

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

AGENDA

Meeting to be held in the Civic Centre, Committee Room No. 1, on Tuesday, 26th July, 2011 at 5.30 p.m.

Membership

Cllrs Errington, Essl, T. Foster, Howe, Kay, Maddison, McClennan, Rolph, Smiles, S. Watson and Wakefield

ITEM		PAGE
1.	Apologies for Absence	
2.	Minutes of the last meeting held on 14th June, 2011 (copy attached).	1
3.	Declarations of Interest (including Whipping Declarations)	
	Policy Review Items	
4.	Building a Sustainable and Lasting Legacy in Sport and Physical Activity Policy Review 2011/12 : Draft Scoping Report	6
	Report of the Chief Executive (copy attached).	
5.	Building a Sustainable and Lasting Legacy in Sport and Physical Activity Policy Review 2011/12 : Scene Setting Report	11
	Report of the Chief Executive and Executive Director of City Services (copy attached).	

Scrutiny Items

- | | | |
|----|---|----|
| 6. | Housing and Neighbourhood Renewal Team –
Enforcement Activity Report 2010/11 | 16 |
| | Report of the Executive Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services (copy attached) | |
| 7. | Work Programme 2011-12 | 25 |
| | Report of the Chief Executive (copy attached) | |
| 8. | Forward Plan – Key Decisions for the Period 1 July 2011 – 31 October 2011-07-15 | 28 |
| | Report of the Chief Executive (copy attached) | |

E. WAUGH,
Head of Law and Governance.

Civic Centre,
SUNDERLAND.

15th July, 2011

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 13th September, 2011

At a meeting of the SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE on TUESDAY, 14th JUNE, 2011 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor S. Watson in the Chair

Councillors Errington, Foster, Kay, McClennan and Rolph

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillor Maddison

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee held on 14th June, 2011

Mr. Alan Caddick, Head of Housing, referred to page 3 of the minutes regarding the information around Council mortgages and the BME community and advised that he had circulated a handout to Members on Shariah Mortgages which are products that comply with Islamic religious law.

Ms. Joanne Stewart, Governance Support Officer, also apologised to Councillor McClennan as she had referred to her throughout the minutes as Councillor MacKnight, and it was:-

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 14th June, 2011 be confirmed as a correct record, subject to the amendment of Councillor MacKnight being changed to Councillor McClennan throughout.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest received.

Annual Work Programme and Policy Review 2011-12

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) asking Members to determine the Annual Work Programme for the Committee during the 2011-12 municipal year, including the main theme for a detailed policy review.

(for copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Helen Lancaster, Scrutiny Officer, presented the report advising that the Scrutiny Committee were responsible for setting its own work programme within its remit to consider issues relating to sustainability and key city projects, and maintain an overview of each of the Sunderland Partnership's cross cutting priorities. The draft work programme for the year was an appendix to the report and would be populated with items agreed by Members and amended during the year as required.

With regards to the policy review topic for the year, Ms. Lancaster advised that the following topics had been selected as a shortlist following discussions that had been held between Members, Officers and Partners at the Annual Scrutiny Conference on 19 May, 2011:-

- Building a Sustainable and Lasting Legacy in Sport and Physical Activity;
- Sunderland's Cultural Strategy;
- Volunteering Strategy; and
- The Private Rented Sector.

Discussions ensued between Members and Officers around the benefits of each of the short listed topics and whether each of the topics were being undertaken by reviews already planned within the Council and its Directorates as it was paramount that the Committee did not duplicate work that was already to be carried out. It was suggested that Building a Sustainable and Lasting Legacy in Sport and Physical Activity could be the main policy review topic with a smaller review being undertaken on the Private Rented Sector as it had been a topic of considerable interest that had been discussed thoroughly at the Annual Scrutiny Conference.

Councillor Watson thanked all Members and Officers for their input, and it was:-

2. RESOLVED that:-

- the draft Annual Work Programme for 2011-12 be received and agreed; and
- Building a Sustainable and Lasting Legacy in Sport and Physical Activity be the topic of the main review and a smaller review be carried out on the Private Rented Sector.

Housing Allocations Policy

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) following a request from the Committee for further information on the Housing Allocations Policy.

(for copy report – see original minutes).

Mr. Alan Caddick, Head of Housing and Mr. Peter Smith, Housing Advice Manager, gave a presentation to the Committee that recapped on the previous sessions that had been held and the key issues raised by Members, as well as the Scrutiny Review Recommendations that had been made in 2010 and the feedback from meeting with the registered providers. Mr. Caddick also went on to outline the main

elements of the new policy and how the banding system was intended to work. He also explained the other elements for consideration by the Committee such as the Strategic Tenancy policies and affordable rents and flexible tenancies which were to be introduced.

Councillor Errington thanked the Officers and service for the work that had been and was continuing to be carried out and in response to a question from him regarding publicising, Mr. Caddick advised that they would be using a range of ways to support people through the new allocations policy. It was important Members understood what was happening also so they could advise constituents when asked for help and advice.

With regards to under occupancy in the city and houses being left vacant by gentoo and landlords, Mr. Caddick informed the Committee that a Vacancy Chain Analysis had recently been undertaken for those taking up Extra Care and that he would circulate this to the Committee in due course. He also stated the need to look at the issue to improve it and better communicate with Members so they were always up to date with relevant information. There was a need to manage the situation in a sympathetic manner whilst having viable options to deal with issues as they arose.

Councillor Foster commented that he understood gentoo were moving away from the Choice Based Lettings Scheme and was advised that the scheme was adapting toward a new policy.

