, replied that she would pick up the issue and ensure Councillor Dixon received a written reply.

7. RESOLVED that:-

- i) approval be given to the 27 proposals recommended for support from the 2009/10 budget as detailed in Annex 1 of the report to include an additional £550 in respect of the St. Chad's ward purchase and planting of bulbs and trees project;
- ii) the financial statement for 2009/10 as detailed in Annex 2 of the report be noted;
- iii) approval be given to the granting of £17,820 SIB funding from the 2009/10 budget to the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service as a contribution to the Sunderland Phoenix Project;

- iv) the SIB project update as detailed in Annex 5 of the report be received and noted.

Area Committee Handbook

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which sought approval for an attached copy of the draft Area Committee Handbook.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Richard Parry, Area Officer, referred to Protocol 3 in respect of the SIB/SIP Governance and advised that an extra box would be included in the flow chart to indicate that Members would receive and be consulted on any application prior to its submission to the Area Committee.

8. RESOLVED that approval be given to the adoption of the Area Committee Handbook 2009/10.

(Signed) D. FORBES,
(Chairman).

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**Questions to Area Committee – Review of Pilot Scheme****1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To inform the Area Committee of the Questions to Area Committees received to date.
- 1.2 To seek the Area Committee's agreement to extend the pilot and for a review to be undertaken and reported to the March meeting of the Area Committee.

2. Background

- 2.1 At its meeting held on 1st July, 2009 the Area Committee approved the protocol to the Questions to Area Committees Scheme and that a pilot be undertaken for the next two Area Committee meetings in September and November 2009, with Councillors being encouraged to invite local people along to these meetings to ask strategic questions affecting the Coalfield Area as a whole.
- 2.2 The Area Committee also agreed that after the pilot a review on how it was managed in terms of process and practicalities would be held, with the possibility of it being rolled out across the City in 2010.

3. Questions to Area Committee

- 3.1 Questions to the Area Committees have been received for the September and November 2009 meetings as follows:-

Coalfield Area Committee	-	0
East Area Committee	-	0
North Area Committee	-	0
Washington Area Committee	-	1
West Area Committee	-	1

- 3.2 At the time of writing this report questions have been raised in respect of the Area Committees for the January meeting as follows:-

East Area Committee	-	3
Washington Area Committee	-	6

- 3.3 In view of the relatively low number of questions received during the initial period and the fact that three of the five Area Committees have

not received any questions prior to the January meeting, it is proposed to extend the pilot and undertake a review with a report to be submitted to the March meeting of the Area Committee for Members' consideration.

4. Recommendation

To approve a review of the pilot to the Questions to Area Committees to be submitted to the March meeting of the Area Committee.

5. Background Papers

Minutes of the meeting and report of the July meeting of the Area Committee.

- 6. Contact officer:** David Noon
Democratic Services Officer
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West Sunderland Area Committee

6th January 2010

Report of the Chief Executive

West: an Attractive and Inclusive Area Summary 'Make the streets and environment more attractive'

1. Why has it come to Committee?

1.1 At its meeting in July 2009, the committee agreed its work plan for the 2009/10 municipal year and the second Attractive and Inclusive priority is the fourth to come to committee for discussion and consideration.

2. Description of Decision (Recommendations)

2.1 Area Committee are asked to consider possible options to address the priorities to make the West an attractive and inclusive area and to strengthen the quality of life for residents.

Those options are

- Option 1 : Review
- Option 2 : Call for Projects
- Option 3 : Escalate to LSP or Scrutiny
- Note the **actions** identified in Annex 1
- Agree which of the following **proposals** (also identified in Annex 1) will be developed
 - Review
 - Committee is requested to receive a report on the implications and opportunities for the West with the Green Space Strategy and Green Infrastructure Strategy;
 - Committee is requested to receive a report on potential park structural improvements;
 - Committee is requested to receive a report on improving waste and unsightly land;
 - Area committee investigate the potential of Claxheugh riverside for water sports, recreation and parkland;
 - Investigate an 'Employment Initiative' linking construction skills required to build the new bridge, and its infrastructure, with training opportunities;
 - Committee is requested to agree to accept an update report at a future meeting regarding the Nexus Secured Services Strategy and Consultation.

3. Background

3.1 With a population of approximately 67,000 (24% of the city's population), West Sunderland contains 28,607 household spaces. In relation to housing tenure, the percentage of owner occupied property is lower than the City at 54% compared to the City average of 60.2%. The 2008 Place Survey tells us that resident's satisfaction with the West as a place to live is slightly higher than the city average. Public transport, affordable decent housing and clean streets are identified by West residents as important to them in making the area a good place to live. In relation to keeping land clear of litter and refuse satisfaction amongst residents in the West is higher than the city average, as is satisfaction with parks and open spaces.

3.2 Following the extensive programme of consultation with members, partners, community stakeholders and the wider community, the agreed priorities for this theme are:

1. Improve the environment;
2. Improve local shopping centres;
3. Improve local parks;
4. Regenerate the Riverside;
5. Improve public transport.

3.3 Who has been involved with this Attractive and Inclusive Priority?

- Gentoo
- Environmental Services
- Planning
- Sport and Leisure
- Area Co-ordination Team
- Highways and Transportation
- Sunderland Strategic Transport Corridor Team
- Nexus

3.4 Key Dates

- Aug 09: Initial meeting held with key partners to discuss priorities, what services are being currently delivered, any gaps, and general comments
- 10.12.09: Pre meeting for Area Committee
- 21.12.09 : Report deadline for Area Committee
- **06.01.10 : Area Committee, discuss and agree recommendations**
- 24.02.10 : Area Committee: feedback presented
- 29.03.10 : Deadline for End of year report for Area Committee
- 07.04.10 : Area Committee End of Year report presented

4. Attractive and Inclusive Theme Area Summary

4.1 Attached as Annex 1 is the area summary for the Attractive and Inclusive theme. The annex covers:

- Priorities agreed at Area Committee
- Key Facts
- Current activity delivered day to day from services
- Any gaps, identified needs or general comments
- Actions and proposals

5. Background papers

- Sunderland Strategy Delivery Plans
- Local Area Agreements Delivery Plans
- Local Area Plans
- Information provided by partners and officers at workshop event August 2009 and Working Group meetings and one to one meetings

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

Annex 1: West: Attractive and Inclusive Area Summary

Priority One: Improve the environment

Key Issues/background

In relation to the living environment of the Indices of Multiple Deprivation, the West has no Lower Super Output Areas in the top 20% most deprived in the country. Numbers of residents in the West agreeing that local services are keeping the area cleaner and greener is in line with the city average.

Current activities

- Green Space Strategy is being produced identifying quantity and quality of green spaces and will recommend where improvements are needed.
- The Green Space Strategy will inform a Green Infrastructure Strategy. This national initiative will create a series of primary and secondary corridors, which will provide corridors of green space concerned with the quality of wild life, play areas, recreational land and parks.
- Play Pathfinder schemes are improving play access across the city.
- There is a further development of the cycle network across the city with the construction of a cycle path in the Barnes Park redevelopment.
- Responsive Local Services will enable a range of environmental services to respond more effectively to the needs and expectations of local people.
- The Council's team of Environmental Enforcement Officers has been increased to 12 and they patrol the streets, educating the public and issuing fixed penalty notices if they see a littering or dog fouling offence, and will take appropriate action on those responsible for graffiti and fly tipping. In the period May to October 2009 there have been 23 fixed penalty notices for dog fouling.
- Gentoo's Neighbourhood Housing Managers pick up issues and report to grounds maintenance, repairs, cleaning teams and also refer issues to the Council teams and other relevant partners.
- The SIP programme of works being carried out by City Services is designed to tackle fly tipping and make improvements to cycle ways.

