

## **Sunderland North Area Committee**

**6th January 2011**

### **Report of the Office of the Chief Executive**

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

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

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

##### **2. New Issues**

###### **2.1 Motorcycle Disorder**

- 2.1.1 Motorcycle disorder across the North area has been identified, discussed and addressed through LMAPS for a number of months. The main areas of disorder occurs on the Downhill Sports complex area and Fulwell Quarry with motorcyclists cutting between both areas. There are also pockets of disorder throughout the North Area in residential areas.
- 2.1.2 Through LMAPS, a number of solutions have been put into place to address disorder in the area. Barriers to reduce or prevent the disorder, increased police patrols and targeted work in areas where the disorder is known to be occurring, education and improving the knowledge of motorcyclists regarding the law and where they are allowed to use motorcycles are some examples of actions already taken.
- 2.1.3 The disorder has now escalated particularly at the Downhill site, with motorcyclists riding on the football pitches whilst games are in progress causing major concerns for the safety of those using the pitch. The escalation of this disorder may impact on the football leagues using this site in the future if the issue is not adequately resolved.
- 2.1.4 Through LMAPS, a problem solving meeting is being set up to focus on this disorder and identify further long term sustainable solutions to the problem in the North Area.
- 2.1.5 This has also been identified as a citywide issue and the matter is being escalated to the Business Support Group of the Safer City Delivery Board to look at additional means of addressing the problem.

###### **2.2 Byelaws Review**

- 2.2.1 The Head of Law and Governance is leading a review of City Byelaws. A group of officers representing different parts of the Council have formed a Task and Finish Group

to review existing byelaws in place and areas which are not currently covered by existing byelaws. The areas included in the review include:

- Cemeteries
- Resorts and Foreshores
- Countryside
- Parks
- Rights of Way

2.2.2 The review will look to update existing byelaws, implement byelaws where none currently exist and establish consistency and a standard in byelaws and their application.

2.2.3 The same group is reviewing the rules on dogs and considering the introduction of appropriate Dog Control Orders.

### **2.3 Sunderland 'The Place'**

2.3.1 This year the Environment and Attractive City Scrutiny Committee is carrying out a policy review into Sunderland 'the Place', with the overall aim of understanding the concept of Sunderland as a place and the associated issues around its identity and image, as well as the perceptions people have of Sunderland. Attached at **ANNEX 1**, for information, is the Terms of Reference for the policy review.

2.3.2 At its meeting of 18 October 2010 the Environment and Attractive City Scrutiny Committee agreed the approach to be taken in regard to gathering the evidence for the Policy Review and is particularly keen to receive a contribution from each of the Area Committees to understand more about the individual areas that make up the city and the perceptions and experiences of residents living in each area. This evidence will be one part of a much wider policy review.

2.3.3 It is proposed that any members wishing to take part in this phase of evidence gathering are offered the opportunity to take part in an informal discussion in order to feed in key messages to the Area Chair who will attend a facilitated discussion group with the other Area Chairs and members of the Environment and Attractive City Scrutiny Committee. The discussion will be facilitated by the lead officers for the policy review.

2.3.4 The proposal for the discussion will be focused around:  
What is Sunderland's 'story'?

- What makes residents passionate about their area?
- What are the unique elements of each area and how does each area contribute to the city?
- What role do Area Committees play in developing the city's sense of place?
- What can be done to recognise the unique contributions of each area to the overall city?

A strong sense of 'place' for Sunderland is crucial for our economic viability and the ongoing improvement of the city. This opportunity to feed in to the process is one element of a wider policy review into Sunderland as a place.

### **3. Recommendations**

3.1 Note the content of the reports.

3.2 Receive updates and recommendations for action from LMAPS and the problem solving meetings regarding motorcycle disorder.

3.3 Receive updates via ward bulletins regarding the byelaw review.

3.4 Note the information regarding Sunderland 'The Place' and agree to hold an informal discussion for those North members who wish to participate, before 17 January 2011.

**Background papers**

Sunderland North Local Area Plan

Sunderland North Work plan 2010/11

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