Councillor Foster also wished to congratulate the service on the work carried out to date and with regards to a query regarding the gentoo waiting list for homes was informed that it was not the best indicator of people waiting for homes. Mr. Caddick advised that as part of the regeneration works being carried out gentoo had contacted everyone on the list to confirm their status. The waiting list for houses needed to be current and they were looking at how best to manage the information in the future. Mr. Caddick explained that the service needed to make sure they more fully understood individual's issues in the future and that they were taken into account when appropriate in placing them on a waiting list or allocating properties.

Councillor Howe asked if there was a time limit for individuals to respond to the letter or if it would simply be the case that if they did not respond they would be removed from the waiting list and was advised that they would be given ample time to respond which would give the service the opportunity to review current lists and have them ready and available for other agencies and partners should they be required.

Councillor McClennan referred to hostels and asked if they would be included and if not, why not and was advised that there was the need to gather further information about the people using hostels as most individuals would be considered as homeless and would need to be considered as part of the new allocations policy. He also stated that a report would be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee which would cover this issue.

In response to a further query from Councillor McClennan, Mr. Caddick advised that at a sub-regional level each Local Authority had similar issues, regarding protecting their own residents, and ensuring that there was the need to meet the requirements of residents in the city so that they had the opportunity to work and live within

Sunderland. Issues around residents in the city who worked in neighbouring authorities had been longstanding and there was a need to deal with the problem from the source and understand why this was happening.

With regards to concerns raised around applicants bidding on properties as they arose, Mr. Caddick advised that there would be a general consensus that everyone would work towards one consistent approach for all and in doing so they would be able to protect those people who were unable to bid for themselves. A trigger would be activated which would alert staff who could then help an applicant navigate around the bidding process that was to be introduced.

In response to comments from Councillor Rolph regarding the registered providers, Mr. Caddick advised that all of the registered providers had signed up to the policy now which was a big 'tick' for the Tyne and Wear region. They had also written to all housing associations who would be obliged to share their performance with the Council. There was a need to understand how they could all work together better and develop stronger relationships so that there was a consistent engagement between providers and it would allow better management in future.

Councillor Kaye commented that it was undoubtedly a good thing to look at the issue at a regional level to help in tackling common issues that all authorities must suffer but commented that the strategic approach taken by the likes of Newcastle could be fundamentally different to those of Sunderland.

He also raised concerns over the re-registration of everyone on the housing list as some social landlords may use it as an opportunity to 'clear the decks' of tenants they may not want. Mr. Caddick advised that the re-registration would only affect those on the waiting list and not those who already had a tenancy. It would be literally just to advise those on the waiting list of the changes to the allocation policy that were imminent.

Councillor Kaye commented that this report was more of a situation report as it did not offer the finer detail of the full policy that was to be introduced. Mr. Caddick advised that there was still some work to do in pulling the final policy together and that over the next few weeks they were hoping to address all issues that had been raised and hone down the finer detail of the policy. He stated he was happy to share the policy with Committee Members prior to it being submitted to Cabinet in September.

With regards to the issue of affordable rents as raised by Councillor Kaye, Mr. Caddick commented that they would be up to 80% of the current market rent but that they were also looking at the housing benefit reforms to see how they may be affected in the future also.

In response to a further query from Councillor Kaye regarding the social housing supply, Mr. Caddick commented that at present if a person was deemed to be homeless and needed a property the Council had to get permission for them to stay there whereas in the future there would be the opportunity to offer them a private rented property if it was felt more appropriate. He also advised that the housing support scheme had helped support around 60 individuals in properties that without

it may have been placed in Bed and Breakfasts so this was an area that needed to be built upon to work in all areas.

The Chairman thanked the Officers for their informative presentation, and it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the presentation and report be received and noted in advance of the Housing Allocations Policy being considered by Cabinet in September.

Forward Plan – Key Decisions for the Period 1st June, 2011 – 30th September, 2011

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide Members with an opportunity to consider those items on the Executive's Forward Plan for the period 1st June to 30th September, 2011 which related to the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee.

(for copy report – see original minutes).

4. RESOLVED that the contents of the Forward Plan be noted.

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

(Signed) S. WATSON,
Chairman.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

26 JULY 2011

BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE AND LASTING LEGACY IN SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY POLICY REVIEW 2011/12: DRAFT SCOPING REPORT

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: HEALTHY CITY

CORPORATE PRIORITIES: C101: Delivering Customer Focussed Services, C102: Being 'One Council', C103: Efficient and Effective Council, C104: Improving partnership working to deliver 'One City'

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to put forward proposals and seek agreement from members in relation to the forthcoming policy review into Building a Sustainable and Lasting Legacy in Sport and Physical Activity.

2. Background

- 2.1 At its meeting of 16 February 2011, members of the Committee received an annual report detailing progress around sport, wellness, aquatics and play. Members identified the need for the council to consider the range of sport and physical activity delivered by pre-existing and long established providers whom the council are not aware of and the support available to them.
- 2.2 The Annual Scrutiny Conference was held at the Crowtree Leisure Centre on 19 May 2011. During the Scrutiny Café sessions a number of viable policy reviews were formulated for discussion by members of the Committee. At its meeting on 13 June 2011, following discussions regarding the Annual Work Programme and Policy Review, the Committee agreed to focus on Building a Sustainable and Lasting Legacy in Sport and Physical Activity as its main Policy Review for 2011/12.
- 2.3 In addition the Committee requested to receive regular updates on housing issues and that the Private Rented Sector Enforcement Policy should be considered by Committee at the earliest opportunity.