Gaps/Comments/Needs

- The Green space Strategy and the Green Infrastructure Strategy will identify gaps in provision with 'headlines' available in spring.
- There are a low numbers of trees in the area.
- Play areas – no facilities in Hastings Hill, Grindon.
- Need to ensure strong linkages to the LSP thematic delivery plan.
- The new area Voluntary and Community Sector Network will enable greater community engagement.
- There is a need to fully ascertain land ownership.
- Cycle/walking path at Hastings Hill is subject to flooding and inaccessibility.

Actions

- Investigate options for improving the path at Hastings Hill.
- Investigate increasing numbers of trees.
- Investigate steps needed to improve land ownership information.

Proposal

<p>Review: Receive a report on the implications and opportunities for the West as a result of the Green Space Strategy and Green Infrastructure Strategy.</p>
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Priority Two: Improve local shopping centres

Key issues/background

The main local shopping centres have been subject to a 'Retail Needs Assessment'. Some streets have empty shops creating an unattractive environment and a negative impression of the area.

Current activities

- Small local centres, no recognised district centre serving West area.
- Chester Road is seen as a busy district centre that serves its area well.
- Pennywell is seen as having pleasant, good quality public realm.
- Recent small supermarkets built (Tesco- Middle Herrington, Somerfield- North Moor, Lidl- Prospect).
- Recent push for more fresh produce available at local stores (eg Londis).
- Responsive Local Services will enable a range of environmental services to respond more effectively to local needs and expectations.

Gaps/Comments/Needs

- Pennywell is probably the nearest example of a local district centre. No free-ATM machine available. Some wider facilities not in the area, for example library provision.
- Pallion has an attractive public realm, but has six vacant units as well as units with shutters down during the day. It is seen to lack vibrancy.
- Silksworth has five vacant units and would benefit from investment in the public realm.
- There is poor walking and cycling to some centres in the West Area.
- More proactive shop owners could help by ensuring their shop frontages are tidy and reporting of graffiti.

Actions

- Investigate potential street scene improvements and work with shop owners.
- Investigate the possibility of walking and cycling improvements.
- Area Committee to receive feedback regarding the 'Retail Needs Assessment'.

Priority Three: Improve local parks

Key issues/background

There are five parks in the West area: Barnes Park, Silksworth Recreation Park, Middle Herrington Park, King George V Park and Thorndale Road Park. Barnes Park is currently closed whilst a £3m plus redevelopment project takes place. In addition, there are a number of open spaces and playing fields.

Current activities

- There is ongoing maintenance and enhancement of local parks. Major improvement works to Barnes Park. High quality achieved at many other parks.
- There is a Community Education and Development Worker for Barnes Park.
- Improvements to the stream and habitat at Barnes extension are being undertaken.
- Play pathfinder schemes rolling out high quality play sites across the area.
- Green Space Strategy is examining green space provision across the city.

Gaps/Comments/Needs

- Hastings Hill and Grindon have limited access to play provision.
- The City Adventure Play Park at Silksworth Sports Complex, part of the Play pathfinder programme has a planned phase 2, for which there is a shortfall.
- Green space Strategy will highlight gaps in green space provision in terms of quality, quantity and value.
- There is potential for local parks and green spaces to provide linked networks of green infrastructure. However, there are some barriers to be addressed.
- There are unsightly areas of open land, which attract fly tipping.
- There is little capital to improve local parks and open spaces.
- There is a waiting list for allotments and a number of disused sites. A needs assessment is being undertaken.
- Vandalism is not considered a major problem; although anti social behaviour can be an issue.

Actions

- Investigate upgrading existing green spaces in key locations to improve access to formal parkland, such as Pennywell Children's Forest, Hylton Road Playing Fields.
- Use the Green Space Strategy recommendations to identify funding improvements to amenity open space, natural green space, allotments etc.
- Investigate options to complete phase 2 of the City Adventure Play Park.

Proposal

<p>Review: Receive a report on potential park structural improvements;</p> <p>Review: Receive a report on improving waste and unsightly land.</p>

Priority Four: Regenerate the riverside

Key issues/background

The riverbanks show evidence of past industrialisation, with former collieries, engineering works and dozens of shipyards. The artist LS Lowry visited Sunderland repeatedly to paint industrial landscapes around the river. A new bridge is to be built, starting in 2012.

Current activities

- Rights of Way improvements – stabilising the riverbanks
- A new bridge is to be built, as part of the Sunderland Strategic Transport Corridor, linking Pallion with Hylton.
- There are some footpath improvements taking place at Claxheugh Rocks.
- The City of Sunderland Rowing Club is located at the Claxheugh recreation area at South Hylton.
- The Groves site is earmarked for housing, educational and community facilities.
- The Timber Beach area is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in council ownership.

Gaps/Comments/Needs

- The Claxheugh area could be further utilised as a recreation space linked to the SSSI.
- There is potential to further develop water sports opportunity, with the tremendous backdrop of Claxheugh Rock.
- The Groves redevelopment can enable access improvement to river.
- Riverside pathway may need upgrade as well as developing a more extensive footpath/cycleway network.
- The construction of the new bridge can provide employment, training and educational opportunities.

Actions

- Ensure Groves development enables riverside promenade to be achieved and links west and east.
- Investigate further improvements to riverside Right of Way (tied in with River Wear Trail).
- Look at opportunities for local schools and the local community to be involved in engineering and heritage projects with the construction of the new bridge.
- Investigate the possibility of maximising the employment of local labour and trainees from Pallion Skills Centre in the construction of the new bridge.
- Investigate the commercial opportunities of the new bridge 'brand', including a viewing platform.

Proposal

Review: Investigate the potential of Claxheugh Riverside for water sports, recreation and formal parkland;
Investigate an 'Employment Initiative' linking construction skills required to build the new bridge, and its infrastructure, with training opportunities.

Priority Five: Improve public transport

Key issues/background

Public transport access to the city centre varies markedly. Currently 50% of the population live more than 20 minutes away from the city centre, with parts of Grindon and Hastings Hill over 30 minutes travel time away.

Current activities

- Tyne and Wear Bus Strategy
- Good public transport services generally.
- Transport focused along corridors accessing the city centre.
- Satisfaction levels with bus services are considerably higher than the city average. Satisfaction with local transport information is also higher than average.
- The Metro to South Hylton has increased its day time frequency to every 12 minutes.
- Due to the re-routing of the no. 35 bus, the evening bus services connecting Silksworth and the city centre have been restored and residents now have direct access to South Shields and Hetton.
- Nexus Secured Services Strategy is currently out to consultation and should be available for publication after end of January 2010
- Nexus work with Compass to provide group travel. Community Travel and Community Centre provision is provided by Compass, subsidised by Nexus. Compass also runs a service linking South Hylton to the main bus network, funded by Nexus.
- Nexus also operate Taxi Card scheme and Link Up demand-responsive services and subsidise group travel and Age Concern Shopper Services. Nexus also administer Network Travel ticket scheme and Teen Travel, and free concessionary travel scheme
- Nexus are currently in the process of designing a network of secured services to provide enhancements to existing commercial services. From March 2010 public consultations on the proposals in the West will take place. Councilors will have the opportunity to view and feed back on the network in advance of this. It is planned to implement the project in late summer 2010

Gaps/Comments/Needs

- Park lane terminus is the public transport hub for connecting to other transport corridors, which limits connections between some estates on a north – south axis.
- The quality of some local centres' public transport stops/hubs.
- Fewer residents in the west have access to a car.

Actions

- A183 traffic and transport improvements, look to these improving pedestrian access to bus stops and in crossing the road.
- Nexus would appreciate the opportunity to work with the Area Committee to better understand issues of concern and to identify ways of resolving them.
- Investigate street and environmental improvements, which improve the area locally but also help to facilitate through-movement of buses.
- West Committee to identify gaps and engage with Nexus on how these gaps may be filled.

Proposal: Committee is requested to note the contents of the information contained under priority five, and agree to accept an update report at a future meeting re Nexus Accessible Bus Network Design Project and Consultation.

