

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

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Annex 1: West: Attractive and Inclusive Area Summary