3. The Scrutiny Review Process

- 3.1 Scrutiny reviews will carry out a number of stages in undertaking and completing a review. The stages broadly are:

Stage 1 Scope	The initial stage of the review identifies the background, issues, potential outcomes and timetable for the review.
Stage 2 Investigate	The Committee gathers evidence using a variety of tools and techniques and arranges visits where appropriate.
Stage 3 Analyse	The key trends and issues are highlighted from the evidence gathered by the Committee.
Stage 4 Clarify	The Committee discusses and identifies the principal messages of the review from the work undertaken.
Stage 5 Recommend	The Committee formulates and agrees realistic recommendations.
Stage 6 Report	Draft and final reports are prepared based on the evidence, findings and recommendations.
Stage 7 Monitor	The Committee monitors recommendations on a regularly agreed basis.

4. Overall Aim of the Scrutiny Policy Review

- 4.1 To examine the sport and physical activity offer in the city and consider how a sustainable and lasting legacy of sport and physical activity can be developed.

5. Proposed Terms of Reference for the Scrutiny Policy Review

- 5.1 The draft Terms of Reference for the policy review are proposed:-
 - (a) To understand the importance of sport and physical activity in the city and how this contributes to the strategic priorities of the city;
 - (b) To review the objectives and achievements of the Active City Strategy to date considering the evolving context of sport and physical activity locally and nationally;
 - (c) To understand the role of the Active Sunderland Board in developing a sustained and lasting legacy in sport and physical activity;

- (d) To understand the range of sport and physical activity provision currently being delivered across the city by the council, the voluntary and community sector and private sector;
- (e) To understand the current level of diversity of provision across the city, considering the opportunities available for traditional and non traditional and alternative forms of activity;
- (f) To understand the opportunities that exist in the city for an 'equitable offer' for sport and physical activity and the barriers to achieving this;
- (g) To consider the role of Elected Members in developing a sustainable and lasting legacy of sport and physical activity;
- (h) To explore the opportunities the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games will bring to the city, how these are currently being taken up, and whether the legacy of the Olympics can enhance sport and physical activity in the city beyond 2012; and
- (i) To consider the city's 'priority' sports and physical activity opportunities and the pathways in place to sustain and increase participation.

6. Potential Areas of Enquiry and Sources of Evidence

6.1 The Scrutiny Committee can invite a variety of people, key stakeholders and interested parties to provide written or oral evidence in order that a balanced and focused range of recommendations can be formulated. A list of potential witnesses, though not exhaustive, is included for members information:

- (a) Relevant Cabinet Portfolio Holder and Cabinet Secretary;
- (b) Head of Community Services;
- (c) Active Sunderland Board;
- (d) Residents (both participants and non participants of programmes);
- (e) Representatives of minority communities of interest;
- (f) Ward Councillors;
- (g) Local MPs;
- (h) Organisations from the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS).

- 6.2 Where the Scrutiny Committees' Policy Reviews look at cross-cutting issues, opportunities may arise to undertake joint working as endorsed by the Chairs of the relevant Committees.
- 6.3 Community engagement plays a crucial role in the scrutiny process. Consideration will be given to how involvement can be structured in a way that the Committee encourages those views. If felt appropriate the Committee is able to co-opt an additional member to the Committee for the duration of the policy review. Regulations with regard to the co-opting of additional members can be found in the Overview and Scrutiny Handbook, Protocol 6: Protocol for the Appointment of Co-opted Members to Scrutiny Committees.
- 6.4 In addition, diversity issues have been considered in the background research for this enquiry under the Equality Standards for Local Government. As such the views of local diversity groups will be sought throughout the inquiry where felt appropriate and time allows. Consequently, consideration has been given as to how the views of people from minority communities of interest or heritage, which may not be gathered through the usual community engagement routes, can be included over the course of the inquiry.

7. Funding from the Dedicated Overview and Scrutiny Budget

- 7.1 Consideration has been given, through the background research for this scoping report of the need to use funding from the Committee's dedicated Overview and Scrutiny budget to aid the enquiry.
- 7.2 At this stage it is suggested that funding may be necessary to support the following activities:
- (a) Key witnesses;
 - (b) Engagement with voluntary and statutory organisations;
 - (c) Engagement with the public;
 - (d) General publicity;
 - (e) Visits (as necessary) to deliver effective scrutiny;
 - (f) Task and Finish activities; and
 - (g) Other activities necessary to support the aim of the review

8. Proposed Timetable of the Scrutiny Investigation

- 8.1 The following scheduled meetings will include evidence gathering for the study:

Setting the Scene – July 2011

Evidence Gathering – September 2011 to February 2012

Consideration of Draft Final Report - March 2012

Consideration of Final Report by the Scrutiny Committee - April 2012

Consideration of Final Report by the Cabinet/Council- June 2012

(Tentative date)

8.2 Additional informal or extraordinary meetings may be necessary to complete the evidence gathering.

9. Recommendations

9.1 Members are recommended to discuss and agree the scope of the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee's policy review for 2011/12 as outlined in the report.

10. Background Papers

- Overview and Scrutiny Handbook
- Sustainable Communities Agenda – 14 June 2011

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**BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE AND LASTING LEGACY IN SPORT
AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY POLICY REVIEW 2011/12: SCENE
SETTING REPORT**

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CITY
SERVICES**

Strategic Priority: Healthy City

**CORPORATE PRIORITIES: CIO1: Delivering Customer Focussed
Services, C102: Being 'One Council', C103: Efficient and Effective Council,
C104: Improving partnership working to deliver 'One City'**

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a background and overview to the Scrutiny Committee in relation to the policy review Building a Sustainable and Lasting Legacy in Sport and Physical Activity. A supporting presentation will be given at the Scrutiny Committee by the Lead Officers of the review.