West Sunderland Area Committee

6th January 2010

Report of the Chief Executive

West Area Action Plans

1. Why has it come to Committee?

- 1.1 At its meeting in July 2009, the Committee agreed the work plan for the 2009/10. It was deemed necessary to establish Area Action Plans for each theme identified in the Local Area Plan to ensure that all priorities are addressed throughout 2009-10.
- 1.2 At the November Area Committee summary area templates were presented, showing an update on each action and also coded them as red, amber or green. The area actions will be available on line, via www.sunderland.gov.uk/localareaplans and updated bi monthly to provide Committee and the public with up to date information on the performance against the action plans. Red represents a delay/problem, amber represents possible issues which Officers are aware of, green represents that the action is on target or completed.
- 1.3 Each Area Committee has a standing agenda allowing for updates to be given on all five thematic priorities throughout the year. Even though some priorities will not be discussed until 2010, summary area templates will be established throughout 2009 for all thematic priorities.

2. Description of Decision (Recommendations)

2.1. Area Committee is asked to:

- Consider the Safe report (Annex 1) and note future reports and updates requested through the **Safe Area Action Plan**;
- Consider the Attractive and Inclusive report (annex 2) and note activity detailed through the **Attractive and Inclusive Area Action Plan**;
- Consider the Learning report (Annex 3) and note the actions detailed in the **Learning Area Action Plan**.

3. Area Action Plan Update

- 3.1 In July 2009, the Area Committee agreed a number of actions and proposals, relating to the **Safe** priorities, to be formulated into an action plan for Area Committee to monitor. The reviewed West Safe Action Plan is attached as Annex 1. Area Committee is asked to note a report with regard to the Community Payback Scheme will be presented to a future meeting. It is important to remember that the Community Payback scheme is established primarily to support the victims of crime, and as such, their requests for work will always be given priority for action.
- 3.2 In September 2009 the Area Committee also agreed a number of actions and proposals relating to the **Attractive and Inclusive** priorities, also to be formulated into an action plan for Area Committee to monitor. This is attached as Annex 2.

One of the priorities agreed is to make residential areas more attractive and this will incorporate a number of other agreed actions. Officers will be present and will provide the Committee with an update of progress.

3.3 In November 2009, the Area Committee agreed a number of actions and proposals, relating to **Learning** priorities. One of the priorities agreed is to provide better support for young people e.g. more youth and play services by increasing service provision/activities for children and young people. An action agreed to deliver this priority was for Youth Development Group to implement new commissioning arrangements from April 2010 that better represent the needs of young people in their neighbourhoods.

3.4 Representatives from YDG will be present at the meeting to provide Committee with an update on the commissioning model and way forward. Further information on key actions identified in the Learning Area Action Plan is outlined in Annex 3.

4. Background papers

- Sunderland Strategy Delivery Plans
- Local Area Agreements Delivery Plans
- West Local Area Plan

5. List of Appendices

- Annex 1: West Area Safe Action Plan
- Annex 2: West Area Attractive and Inclusive Action Plan
- Annex 3: West Area Learning Action Plan

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West Area Action Plan- Safe

Objective	Action	Lead Officer	Progress	Next Steps/Who?	Performance Measure	City wide	Area wide	Barnes	St Annes	Sandhill	St Chads	Silksworth	Pallion
Target underage drinking	Investigate the problem of 'drinking dens'	Bill Blackett	Initial report to September Area Committee. Proposals agreed for further action. Further discussions with youth agencies.	Further report in March 2010 – Bill Blackett	% of residents who consider people being drunk or rowdy in public spaces to be a problem	32.7%	29.1%						
					% of residents who consider young people hanging around on streets to be a problem	50.0%	48.0%						
Youth provision	Continuation of the work done through Phoenix project and secure longer term project funding to allow for future planning	John Ord	Two year SIB funding proposal to be developed to allow the project to enhance its provision	Citywide bid to all Area Committees in November - agreed	Number of young people contacted through the Youth Service								
					Number of young related incidents of anti social behaviour	42.2		26.7	45.8	63.5	53.3	36.8	35.2
					Number of incidents of fire related anti social behaviour								
Visible policing/reassurance/enforcement in hotspots	Feedback on the success of Neighbourhood Wardens, which were used in Sunderland North to improve the quality of life for local people	Graham Wilson	Citywide approach being developed	Report to a future committee	% of people who feel safer	85%	86%						
					Rate of anti social behaviour incidents	113.6		65.6	105.1	137.6	99.6	88.6	97.7
					Crime Rate	82.5		59.1	76.7	60.8	49.5	65.0	76.7
Community relations and promoting community safety	YOS to develop proposals around establishing a Community Payback Scheme, where x amount of hours are awarded to the Area Committee to allocate against improving the quality of life, via LAPs priorities i.e. removal of graffiti	Simon Smart	Initial discussions have been held with the Youth Offending Service (YOS) who have agreed that it is feasible for Area Committee to discuss and recommend a hotspot in their area that will improve the quality of life for local residents e.g. removal of gra	Members are asked to consider potential areas and send details to the Area Officer two weeks before the next Area Committee. One location will be chosen by the Area Committee from the list presented. NB requests from victims of crime will be given prior	% of residents who feel they can influence decision in their locality	26.3	27.3						
					% of residents who strongly believe they belong to their neighbourhood	64.6	64						
Community relations and promoting community safety	Investigate the sustainability of introducing Neighbourhood Watch Schemes across the area and bring back feedback to September 09 meeting	Insp Warcup	Report to September's committee	Update progress on a quarterly basis									

West Area Action Plan- Attractive and Inclusive (1)

Objective	Action		Lead Officer	Progress	Next Steps/Who?	Performance Measure	City wide	Area wide	Barnes	St Annes	Sandhill	St Chads	Silksworth	Pallion
Empty properties back into use	Health, Housing and Adults Provide a report regarding the links between empty homes and ASB		Graham Wilson	Report has been completed and is being referred to Scrutiny due to these concerns being expressed at all Area Committees. Report back attached as Annex 2a	Report back to Area Committee following appropriate Scrutiny Committee	Number of affordable homes	230							
						New additional homes provided	299							
						Empty properties back into use	387							
Address lack of parking provision in some residential areas	Council, Gentoo Highlight hotspots of illegal/inconsiderate parking and develop proposals to tackle the problem		Ian Pearson	Meeting with the Traffic and Road Safety Team has taken place, which has highlighted a number of issues: traffic management budget is for accident reduction, congestion, air quality and access; loss of open space - need for planning permission; increased	Incorporate within the 'improving residential areas' work plan. Consideration to include options to provide vehicular crossings in the footway.									
Make estates/residential areas more attractive	City Services Receive an application to enable all current outstanding highway and carriageway works to be carried out		Stephen Pickering	This is currently in development	To be incorporated into the overall plan/proposals for neighbourhood improvements. Directorate is currently considering how it can address this action									
Make estates/residential areas more attractive	OCX, City Services, Gentoo Develop a programme of neighbourhood improvements, with full community engagement		Keith Hamilton	This is currently being developed.	Areas for improvement are currently being developed, including tree planting and street scene. Once a number of draft proposals have been developed a report will be presented to committee									