2. Background

- 2.1 At its meeting on 14 June 2011 the Scrutiny Committee agreed to focus on Building a Sustainable and Lasting Legacy in Sport and Physical Activity as its Policy Review for 2010/11.
- 2.2 This report contributes principally to the following draft terms of reference for the review;
- (a) To understand the importance of sport and physical activity in the city and how this contributes to the strategic priorities of the city; and
- (d) To understand the current level of diversity of provision across the city, considering the opportunities available in traditional and non traditional settings and alternative forms of activity;

3. Definition and Context

Local and National Context

- 3.1 Sport and physical activity cuts across the strategic priorities for the city and supports a wide range of important issues including positive activities for young people; volunteering; regeneration; education; older people; health improvement and community safety.

- 3.2 Sport and physical activity has a unique capacity to bring together people of different generations, cultures, backgrounds and abilities. It can improve health and tackle exclusion and isolation and it can bring communities together.
- 3.3 Sport and physical activity matters to people for different reasons. Sunderland has a number of talented young people and there are many well-established and accredited clubs which have grown up to meet this demand. There are however thousands of residents who take part in a wide range of activities as a means of improving their health and wellbeing.
- 3.4 Sunderland has a lot to celebrate in terms of sport and leisure provision. The success of both established and recently developed sport and physical activity opportunities has been recently evidenced in an increase in participation in sport and physical activity within the city. Evidence of how participation levels have increased in the city and improved sustainability in local sport can be demonstrated through the 2010 Active People Survey results, showing Sunderland higher than the Tyne & Wear, the North East and England average for residents involved in local Volunteering (7.20%), Coaching (18.20%) and Competitive Sport (14.80%). More importantly, the percentage of adult participating in sport and physical activity has increased in Sunderland since 2008 from 19.5% to 22.5%, with again Sunderland's performance level higher than average scores for Tyne & Wear, the North East and England.
- 3.5 Sport and physical activity matters to a lot of people within Sunderland. The city has a number of talented young sports people with aspirations of reaching the highest levels in their chosen sports, and there are many well-established and accredited clubs which have grown and developed to meet demand and expectation of their participants. However, beneficiaries of sport and physical activities in the city need not be competitive athletes; there are thousands of residents who take part in a wide range of activities as a means of improving their health and wellbeing, or simply to have fun.
- 3.6 The backdrop to the delivery of sport and physical activity is changing in light of the current economic climate; the changing expectations of residents; and national policy development. Recent evidence both nationally and locally suggests that increasingly, non traditional venues, programmes and activity choices accounts for the rise in the number of children, young people and adults participating in sport and physical activity. Examples of this are:-
- Nordic Walking Programmes and Nordic Walking Fitness Sessions;
 - Green Activity including developing and working in 'allotments';
 - Volunteer Led Walking programmes including family led walking programmes;
 - Led Cycle Rides and mass participation physical activity events; and

- Utilising community venues to deliver exercise classes traditionally delivered in leisure facilities.

Active Sunderland Board

3.7 The Active Sunderland Board is responsible for leading on improvements in participation and the quality and breadth of opportunities to promote this in Sunderland. Over the last 3 years the Board has evolved and changes in priority areas of work are beginning to demonstrate more effective and efficient ways of working collectively. The Active Sunderland Board comprises partners from all sectors, which contribute to the development and delivery of sport and physical activity within the city. Examples of the work of the Board include:

- i) The Sunderland Active Project focus is upon targeting an estimated 6,200 people over three years who are 'contemplating' adopting a more active lifestyle and work towards 3 x 30mins of physical activity a week. The Activators help people to overcome the barriers which are preventing them from being more active and signpost them to activities which they would like to try out;
- ii) The Board has been active in appointing two externally funded posts. The Community Sport Network Coordinator has a specific remit for developing the city's sports network and a Football Development Officer to increase participation for over 16's;
- iii) The ActiveSunderland website has been redesigned and a monthly newsletter has attracted over 2500 site visitors;
- iv) A number of cross cutting partnerships have been formally endorsed including, a PE and Sport for Young People Group (nationally recognised group by the Youth Sports Trust), cycling and walking networks; and
- v) The Board is the commissioning lead, for Play and Positive Activities from Children's Services. The project aims to engage over 900 young people across the city and to ensure the workforce is upskilled with nationally recognised qualifications.

Sport and Physical Activity Participation & Provision

3.8 As part of this policy review, we know that 22.5% of the city's population are active in participating in 30 minutes of moderate exercise at least 3 times per week (3 x 30mins). This means that we need to establish more fully where residents are being active and how we can sustain this level of participation.

3.9 In addition, we know that 77.5% of the city's population are not active in 3 x 30mins of sport and physical activity. There is still much work to do in terms of increasing active participation levels and it will be necessary to understand why some residents are not participating and what can be done to encourage them to become more active. Sport England's market segmentation toolkit can be used to assist in helping to understand who our target residents are and what types of activities

they may be interested in. This process will assist in being able to identify suitable traditional and non traditional settings and identify the gaps that may exist.

The Future of Sport and Physical Activity in Sunderland

- 3.10 The Active City Strategy produced in 2004 provided a direction of travel that resulted in the improvement of Leisure Facility Provision within the city. Given the changing environment within which sport and physical activity now sits it is timely that the Development Plan is updated to ensure the cohesion and coordination between all providers of sport and physical activities and opportunities that exist within the city.

Sport England are currently preparing a new strategy for 2011- 2015 to ensure they continue to drive increases in participation in sport and physical activity. Through the new strategy they will aim to make participation in sport and physical activity a regular habit for many more people and ensure the delivery of sporting and physical activity opportunities in the ways and places that people want.

Many of the objectives that Sport England are looking to include within the new strategy are aligned to the work that can take place in the city and can be incorporated within the Development Plan, for example

- Encourage a focus on customer needs, driving demand and generating volumes of participants;
- Setting clear priorities to improve community access to education facilities to engage in sport and physical activity;
- Working with the voluntary sector (including clubs) to increase the capacity and skills, to develop sustainable solutions;
- Joining up the work of current Sport National Governing Bodies (NGB's) to achieve critical mass and grow demand in these sports; and
- Working with NGB's to reward success in growing and sustaining participation

- 3.11 An important consideration for the provision of sport and physical activity in the city is the significant reduction in financial resources, which will require the council and partners to focus on greater community involvement; volunteering; individuals being supported to help themselves; and the efficient delivery of services. Members of the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee have previously considered that there is a need to have a comprehensive understanding of all provision across the city across the public, private and voluntary and community sectors (particularly 'grass routes' or local provision) to assist with this new way of working.

2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games

- 3.12 The 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games will be the largest sporting event ever held in the UK and present a fantastic opportunity for sport and activity providers within Sunderland to engage with residents and get them participating in sport and physical activity.
- 3.13 The 2012 Games have a unique ability to bring together people of different generations, cultures, background and abilities. The potential exists to improve health, tackle exclusion and isolation, engage those who have disengaged from areas of society and empower individuals and communities to come together and thus improve community cohesion and resilience.
- 3.14 The London 2012 Games can be the catalyst to increase participation levels and provide an opportunity to engage residents and reaffirm the importance of sport and physical activity to sustain local communities.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 The report marks the beginning of the evidence gathering for the Committee's policy review into Building a Sustainable and Lasting Legacy in Sport and Physical Activity. Having a sustainable and varied offer of sport and physical activity in the city will be vital part of achieving the strategic priorities of the council and its partners.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 The Committee is recommended to receive the presentation at Committee delivered by Julie D. Gray, Head of Community Services and Victoria French, Sport, Wellness and Partnership Manager.

6. Background Papers

- Sustainable Scrutiny Report – February 2011
- Sport England website – Market Segmentation
- The Future of Fitness, White Paper , Les Mills International Ltd 2009

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**HOUSING AND NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL TEAM - ENFORCEMENT
ACTIVITY REPORT 2010/11**

Report of Executive Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: SP2: Healthy City; SP3: Safe City; SP5: Attractive and Inclusive City

CORPORATE PRIORITIES: CIO1: Customer Focused Services: C102 One Council; C103 Efficient and Effective Council; CIO4 Improving Partnership Working.

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to summarise the enforcement activity undertaken during 2010/11 by the City Council in exercising the statutory powers at its disposal in dealing with unsafe, substandard or disused private sector housing and in tackling anti social behaviour. The report also highlights the ancillary enforcement activities undertaken by the service in the residential sector to deal with matters such as statutory nuisances and blocked or defective drainage.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council is provided with a wide range of powers in relation to standards of housing to enable it to protect individuals, families and the community as a whole. The Housing and Neighbourhood Renewal Team, within Health, Housing and Adult Services, has responsibility for exercising these powers in Sunderland. The team also has the responsibility on behalf of the Council for tackling antisocial behaviour and other crime related issues and where appropriate this is done in partnership with other agencies.
- 2.2 In dealing with requests for service or unsatisfactory housing conditions identified by other means, the first option is for officers to take an informative and advisory approach to owners, occupiers, tenants and landlords alike and every effort will be made to resolve matters by informal means. Owners, occupiers, tenants and landlords may expect a written explanation of opinions if they so request.
- 2.3 The Council has adopted an effective multi agency 'graded response' to tackling anti-social behaviour across Sunderland irrespective of housing tenure. This can range from a focus on prevention and early intervention by using tools and powers available including the issuing of early warning letters and Acceptable Behaviour Agreements, to application to the Court for an Anti-Social Behaviour Order.
- 2.4 If informal engagement fails, or it is not appropriate to adopt an informal approach, as certain circumstances require immediate intervention, formal action may be taken.

2.5 The Team's regulatory functions are extensive. They include; anti-social behaviour, tenancy harassment, public health nuisance, housing improvement and inspection and licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation and selective licensing. Shown below is a schedule of legislation that Officers of the Team enforce on a regular basis:-

- Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003
- Crime and Disorder Act 1998
- Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994
- Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008
- Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006
- Local Government Act 1972
- Building Act 1984
- Civil Procedures Rules
- Clean Air Act 1993
- Control of Pollution Act 1974
- Environmental Protection Act 1990
- Housing Acts 1985, 1996 and 2004
- Housing, Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996
- Local Government and Housing Act 1989
- Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Acts 1976 and 1982
- Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949
- Public Health Acts 1936 and 1961
- Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907
- Caravan Sites Act 1968
- Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960
- Protection from Eviction Act 1977

3 CURRENT POSITION

ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY KEY ACHEIVEMENTS

3.1 The information provided below summarises the activity that has taken place throughout 2010/11:-

- a) Overall the team has investigated and resolved approximately **2226** enquiries relating to poor housing conditions, empty properties and ASB during 2010/11 compared with **1253** in the previous year. This is due to better reporting ICT systems for the Anti-social Behaviour Team, more proactive empty property work and an increase in requests for service during the exceptionally cold winter weather;
- b) **369** empty homes have been brought back into use;
- c) **54** empty homes have been adequately secured against access thereby reducing the likelihood of arson and injury;
- d) **151** homes have been made fit to live in by advising property owners to undertake necessary works;
- e) **91** landlords have joined the Accreditation Scheme;