West Area Action Plan- Learning

Objective	Action	Timescale	Lead Officer	Progress	Next Steps/Who?	Performance Measure	City wide	Area wide	Barnes	St Annes	Sandhill	St Chads	Silksworth	Pallion
Provide a safe environment for young people with more play and youth services and encouragement to continue into higher education	Area Committee to be updated on youth commissioning.		Andy Neal	update to be presented	Next committee	Emotional health of children	66.9%							
Provide a safe environment for young people with more play and youth services and encouragement to continue into higher education	Area Committee to receive a report from the Youth Development Group, in light of youth commissioning, on the range of services and providers for children and young people to enable an integrated approach to meeting needs and the planning and delivery of s		Andy Neal	Will commence once commissioning complete	Update at next committee									
Provide a safe environment for young people with more play and youth services and encouragement to continue into higher education	Investigate alternative funding to continue the delivery of GO4IT positive activities with young people after March 2011		Andy Neal	YDG investigating	Updates to committee throughout the year									
Provide more weekend and evening activities	Receive a report from the Youth Development Group on the provision of weekend and evening youth villages		Andy Neal	Report to be presented	Verbal update to January committee									
Raise aspirations of children/young people and their families	Area Committee to receive a report on current Family, Adult and Community Learning provision, including partners and learning providers, types of courses, community needs, gaps in provision, times and venues.		Sandra Kenny	Information being compiled	Progress update at next committee	% of population aged 16-64 who have no qualifications	36.9	41	32	46	47	37	40	43

**West Sunderland Area Committee meeting
6th January, 2010**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I

Title of Report:

Financial Statements and Funding Requests

Author(s):

Office of the Chief Executive

Purpose of Report:

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

Description of Decision:

The Committee is requested to approve the following from the 2009/10 budget:

- Annex 1: 10 proposals for support from Community Chest.
- Annex 2: i) Approve two proposals for SIB funding;
 - £5,000 for the Miners' Memorial project;
 - £10,000 for the Seaburn Public Realm project.
 ii) Defer two proposals for SIB funding:
 - Community Leaders of the Future;
 - Green Team.
 iii) Reject a proposal for SIB funding:
 - Kool Kids
- Annex 3: Note the financial statement for Area Committee funding for 2009/10.

Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework?

Yes

Suggested reason(s) for Decision:

The Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) and Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) were established to promote action on key priorities identified in the relevant Local Area Plan and to attract other funding into the area. Applications for SIB/SIP funding should demonstrate the potential benefits to communities the proposed project would bring and be able to provide evidence and statistics that can illustrate these benefits.

Community Chest forms part of the Strategic Initiatives Budget and support is given to projects, which clearly demonstrate they will address identified local needs, provide genuine community benefit and can provide evidence/measurement of success.

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

Relevant Review Committee:

Management Scrutiny Committee

Is it included in the Forward Plan?

No

West Sunderland Area Committee

6th January, 2010

Report of Chief Executive

Financial Statements and Funding Request

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 This report outlines current expenditure from the Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB), Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) and Community Chest and applications for funding from these budgets in order to support new initiatives, which will benefit the area and the delivery of the Local Area Plans.

2.0 Description of Decision (Recommendation)

2.1 The Committee is requested to approve all 10 proposals for support from the 2009/10 Community Chest, as detailed in Annex I.

2.2 The Committee is requested to consider two projects for support from the 2009/10 SIB allocation, as below and detailed in Annex 2.

Recommend Approval

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------|
| • Miners' Memorial (SCC) | £5,000 |
| • Seaburn Public Realm (SCC) | £10,000 |

Recommend Deferral

- | | |
|--|---------|
| • Community Leaders of the Future (Education Business Connections) | £11,543 |
| • Green Team (Groundwork) | £53,825 |

Recommend Rejection

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| • Kool Kids (Sunderland Dance) | £11,645 |
|--------------------------------|---------|

2.3 Note the financial statement for 2009/10 in Annex 3.

3.0 Background

3.1 The Council has reduced the number of areas across the City from six to five. This has resulted in a new calculation of SIB funding to be awarded to the Sunderland West Area Committee of £331,887 to be allocated up until March 2010. All allocations of funding should be matched against the criteria outlined in delivering the key priorities of the area, identified within the Local Area Plan (LAP).

3.2 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. This equates to £233,230.

3.3 The Committee will be aware that the Community Chest forms part of the Strategic Initiatives Budget and that £250,000 is available for the scheme in 2009/2010, £10,000 for each Ward, plus any unclaimed allocations identified from previous years.

4.0 Current Position SIB

- 4.1 Following the November 2009 Committee meeting, a balance of £314,814 remained to be allocated from 2009/10 years budget.
- 4.2 There are two projects recommended for approval requesting £15,000. Should Committee approve this the remaining balance would be £299,814.
- 4.3 Members should note that any uncommitted expenditure from this financial year will be carried forward to the following year's budget.

5.0 Current position SIP

- 5.1 The full amount of £233,230 remains to be allocated.

6.0 Current Position Community Chest

- 6.1 To date approvals for each Ward total:

Barnes	£6691
Pallion	£1870
Sandhill	£9124
Silksworth	£7745
St. Anne's	£7820
St. Chad's	£8667

- 6.2 The projects listed on Annex 1 total:

Barnes	£356
Pallion	£0000
Sandhill	£0000
Silksworth	£600
St. Anne's	£0000
St. Chad's	£2706

- 6.3 Should the Committee grant the requests listed on Annex 1 the remaining balances, including the unclaimed allocations identified from previous years, would be:

Barnes	£3153
Pallion	£15471
Sandhill	£12166
Silksworth	£3505
St. Anne's	£6900
St. Chad's	£0000

7.0 Reasons for the Decision

- 7.1 SIB and SIP was established to promote action on key priorities identified in the relevant Local Area Plan, and to attract other funding into the area. Applications for SIB/SIP funding should demonstrate the potential benefits to local communities the proposed project would bring, and subsequently be able to provide evidence and statistics that can illustrate these benefits.
- 7.2 Community Chest support is given to projects which clearly demonstrate that they will address identified local needs, provide genuine community benefit and which can subsequently provide evidence/measurement of success in this respect.

8.0 Alternative Options

8.1 Each project is required to indicate what alternative options they have considered during the application business process.

9.0 Relevant Consultations

9.1 Financial Implications

The Director of Financial Resources has been consulted on this report and all costs associated with developing SIB, SIP and Community Chest applications.

9.2 Implications for Other Services

Each project is required to indicate what implications there may be for other services in the application business process.

9.3 The Public

Each project is required to indicate what consultation it has undertaken and other documentary evidence it has to support its proposal in during the application business process. Residents have been consulted about the priorities in the Local Area Plans and bids support these identified priorities.

9.4 The Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 and the Councils Race Equality Scheme.

Each project is required to indicate whether it has an equal opportunities policy, or what measures it employs to address equal opportunity issues, during the application process.

9.5 Public Relations and Publicity

Each project is required to indicate how it will promote funding awarded from Area Committee.

9.6 Councillors

Members have been consulted on all applications for SIB, SIP and Community Chest support and the implementation of the review.

10.0 List of Appendices

- | | | |
|------|---------|---|
| 10.1 | Annex 1 | Community Chest: Proposed projects for approval |
| 10.2 | Annex 2 | SIB: Application summaries |
| 10.3 | Annex 3 | Financial statement |

11.0 Background Papers

11.1 The following background papers were used:

- Community Chest Application Forms;
- Schedule of projects circulated at the panel meeting held on 10th December, 2009;
- Reports to previous Area Committees;
- Sunderland West Local Area Plan;
- SIB applications, appraisals and consultation.