- f) **235** rented properties in the Selective Licensing area have been licensed;
- g) **559** privately rented properties in the selective licensing area have been inspected and schedules of work produced to bring them up to a decent standard;
- h) Weeks and weekends of Action have been held across the City to promote the roles and responsibilities of the Team and to encourage reporting of poor housing management, standards and anti-social behaviour;
- i) **26** additional houses in multiple occupation have been licensed;
- j) The authority has signed a protocol with the Tyne and Wear Fire Service and all other Tyne and Wear authorities regarding Fire Safety enforcement;
- k) **99.7%** of enquires responded to within 5 days;
- l) **27** properties have been demolished as part of the renewal programme to reduce non decent housing from the city;
- m) **138** councillor enquiries have been responded to;
- n) Enforcement priorities, identified in Local Area Plans have been implemented e.g. empty properties being returned to use;
- o) Partnerships have been further developed with the university and the hospital to strengthen joint work to improve the quality of student and hospital accommodation; and
- p) Officers from the team have attended 10 Local Multi Agency Problem Solving meetings across the Neighbourhood Police Team areas on a 5 weekly basis. The purpose of these meetings is to gather 'real time' intelligence about issues affecting the community and progress to resolution with relevant partner intervention.

INDIVIDUAL SERVICE AREAS

Housing Improvement

- 3.2 **704** enquiries relating to poor housing conditions have been investigated and resolved during the course of the year. This has included issues directly affecting resident's health and safety such as a lack of heating and hot water, dangerous stairs and dangerous gas installations.
- 3.3 Each year a number of enquiries are not fully resolved before the year end and are therefore carried over into the following year. 101 such enquiries, primarily those received in March, were carried over from March to April...

Public Health Protection

- 3.4 **150** enquiries relating to public health nuisance and drainage have been investigated and resolved with during the course of the year. This has included nuisance issues relating to blocked and defective drainage systems.

Empty Properties

- 3.5 **498** enquiries relating to problematic empty properties have been received and dealt with during the course of the year. This mostly relates to properties that are not secured against unauthorised access and may become a target for arson or ASB.
- 3.6 In addition, where resources allow, the team work proactively to identify property ownership details and encourage owners to bring properties back into use. During the year **369** homes have been brought back into use through the work of the Empty Property Officers, surpassing the target of 350.

Houses in Multiple Occupation regulation

- 3.7 Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) accommodate some of the city's most vulnerable members of society and it is therefore imperative that standards are maintained. Over the course of the year **42** enquiries from concerned residents were investigated and resolved.
- 3.8 In addition, the council operate a licensing scheme for many of the larger HMOs and over the course of the year a further **17** applications were received and processed resulting in a total of **139** licensed HMOs in the City.
- 3.9 The team operate an inspection regime based on the risk each individual HMO poses to its residents.

Selective Licensing

- 3.10 Selective Licensing was launched in July 2010 in the Middle Hendon and 'Long Streets' area of the City. It is a far reaching tool used to tackle problems in the private rented sector and requires all landlords of privately rented properties in the Middle Hendon and Long Streets area to apply to the council for a licence to continue renting in the designated area. To obtain a licence, landlords will have to meet certain criteria such as demonstrating they are 'fit and proper' persons and they are able to manage the property and the tenancy properly. In addition to the licensing requirement, all occupied privately rented properties are being inspected and schedules of work are being forwarded to the owners requiring necessary works to be undertaken.

- 3.11 Over the course of the year **432** applications were received and licences granted on **235** properties. Landlords known to the Council, who have not yet applied for a licence, will be pursued and prosecution explored.
- 3.12 **559** properties have been inspected in the Selective Licensing Area and follow up visits are continuing to ensure that landlords complete the required works to bring properties fully up to standard.

Immigration Inspections

- 3.13 **15** requests for property inspections to be carried out under the terms of Home Office immigration rules were received during the course of the year. This ensures that once immigrants move into the City they can feel assured that they are residing in accommodation that is safe, suitable and free from health and safety hazards.

Caravan Site Licensing

- 3.14 The City has **1** licensable caravan site which is located in the Silksworth ward and is inspected on an annual basis. Last years inspection resulted in a new licence being issued.

Tenancy Harassment

- 3.15 The team are also responsible for taking over cases where tenancy harassment has been identified, conducting further investigations and where necessary, prosecuting landlords.
- 3.16 The function was previously carried out by Legal Services and has only recently been transferred to the Housing Service; therefore to date the team have only received 1 referral which is still being investigated.

Summary table for Housing Enforcement activity

Cases referred to legal for prosecution	2
Works in default undertaken and charges lodged against property	27
Service of Statutory Notices	82

Anti-Social Behaviour

- 3.17 **993** enquiries relating to Anti-Social Behaviour have been received during the course of the year. This has included issues such as; adult and juvenile disorder, neighbour disputes and harassment.
- 3.18 The ASB enquiries listed below resulted in the following action being taken:-