COMMUNITY CHEST 2009/2010

PROJECTS PROPOSED FOR APPROVAL

**Recommended Grant
subject to final estimates,
invoices, up to:**

BARNES WARD

Mowbray Park Bowling Club – Purchase of uniforms. 156

Sunderland Men's Probus Club – Contribution towards social activities, trips etc., 200

Total 356

SILKSWORTH WARD

Churches Together – Contribution towards production of carol service C.D etc., 600

Total 600

ST. CHAD'S WARD

Jubilee Watercolours – Purchase of art materials. 100

Sunderland Diabetic Support Group – Contribution towards room hire, printing, stationery, laptop etc., 100

Ravens Ski Club – Contribution towards training software, tutors, shelter, etc., 750

Altringham Tower Friendly Club – Contribution towards social activities, trips, refreshments etc., 350

The Box Youth Project – Purchase of equipment, craft materials etc., 1000

East Herrington Townswomen's Guild – Contribution towards speakers, demonstrators etc., 300

Sunderland & District Table Tennis Club – Contribution towards centenary celebrations, purchase of equipment etc., 106

Total 2706

Total of Projects 3662

Name of Project	Miners Memorial Window – Civic Suite	
Lead Organisation	Culture & Tourism (SCC)	
Total Cost of Project	Total Match Funding	Total SIB Requested
£25,000	£0	£25,000 (£5k from West Area Committee)
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
5 months	January 2010	March 2010

The Project

This project will deliver a bespoke design for the glazed area above the entrance to the Civic Centre Suite. The aim is to provide visitors and Council members with a high quality commission, which will be visually exciting and create an engaging and contemporary design that will complement the Civic Centre Building. The design will reference the past mining industry specifically the 1984 -1985 Miners Strike. The mining industry was a major determinant of the city's development and its heritage and culture.

The artist will create a design for the glass area above the entrance door to the Civic Suite ensuring that the work can be viewed from both inside and outside the civic centre and will:

- make a visually appealing feature of the entrance to the Civic Centre Council Chamber
- be robust in construction, require minimal maintenance, and adhere to health and safety requirements.
- reference the history of the 1984 -1985 strike
- be permanent (i.e. should function effectively on the site for a period of not less than 20 years)

The Need for the Project

The project has been identified and supported by families and individuals connected to the city's mining history. The project will be delivered in partnership with the Durham Miners Association.

The Outputs for the Project

Output Code	Description	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
A6	Number of community/educational events	1		

The key milestones for the Project

Milestone and key event	Forecast Dates
Artist contracted and presentation of designs	Jan 2010
Technical development	Jan – Feb 10
Unveiling of artwork	6 Mar 2010

Recommendation: Approve Subject to:

- Additional outputs identified – set a target for A2 – Number of people using improved community facility. The application will be strengthened by confirming the number of people who would be able to access the artwork
- Confirmation no planning permission is required
- Confirmation of who will be invited to the launch event (numbers, families, community?)
- Confirmation of future repair, maintenance and cleaning programme in place

Name of Project	Seaburn public realm	
Lead Organisation	Sunderland City Council	
Total Cost of Project	Total Match Funding	Total SIB Requested
£168,000	£128,000 (from North Area Committee)	£ 10,000 each from Coalfield, West, East and Washington Areas
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
1 year 3 months	January 2010	March 2011

The Project

The proposal is seeking £10,000 from this Area Committee towards a £168,000 package of public realm improvements at Seaburn upper and lower promenades. The project will resurface areas of the promenade, install new street furniture and planting and improve the soft landscaping of the area. This is the first phase in a more comprehensive improvement scheme for Seaburn.

The Need for the Project

The community spirit survey in 2007 and, more recently, the Sea Front strategy consultation in Spring 2009 raised the need for a more attractive, improved sea front. The consultation took place with residents from all five areas in the City who highlighted the importance of the sea front to the City.

The Outputs for the Project

Output Code	Description	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
A4	events/programmes of work to improve appearance of streets		2	

The key milestones for the Project

Milestone and key event	Forecast Dates
Develop detailed design proposals	January 2010
Procure contractor	April 2010
Commence works on site	May 2010
Completion of first phase of works/project	July 2010

Recommendation: **Approve:**

- The project will enhance one of the City's key assets and help to improve visitor perceptions of the City as a whole
- The project is not part of the scheme being developed under the £1m Sea Change funding. It is a separate project focusing on the improvement of Seaburn as a family resort
- This key location will kick-start the wider regeneration of the seafront, attracting investment to the City. The Seafront Regeneration Strategy relies to an extent on investment from the private sector. Investment in the public realm will demonstrate an improvement to the area and increase developer confidence and attract spend from the private sector.

Name of Project	Community Leaders of the Future	
Lead Organisation	Education Business Connections	
Total Cost of Project	Total Match Funding	Total SIB Requested
£75,915	£18,200	£57,715 (£11,543 from East, Coalfield, North, Washington, West Area Committees)
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
Two years	January 2010	December 2011

The Project

It is a two-year project which includes a high profile citywide competition open to all secondary and special schools with a key theme of volunteering whilst developing both key employability skills, work readiness and entrepreneurship on participating young people. It will culminate in a high profile awards event to mark the European Year of Volunteering in 2011. There will be 4 large scale events during the two years. A secondary school from each of the five regeneration areas, with pupils in the range 11 to 13, will be invited, to take part in the competition and activities plus 2 citywide special schools and one citywide voluntary aided school

The project includes a number of core elements all designed through a phased learning programme to raise awareness in targeted young people of the impact they can make in supporting local VCS organisations in their community. There is also accredited training for young people resulting in NCFE awards. In particular the programme will aim to develop young people's work readiness and employability skills, foster a sense of entrepreneurship and an understanding that volunteering makes a real difference to everyday life across the city and that young people can be positive about giving freely of their time and energy as a preparation for adulthood and citizenship.

The Need for the Project

The project would appear to fill a gap for schools and young people. The applicant states that having worked with all the city's secondary schools, there is a clear demand and an unmet need to deliver more activities. In particular, the application states that schools have requested curriculum enhancing activities around involving business and enterprise activities, friendly competitions between schools, programmes which embed employability skills and which reward pupils' achievements, as well as connecting the schools to local communities. This project would actually meet all of these requirements, in particular for the 8 schools involved and their pupils (which will number 30 from each secondary and 10-15 in each special school).

There is evidence in the application around the importance of volunteering and the need to engage young people in this activity as early as possible in terms of developing their citizenship skills, an understanding of their communities as well as learning, life and employability skills.

The Outputs for the Project

Output Code	Description	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
A3	Number of community/vol groups supported	8		
P3	No of young people in voluntary work	230		
S5	No of young people benefiting from youth inclusion/diversionary activities	230		

The key milestones for the Project

Milestone and key event	Forecast Dates
Market and recruit project to schools	Feb 2010
Presentations and initial classroom work	March – May 2010

Official launch	June 2010
Project activity: Classroom activities; Pupils review business plans, etc; re-profile income generating target etc; Mix of face-to-face and online support from third sector organisations and EBC to complete gathering of evidence for NCFE qualification submissions; Cut off for completion of NCFE qualification portfolios Updating of website based on project activity Mid term evaluation	June – October 2010
Skills/industry/employment Event	October 2010
Project activity	November – June 2011
Third Sector Event	May 2011
Fundraising Enterprise Event	July 2011
Project activity	August – November 2011
Celebratory Event	December 2011

Recommendation: Defer

Although the project is innovative and ambitious, it requires a high level of support from schools, including a commitment to identifying and supporting at least 30 young people over a 2 year period. Therefore until the project has been discussed with the schools identified and they have given, at least, their initial commitment to supporting the project for a two year period, the project should be deferred. The project is also reliant on commitment from a number of voluntary sector organisations to ensure success of the project. Again, an indication of the support from these organisations would strengthen the application.

Name of Project	Green Team	
Lead Organisation	Groundworks	
Total Cost of Project	Total Match Funding	Total SIB Requested
£145,825	£92,000	£ 53,825
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
20 months	January 2010	August 2011

The Project

The project is an Intermediate Labour Market (ILM) and will establish a “Green Team” made up of up to five unemployed young people. The Green Team provides a six-month period of employment, counselling and training for members, helping them to become “job ready”. The project will also provide business start-up advice to the young people, to actively encourage the establishment of new enterprises.

The team will undertake small scale environmental improvements such as horticultural works to enhance deprived areas, removal of graffiti and cleaning up communal areas and gardens. The team will liaise with local neighbourhood groups, area forums and partners such as Gentoo and the City Council to inform the team’s work programme.

The Need for the Project

The project need is based on evidence from statistics, datasets and strategic documents around: worklessness; the environment; community cohesion and poverty.

The Outputs for the Project

Output Code	Description	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
A1	Number of improved community facilities	3	3	1
A3	Number of community groups supported	1	3	1
A4	Work to improve appearance of streets	3	5	2
P1	Number of people going into employment	0	6	2
P3	Number of people employed in voluntary work	0	2	2
P4	No of new businesses established/supported	0	1	1
L1	No of people receiving job training	4	10	
L5	No of adults obtaining qualifications	2	8	
L6	No of NEET young people encouraged into further education and employment	1	3	

The key milestones for the Project

Milestone and key event	Forecast Dates
Recruit supervisors and support staff	February 2010
Recruit first cohort of clients from local area	February 2010
Commence work programme	March 2010
Engage local communities/press releases	On going
Recruit second cohort of clients	August 2010
Continue work programme delivery	August 2010
Interim evaluation report	October 2010
Recruit third cohort of clients	February 2011
Continue work programme delivery	February 2011
Develop exit strategy	July 2011
Final evaluation	July 2011

Recommendation: Defer

- Details of activities are sketchy in places – for example it is unclear what kind of training, advice and counselling.
- All the outputs are not covered in the narrative description of the project, so it is unclear how they will be achieved.
- A more focused narrative description of the project, closely referencing the budget and milestones, which clearly shows the activities, agencies and personnel involved in the project and how they will deliver the outputs identified. In particular, more specific information is required on how the advice, training and counselling is to be provided and by whom.
- Either a revised list of outputs and milestones, or further details as to how these can be achieved within the timescales.
- More details on the consultation held with other agencies involved in the project and what roles have been agreed.
- An explanation of how the project can be transferred to other areas and whether funding for this has been investigated.

Name of Project	Kool Kids
Lead Organisation	Sunderland Dance

Total Cost of Project	Total Match Funding	Total SIB Requested
Revenue: £46,580 £11,645 per area	£985 – in kind	£11,645 per area (Washington, Coalfields, Sunderland West and East)
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
1 year	February 2010	February 2011

The Project

The proposed project is seeking funds from four of the five Area Committees to deliver a 48 weeks urban dance programme, in two community venues per area. Each venue will receive a weekly 2 hour session, 1st hour targeting the under 12's, 2nd hour 12 plus. The Kool Kids programme was piloted in the North area of the City during 2008-09 which was funded by North Area Committee SIB. The project delivered against its objectives. The Lead Agents now wish to roll the programme out across the City. The project will be delivered in the Comrades Club Fencibles and the Hutton Centre

The Need for the Project

The Lead Agent are currently commissioned via Youth Development Group to deliver dance, via the XL Youth Villages, in addition to working with local schools and community youth projects. Many of the currently participants of these projects and programmes have requested more dance activities. The Lead Agent refers to a strong connection towards a Safe City, and identifies how the programme can reduce ASB, also four individual Officers from Northumbria Police have written letters of support for the project.

The Outputs for the Project per area

Output Code	Description	Target 2010/11
L7	Number of additional youth sessions delivered per week.	2
S5	Number of young people benefiting from youth inclusion/diversionary projects	100

The key milestones for the Project

Milestones and Key Events	Forecast Dates
Promoting new Kool Kids projects completed	Feb 2010
25% of output numbers of young people met and engaged	Mar 2010
50% of output numbers of young people met and engaged	Jun 2010
75% of output numbers of young people met and engaged	Sep 2010
100% of output numbers of young people met and engaged	Dec 2010
Initial project statistical information on youth disorder supplied by police	Jan 2010
Mid project statistical information on youth disorder supplied by police	Jul 2010
End of project statistical information on youth disorder supplied by police	Dec 2010
Social Return On Investment information gathered to gauge the impact of the project	Jan 2011

Recommendation: Reject

- Children Services, Youth Development Group are advertising tenders for the delivery of youth provision in each of the 25 wards across the City, with contracts to be awarded over the Winter. This will allow for a scoping document to be produced identifying all the needs/gaps in provision across an area. This will identify if this project will bring added value to existing provision.
- If the need to supply a dance programme is identified, after the contracts have been awarded, the Area Committee can Call for Projects and seek competitive applications to deliver the project, with the Committee deciding upon the outputs and costs of the project.
- The application does strategically fit under the Local Area Plan, but the Lead Agent already receives core funding to deliver dance across the City via XL youth villages. In addition, the suggestions that the participants who currently attend the youth villages, schools, etc are asking for more dance sessions, would imply that the same participants would benefit from the extended provision, again questioning the added value, no new beneficiaries.

SIB: West SIB Statement 6th January 2010 **Annex 3**

NB*1:- £331,887 was allocated for 2009-10, £747 was carried over from 2008-09: Balance £332,634

	Committee	Opportunities:		
	Date	Main Fund 80%	20%	Total 100%
Available funding 2009/10				
*1	29.06.09	£266,107	£66,527	£332,634
Project Name	-	-	-	-
Phoenix Project	09.11.09	£17,820	-	£17,820
Balance	-	£248,287	£66,527	£314,814

SIP: West SIB Statement 6th January 2010

	SIP Budget	Approvals	Balance
Available funding 2009/10	£233,230	£0	£233,230
Balance	£233,230	£0	£233,230

Community Chest: West SIB Statement 6th January 2010

NB*2:-£10,000 was allocated per ward from 2009-10, Budget includes carry over from 2008-09 of £26,774

	Community Chest Budget	Approvals	Balance
Available funding 2009/10			
*2			
Barnes	£10,200	£6,691	£3,509
Pallion	£17,341	£1,870	£15,471
Sandhill	£21,290	£9,124	£12,166
St Anne's	£14,720	£7,820	£6,900
St Chad's	£11,373	£8,667	£2,706
Silksworth	£11,850	£7,745	£4,105
Total	£86,774	£41,917	£44,857

WEST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE

6th January 2010

Report of the Chief Executive

AREA REVIEW PROCESS: - INTRODUCTION OF A REFERRAL CRITERIA AND PROCESS FOR DEALING WITH ISSUES OF LOCAL CONCERN INCORPORATING A REVISED MECHANISM FOR COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION - INITIAL PROPOSALS

1. WHY HAS IT COME TO AREA COMMITTEE?

1.1 During the development of the new Area Governance arrangements agreement was given to the introduction of an Area Review process (outlined as Protocol 4 of the Area Committee Handbook). This report outlines the proposed introduction of a Referral Criteria and process for dealing with such reviews, which can be used by Area Committees, Scrutiny Committees and the Sunderland Partnership, and includes amalgamation with the Councillor Call for Action mechanism (CCfA).

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 The CCfA mechanism came into force on 1 April 2009 namely through the Police and Justice Act 2006 and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. Such provisions provide Members with the opportunity to ask for discussions on issues where local problems have arisen and where other methods of resolution have been exhausted.

2.2 In Sunderland, two local issues have been raised through the CCfA mechanism and as a result of those referrals it has become apparent that the current procedure should be reviewed to ensure both current and future CCfAs are addressed in a timely, open and transparent way.

2.3 At the same time work is also being undertaken to develop the Area Committees links with both Scrutiny Committees and the Sunderland Partnership, one of which is the signposting and escalation of local issues to the most appropriate body for resolution where appropriate as referred to in the current Area Review process.

2.4 The remainder of this report outlines the initial proposals for Referral Criteria and process for dealing with such reviews which can be used by Area Committees, Scrutiny Committees and the Sunderland Partnership, and includes amalgamation with the Councillor Call for Action mechanism

3. INITIAL PROPOSALS

3.1 Consideration has been given on a practical level as to how best to implement a 'referral' mechanism within existing policies and practices to escalate / re-

direct issues of local concern either raised by an Elected Member/Committee, member of the public or external partner to the appropriate body namely the Area Committees, the City Council's Scrutiny and Sunderland Partnership.