Parenting contracts	1	These are made when there has been a problem with an under 16-year olds behaviour. Orders impose requirements on the parent(s) or guardian, which will usually include their attendance on guidance or counselling programme.
Acceptable Behaviour Agreements	67	These are voluntary written agreements between a person who has been involved in anti-social behaviour and one or more local agencies whose role it is to prevent such behaviour (e.g. police and housing). They are most commonly used for young people but may also be used for adults.
Anti Social Behaviour Order	1	These are statutory measures that contain conditions prohibiting offenders from specific anti-social acts or entering defined areas. They are civil orders made in court, and are effective for a minimum of two years. ASBOs can be applied for by local authorities, police forces, British Transport Police and by registered social landlords, but not by members of the public.
Assisting Police to obtain Anti-Social Behaviour Order	1	These are statutory measures that contain conditions prohibiting offenders from specific anti-social acts or entering defined areas. They are civil orders made in court, and are effective for a minimum of two years. ASBOs can be applied for by local authorities, police forces, British Transport Police and by registered social landlords, but not by members of the public.
Assisting Police to obtain Drink Banning Order	3	These have been introduced through the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 and have been available to Local Authorities and the Police from the 31 st August 2009. DBOs are designed to address an individual's alcohol misuse behaviour and protect others and their properties from such behaviour. DBOs are civil orders that can be made against an individual aged 16 or over if they have engaged in criminal or disorderly conduct whilst under the

		influence of alcohol. The order last for a minimum of two months and a maximum of two years. There is no custodial penalty for breach of an order although breach of a subsequent court sanction could result in a custodial sentence
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The cases above can take some time to resolve, therefore some cases will still be ongoing particularly those with intensive or multiple requirements.

SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES

Landlord Accreditation

- 3.19 **91** new landlords joining the Accreditation Scheme during the course of the year bringing the total to **351** accredited landlords covering **2003** properties. These were mostly in the Hendon area as a result of the introduction of Selective Licensing.
- 3.20 The Team also hold a Landlord Forum every quarter. The forums are attended by those private landlords who work in partnership with the Council and provide a platform to discuss and inform landlords of issues which may have an impact on them. Issues discussed have included; fire safety, local housing allowance, warmfront, selective licensing, crime prevention, homelessness and tax.

Tenant Vetting

- 3.21 **265** vetting requests have been received during the course of the year, of which **41** resulted in an unsatisfactory outcome. This has helped landlords to reach an informed decision in relation to future tenants and, therefore, minimise potential problems in neighbourhoods.
- 3.22 It is anticipated that this number will increase due to the introduction of selective licensing which requires landlords to utilise a vetting system in respect of potential tenants.

Area Renewal

- 3.23 The city has three designated renewal areas in Castletown, Hetton Downs and Hendon.
- 3.24 In Castletown, a housing led regeneration masterplan has been developed with the community. As part of this, **118** pre 1919 properties of a poor standard were demolished to make way for 79 new homes to be built in 2010/11. A further 92 properties are undergoing external improvements during 2010/11 as part of the block improvement scheme.
- 3.25 A housing led Area Action Plan is being developed for Hetton Downs. In line with this plan, 161 pre 1919 properties, identified by a housing survey as being among the worst in the city, have been demolished to prepare a

site for new housing. Additionally, a Neighbourhood Renewal Assessment is currently being undertaken on Maudlin Street to determine the future of the 28 properties in the street. The report and its findings are now available and have been discussed with local Ward Members.

- 3.26 A Neighbourhood Renewal Assessment in the Middle Hendon area (2007) is being implemented by Back on the Map in partnership with the Council. As part of this housing led plan, 432 properties have been externally improved and work is ongoing to develop a scheme that will hopefully result in approximately 100 new homes on the site of the previous Amberley and Harrogate Streets. A selective licensing scheme is also operational in this area (see above) to complement renewal activities.

Development of hot spot Area Intervention programme

- 3.27 This year has seen the development of a new approach to target geographical areas that have been identified as areas in need of intervention in relation to poor property conditions, high level of empty properties, anti social behaviour etc with a focus on the deployment of resources without the support of capital funding. This project work has neighbourhood specific targets to be achieved in a determined period of time. Such areas include; Eden Vale, Barnes, Wellington and Waterloo, Washington and the Racecourse estate, Houghton-le-spring.
- 3.28 The area focus approach has resulted in stronger partnerships developing with key partners. For example in the Eden Vale area strong links have been forged with the University and the City Hospital whilst in the Houghton area the same is true with Gentoo.
- 3.29 The Local Area Action Plans (LAP) for each Area Committee are also used to focus resources into subject areas to assist in the achievement of the aims and objectives of the determined priorities identified within each area.
- 3.30 This year the Anti-Social Behaviour Team have been working with the Police in two separate operations within the City. This includes working on a Friday and Saturday night to increase patrols, reassure residents and target known perpetrators of hotspot areas of anti-social behaviour.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 Through its work, the Housing and Neighbourhood Renewal Team contributes actively to the Council's wider objectives of People, Place and Economy and its aim "to ensure the people and City of Sunderland fulfil their potential".
- 4.2 The work of the team meets not only the Council's aims but directly meets the needs of local neighbourhoods by both responding to requests for service and proactively targeting the issues that are important to that neighbourhood.

5 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 Scrutiny Committee is invited to consider this report and provide views on the enforcement activity for the year 2010/11. Furthermore the Committee may wish to suggest areas of enforcement activity for the current year.

Contact Officer: Graeme Wilson – Assistant Housing and Neighbourhood
Renewal Manager

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY 26 JULY 2011
COMMITTEE
WORK PROGRAMME 2011-12

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: SP2: Healthy City; SP3: Safe City; SP5: Attractive and Inclusive City

CORPORATE PRIORITIES: CIO1 Customer focused services; CIO2 One Council; CIO3 Efficient and effective council; CIO4 Improving partnership working

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The report attaches, for members' information, the work programme for the Committee's work during the 2011-12 Council year.
- 1.2 The work of the Committee in delivering its work programme will support the council in achieving its strategic priorities of Healthy City, Safe City and Attractive and Inclusive City. It supports the delivery of the related themes of the Local Area Agreement, and through monitoring the performance of the council's services, help the council achieve its Corporate Improvement Objectives CIO1 Customer focused services; CIO2 One Council; CIO3 Efficient and effective council; and CIO4 Improving partnership working.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The work programme is a working document which the Committee can develop throughout the year. The work programme allows members and officers to maintain an overview of work planned and undertaken during the Council year.

3. CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 The work programme reflects discussions that have taken place at the 14 June 2011 Scrutiny Committee meeting. The current work programme is attached as an appendix to this report.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The work programme developed from the meeting will form a flexible mechanism for managing the work of the Committee in 2011-12.

5 RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 That members note the information contained in the work programme and consider the inclusion of proposals for the Committee into the work programme.

Contact Officer: Helen Wardropper, Scrutiny and Area Support Officer
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SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2011/2012

REASON FOR INCLUSION	JUNE 14.06.11	JULY 26.07.11	SEPTEMBER 13.09.11	OCTOBER 25.10.11	DECEMBER 13.12.11	JANUARY 17.01.12	FEBRUARY 28.02.12	APRIL 17.04.12
Cabinet-Referrals and Responses			Response to the 10/11 Policy Review – Role of Culture in Supporting Sustainable Communities (HL)					
Policy Review	Annual Work Programme and Policy Review 2011/2012 (HL)	Policy Review – Scoping (HL) Scene Setting (JDG/VF)	Approach to the Policy Review (HL)		Policy Review – Evidence Gathering (HL)			Policy Review: Final Report (HL)
Performance			Performance Q1 (TBC) Policy Review Progress (HL)			Performance Q2 (TBC)		Performance Q3 (TBC) Policy Review Progress (HL)
Scrutiny	Housing Allocations Policy (AC) Forward Plan (SA)	Private Sector Enforcement Policy 2010/11 – Update (AC) Work Programme (SA) Forward Plan (SA)	Community Development Service and VCS Annual Report (JDG) Housing Reform (AC) Hostel Plan (AC) Feedback from the Annual CfPS Scrutiny Conference (HL) Work Programme (SA) Forward Plan (SA)	Annual Heritage Report (JH) Empire Theatre Annual Report (JH) Built Heritage (ML) Work Programme (SA) Forward Plan (SA)	Internal Waste Plan TBC) Enabling Independence Strategy Update (AC) Financial Assistance Policy (AC) Work Programme (SA) Forward Plan (SA)	Cultural Strategy (CDA) Low Carbon Homes (AC) Work Programme (SA) Forward Plan (SA)	Work Programme (SA) Forward Plan (SA)	Work Programme (SA) Forward Plan (SA)
CCFA/Members items/Petitions								

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY 26 JULY 2011 COMMITTEE

FORWARD PLAN – KEY DECISIONS FOR THE PERIOD 1 JULY 2011 – 31 OCTOBER 2011

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

**STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: SP2: Healthy City; SP3: Safe City; SP5:
Attractive and Inclusive City**

**CORPORATE PRIORITIES: CIO1 Customer focused services; CIO2 One
Council; CIO3 Efficient and effective council; CIO4 Improving
partnership working**

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide members with an opportunity to consider those items on the Executive's Forward Plan for the period 1 July 2011 – 31 October 2011.

2. Background Information

- 2.1 Holding the Executive to account is one of the main functions of Scrutiny. One of the ways that this can be achieved is by considering the forthcoming decisions of the Executive (as outlined in the Forward Plan) and deciding whether Scrutiny can add value in advance of the decision being made. This does not negate Non-Executive Members ability to call-in a decision after it has been made.
- 2.2 To this end, the most recent version of the Executive's Forward Plan is included on the agenda of each of the council's Scrutiny Committees. The Forward Plan for the period 1 July 2011 – 31 October 2011 is attached at **Appendix A**.

3. Current Position

- 3.1 Following member's comments on the suitability of the Forward Plan being presented in its entirety to each committee it should be noted that only issues relating to the specific remit of the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee are presented for information and comment. Due to agenda and publication deadlines a revised copy of this information will be circulated at the meeting reflecting any amendments.
- 3.2 In the event of Members having any queries that cannot be dealt with directly in the meeting, a response will be sought from the relevant Directorate.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 To consider the Executive's Forward Plan for the period 1 July 2011 – 31 October 2011.

5. Background Papers
None

Contact Officer : Helen Wardropper 0191 561 1164
helen.wardropper@sunderland.gov.uk

**Forward Plan -
Key Decisions
for the period
01/Jul/2011 to
31/Oct/2011**



**E Waugh,
Head of Law and Governance,
Commercial and Corporate Services,
Sunderland City Council.**

14th June 2011

01400	To agree the Access to Housing Project - Allocations Policy	Cabinet	07/Sep/2011	Cabinet, Service Users and Carer Groups, Portfolio Holder, Adult Services Staff and Partners	Briefings and/or meetings with interested parties	Via the Contact Officer by 19 August - Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee	Report and supporting papers	Alan Caddick	5662690
01487	To approve and adopt the Internal Waste Plan	Cabinet	20/Jul/2011	All Council Directorates	Circulation of draft cabinet paper and the draft Internal Waste Plan document.	To the contact officer by 21 June - Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee.	Internal Waste Plan and accompanying Cabinet Report	David Henry	5612434
01514	To agree Procurement of Social Care Services: Care and Support Provider for Cherry Tree Gardens Extra Care Scheme.	Cabinet	20/Jul/2011	Cabinet, Service Users and Ward Members, Portfolio Holders	Briefings and/or meetings with interested parties.	Via the Contact Officer by 20 June 2011 - Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee and Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee.	Report and supporting papers	Neil Revelly	5661880