- 3.2 To assist those bodies in determining the appropriateness of undertaking an investigation triggered either by the non-mandatory / CCfA referral route, the following selection criteria is proposed for future use by such bodies, at the point of the referral being considered at the next available meeting:-
- (i) Clear evidence that reasonable attempts have been made to resolve the issue with relevant partners / council departments?
 - (ii) Has a significant impact on a group of people living within the Sunderland area;
 - (iii) Relates to a service, event or issue in which the Council has direct responsibility for, significant influence over or has the capacity to act as public champion;
 - (iv) Not be an issue which Overview and Scrutiny, Area Committees or LSP have considered during the last 12 months (unless circumstances have changed substantially);
 - (v) Not relate to an on-going service complaint or petition (including the ability to exclude any matter which is vexatious, discriminatory or not reasonable) ;
 - (vi) Not relate to matters dealt with by another Council committee, unless the issue deals with procedure and policy related issues; and
 - (vii) If it meets the criteria, agree which body most relevant to consider further, Overview and Scrutiny, Area Committees or LSP.
- 3.3 The proposed selection criteria outlined above, clearly makes provision for the processing of referrals to be undertaken in an open and transparent way and provides a formal record as to whether the issue is worthy of further investigation together with the agreed course of action and any associated / prescribed timescales.
- 3.4 **Appendix A** outlines the revised procedure for determining the appropriateness of undertaking such an investigation.
- 3.5 Furthermore, it should be noted that the CCfA measure requires the Councillor to use every available tool to resolve the issue in the first instance without involving the relevant Area Committee or Scrutiny Committee, therefore any additional burden should be minimal as the mechanism is designed as a last resort after all other avenues have been exhausted.

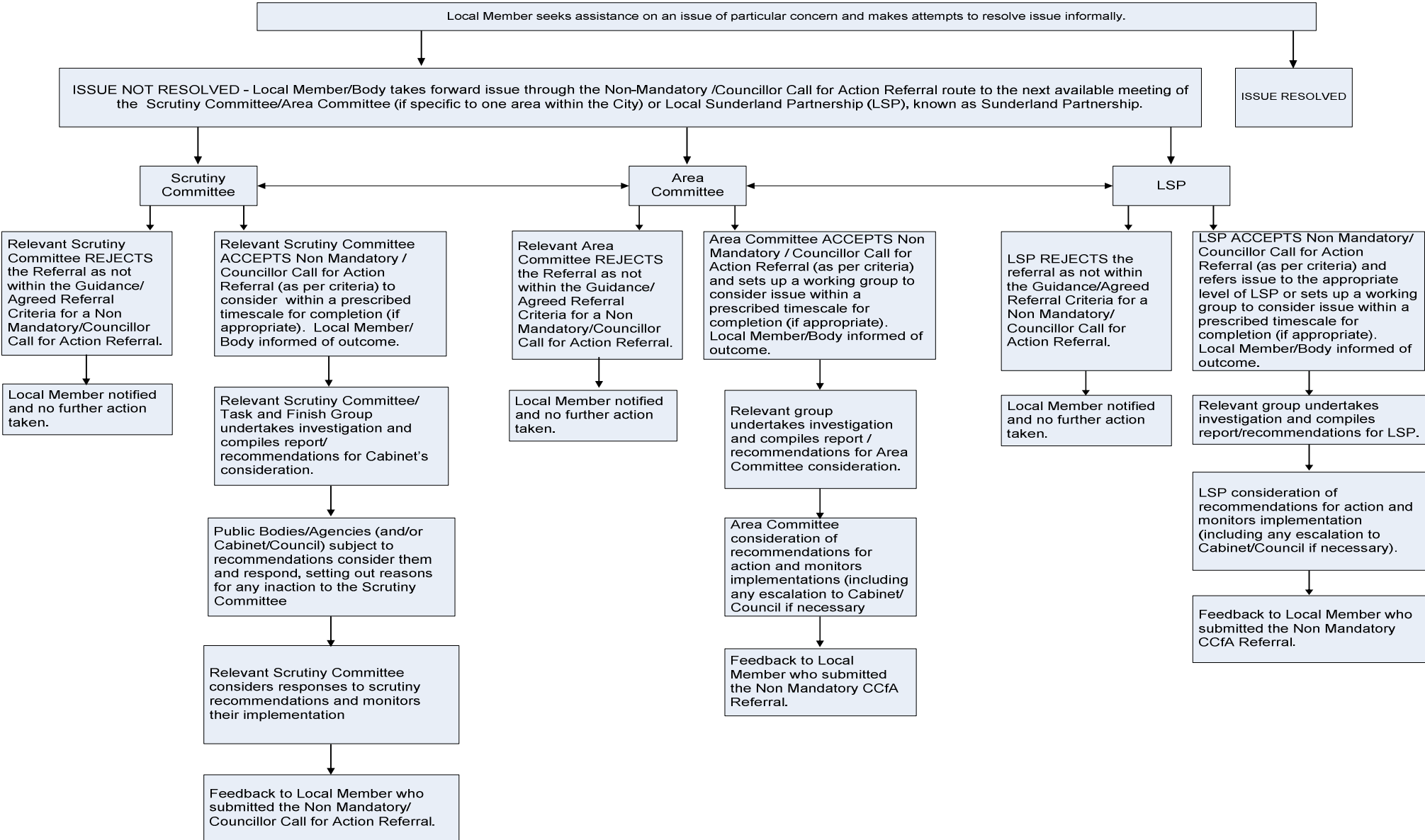
4. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.1 It is recommended that the Area Committee:-

- (a) Supports the introduction of the referral criteria and process for determining the appropriateness of undertaking an investigation triggered either by the non-mandatory referral / Councillor Call for Action route;
- (b) Subject to the comments received from the Area Committees (along with the Scrutiny Committees and Sunderland Partnership), the revised procedure be referred to Cabinet for approval, implemented and included in the Area Committee Handbook.

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**PROPOSED NEW PROCEDURE FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF
NON-MANDATORY/COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION REFERRALS TO
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY**



West Sunderland Area Committee

6th January 2010

Report of the City Services Directorate

Area Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Networks and Volunteering in Your Area.

1. Why has it come to committee?

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Area Committees of progress and proposed future development regarding the involvement and representation of the Voluntary and Community Sector [VCS] within the new Area Arrangements, enabling a more proactive level of participation in the delivery of the Local Area Plans.
- 1.2 This report will also inform Area Committees of the intention to celebrate the contribution of volunteers within each of the five areas of the City and to seek feedback from Committee on arrangements for area based celebrations

2. Background

- 2.1 VCS organisations provide an important route for individuals to become actively involved in their communities. This ranges from helping out with the local youth club to being a member of the Management Committee of the local Community Association. This results in more empowered and involved citizens who are contributing to the aims of the Sunderland Strategy, LAA and Local Area Plans.
- 2.2 Sunderland Community Network [SCN] is the vehicle for representation of the VCS to the Sunderland Partnership and, in the 2009 – 2013 Business Plan is seeking to engage smaller community based organisations. This aligns with the City Council's Area Arrangements which seek to involve local communities.
- 2.3 In order to achieve an environment where local people feel that they are able to have a say in decision making (NI 4) and where our local VCS organisations are thriving and vibrant (NI 7) the City Council, in partnership with SCN, has developed the Area VCS Networks.
- 2.4 Sunderland City Council is also committed to increasing levels of volunteering in the city (NI 6) by encouraging residents to become involved in volunteering opportunities both within the statutory and VCS organisations. Volunteering is an important expression of citizenship and essential to democracy, as recognised in the Sunderland Compact Volunteering Code of Practice. This commitment is recognised by Elected Members at Ward, Area, and at a City Wide level.

3. Current Position

- 3.1 The Vice Chairs of all five Area Committees have agreed to co chair the inaugural Area VCS Networks with a nominated VCS representative. The networks will be unique as they will be made up of VCS organisations operating within the five distinct areas.
- 3.2 Area VCS Networks will be established following a series of inaugural meetings throughout all five areas in December 2009. The Area VCS Networks have been invited

to nominate three individuals to represent the sector at area committee level, this will include the VCS vice chair of the Area VCS Network. City Services (Community Development function) will administer the nomination process. SCN will ensure individuals from the organisations are supported to take their place on the three agreed VCS places on Area Committees.

- 3.3 Nominated individuals will represent the views of the VCS within their areas (rather than their own organisational interests) thus providing an opportunity for all VCS organisations within the areas to have a nominated and supported representative at Area Committee.
- 3.4 The Council will support the Area VCS Networks by officer involvement from the Council's Community Development function; this involves a dedicated Area Community Coordinator for each of the five areas of the City. This role is distinctly different to the role of the Area Officers, based in the Office of the Chief Executive. The Area Officers will continue to support Area Committees however the two council functions will be complementary as in the first instance the Area Community Coordinator in the Community Development function will ensure VCS organisations are supported to become involved in the Area Committees and associated Local Area Plan delivery arrangements.
- 3.5 Sunderland City Council and partner organisations from the Sunderland Partnership co-ordinate and fund an Annual Volunteer Celebration hosted by the Mayor of Sunderland at the Seaburn Marriott Hotel in National Volunteers Week [June 1st to 7th]
- 3.6 To complement the annual volunteer event in 2010, it is proposed that area based celebrations are also held to ensure as many volunteers across the city are recognised for their contribution. The area based celebrations will be co-ordinated through the Area Committee process and held prior to the annual city wide celebration at the Seaburn Marriott Hotel. This will provide an opportunity for the Area Committees to thank volunteers for the invaluable contribution they make to their area.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 To note this report as an update on the position of the Area VCS Networks and provide feedback in relation to the area based Volunteer celebrations.

5. Background papers

- 5.1 None

6. Contact Officer:

- 6.1 Jane Hibberd, Assistant Head of Service (Community Development)
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RESPONSIVE LOCAL SERVICES**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CITY SERVICES AND THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE****1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To present current Service Standards to West Area Committee for the services currently being reviewed as part of the Responsive Local Services (RLS) project and to ascertain present service performance for the West Area.

2. INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Area Committee agreed at their meeting in November 2009, to move forward with the Responsive Local Services project, focussing initially important high volume neighbourhood services - graffiti removal, refuse collection, litter, dog fouling and grass cutting services.
- 2.2 In essence the Responsive Local Services project provides each Area Committee with the tools required to tailor services in the locality and communicate the improvements effectively to residents to improve satisfaction and resident understanding of the elected Member's community leadership role.

3. CONTEXT OF AREA

- 3.1 Sunderland West 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. Older People (women over 60 and men over 65) in West make up 19.2% (12,938) and children under 16 make up 19.1% (12,876) of the population.
- 3.2 In relation to housing tenure the percentage of owner occupied property is 53.7% which is less than the City average of 60.2%. Levels are considerably lower in Sandhill (42.3%), Pallion (49.4%) and St Annes (45%) wards. Levels of social housing are higher in Sunderland West, Gentoo stock accounts for 29% of property compared to a city average of 23.2% with levels particularly high in Sandhill and St Annes.
- 3.3 The West Area is made up of Barnes, Pallion, Silksworth, St Chads, Sandhill and St Annes. In accordance with the Place Survey 2008, residents are generally satisfied with the services provided with 63% stating that rubbish or litter lying around was not a problem. 70% of residents do not see Graffiti as a problem and 91% are satisfied with refuse collection. 61% are satisfied with keeping public land clear of litter and refuse however only 48% are satisfied with grass cutting of open spaces.

4. CURRENT SERVICE STANDARDS**4.1 Refuse Collection and recycling**

- carry out a weekly collection of waste from households in a green wheeled bin;
- carry out fortnightly collections of green waste (brown wheeled bin) and other recyclable materials (black kerb-it box)

- collect, free of charge, bulky items of household waste or sacks of garden refuse or other waste which cannot be accommodated in the wheeled bin. 3 collections (of 8 items or less) in any one financial year (1st April to 31st March).

4.2 Graffiti removal – Graffiti is removed from highways and public buildings. The council also removes graffiti from private property subject to owners' authorisation. The target in 2009/2010 is to remove graffiti within 2 working days from the time it is reported.

4.3 Grass Cutting – General Standards

- Grass is maintained within the city on varied frequencies from 1 occasion per year to up to 30 occasions per year, depending on the site and growing conditions. The majority of grass is cut 18 occasions per year at 2 to 3 weekly intervals, depending on weather conditions.

4.4 Dog Fouling – Sunderland City Council has actively been promoting responsible dog ownership in the City through a rolling programme of education and awareness. However, in order to further the campaign against dog fouling the Council has now adopted the provisions of the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996.

Under the Act it is an offence for anyone in charge of a dog to fail to clear up after it has fouled in a designated area. The majority of land in Sunderland open to the public is designated land. Sunderland City Council is enforcing the law and offenders may receive an on the spot fine of £50.00 or up to £1000 if the matter goes before the Court.

The service standard that applies to the removal of dog fouling is 24 hours or immediately if an operative is at the location.

4.5 Litter removal - Sunderland City Council carry out regular and routine cleaning and litter-picking of pavements, footpaths, carriageways and verges throughout the City.

The service standard for litter removal is 24 hours for a standard response or 2 hours for an emergency response e.g. broken glass.

5. SERVICE PERFORMANCE – SEPTEMBER TO OCTOBER 2009

5.1 Refuse Collection – Each month we empty on average 124,297 wheeled bins within the West Area and provide 1,587 assisted collections per week. At present we have an average of 117 missed bin collections reported each month (0.0009%) and 10 missed assisted collections (0.0063%).

5.2 Graffiti removal – The speed at which graffiti reported to the council is removed is monitored. The target in 2009/2010 is to remove graffiti within 2 working days from the time it is reported. Across the city we are presently averaging removal within 0.29 working days.

5.3 Grass Cutting – 0 requests for service were received to remove grass from paths.

5.4 Dog Fouling – 34 incidents of dog fouling were reported via the Staff Reporting Line.

5.5 Litter removal – 113 reports of litter or debris were received, 70 of which were reported via the Staff Reporting Line.

5.6 An officer will attend the area committee in January to highlight the work being undertaken in this area.

5.7 It is intended that the Committee receives further updates relating to service performance at future meetings. The detail provided, including service responsiveness and levels of satisfaction, will also be improved to build a more detailed picture of environmental service issues in the area. Analysis of this data, including geographical distribution of incidents and service requests, will assist in allocating resources to solve local problems and tailoring services to meet local needs.

6. LOCAL AREA PLANNING

6.1 The priorities within the West Local Area Plan for the Attractive and Inclusive Theme are to 'Make streets and the environment more attractive'.

6.2 The local objectives, related to the Responsive Local Services project are:

- more attractive residential areas

7. LOCAL PROBLEM SOLVING

7.1 The current service standards coupled with current performance information provides committee with a sound platform to discuss area issues in relation to the five services noted. An issue log will be completed to ensure all discussions are recorded.

7.2 It is important to note that, at this time, the project can only consider any service tailoring on an area basis, not community or neighbourhood. As the project develops and becomes more sophisticated the potential for more localised tailoring can be considered.

7.3 Should the committee feel that the information provided highlights a local problem that should be addressed they can bring partners together via an existing group or sub group of the committee to undertake joint working to address the problem. Progress in this respect will be reported to the committee at the next meeting.

8.0 RECOMMENDATION

8.1 The West Area Committee are requested to note this report for information and to accept further updates from the committee sub group.

9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 Staff Reporting Line information statistics – September to October 2009

9.2 Customer Services Requests for Service – September to October 2009

9.3 Place Survey 2008

9.4 West Local Area Plan