

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

AGENDA

Meeting to be held in the Civic Centre, Committee Room No. 1, on Tuesday, 25th October, 2011 at 5.30 p.m.

Membership

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

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E. WAUGH,
Head of Law and Governance.

Civic Centre,
SUNDERLAND.

17th October, 2011

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

**At a meeting of the SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
held in the CIVIC CENTRE on TUESDAY, 13th SEPTEMBER, 2011 at 5.30 p.m.**

Present:-

Councillor S. Watson in the Chair

Councillors Foster, Maddison, McClennan, Rolph and Smiles

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Errington, Howe, Kay, Porthouse and Wakefield

**Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny
Committee held on 26th July, 2011**

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 26th July, 2011 be confirmed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Kelly declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 3 on the agenda as a Cabinet Member and left the meeting once his presentation had been given.

Councillors Rolph and Foster declared a personal interest in Item 6 – Performance Report Quarter 4 as a Council appointed member and substitute on the Tyne and Wear Archives.

Councillor Rolph declared a personal interest in Item 7 – Policy Review – Monitoring of Recommendations as an employee of Durham City Council.

Policy Review – The Role of Culture in Supporting Sustainable Communities

The Executive Director of City Services and the Portfolio Holder for Safer City and Culture submitted a joint report (copy circulated) which provided feedback from the Cabinet meeting held on 22 June, 2011, which considered the Committee's Policy Review into the role of culture in supporting sustainable communities.

(for copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Kelly, Portfolio Holder for Safer City and Culture, presented the report thanking Members for the opportunity to attend the meeting to provide feedback from the meeting of Cabinet and advised that Cabinet had approved the Committee's recommendations in their entirety. He went on to provide progress updates on the work underway to move forward on the Committee's recommendations as set out in the action plan.

Councillor Rolph commented that a number of the recommendations within the action plan required a significant amount of time and resource and was therefore subject to those resources being identified and asked if this would be an ideal project for a member of the Switch team to undertake on behalf of the Scrutiny Committee. Councillor Kelly advised that the Washington Area Committee had recently accessed a member of the Switch team to undertake a project for them. He understood a lot of those people in the Switch team were already allocated workloads but he agreed to look into the matter and see if there were any resources which could be allocated.

Ms. Zoe Channing, Assistant Head of Culture and Tourism, Arts, Creative Development, advised that the culture and tourism service had some requests in with the Switch team, specifically around information gathering. She also advised Members that the university were undertaking a mapping exercise around creatives industries which the Council would feed into as part of the process and received information back from them once it was complete.

Councillor Rolph then referred to action d) and the improving of signage to the Wearmouth-Jarrow World Heritage Site and commented that this site was one of many of interest within the city and hoped that all signage would be looked at. Councillor Kelly agreed with her comments and asked that Councillors list areas of interest that they felt required signage, including brown signs, and he would take them back to the relevant service area and have them looked into further.

The Cabinet Member having left the meeting due to his declared interest, it was:-

2. RESOLVED that the proposed actions detailed within the Action Plan be received and noted.

Building a Sustainable and Lasting Legacy in Sport and Physical Activity Policy Review 2011/12 : Approach to the Review

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which sought agreement from Members in relation to the evidence gathering activities for the Committee's Policy Review for 2011/12 – Building a Sustainable and Lasting Legacy in Sport and Physical Activity.

(for copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Helen Lancaster, Scrutiny Officer, presented the report advising that it was to add structure to the review and provide a timeline for evidence gathering along with a number of potential areas to explore.

Councillor Rolph suggested that it may be a good idea to look for evidence of good practice elsewhere that the Committee could use and also referred to previous reviews the Scrutiny Committees had undertaken such as those into the play areas and 'treading water'. She asked if there were any outstanding recommendations from them that could be picked up or ideas that had come from them that could be revisited. Ms. Lancaster agreed to go away and investigate these points further.

3. RESOLVED that the proposed plan for the policy review be agreed.

Performance Report Quarter 4 (April 2010 – March 2011)

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) providing a performance update against the former national indicators relating to the period April 2010 to March 2011.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Mr. Alan Caddick, Head of Housing, and Ms. Kelly Davison-Pullan, Lead Officer for Corporate Performance, presented the report advising that in October 2010 the Government announced that from April 2011 there would no longer be a requirement for Council's to produce an LAA. They also announced the demise of the National indicator set and as a consequence the performance framework is being reviewed. A new framework is being developed that focuses on local priorities and will form the basis of future performance reporting to the Committee.

Councillor Rolph referred to the paragraph within the report on community cohesion and was disappointed that it only referred to ethnic issues and didn't take into account other issues such as disability and age. Ms. Davison-Pullan advised that traditionally they had used the national indicators so there was no active selection but as there was now a move towards a new performance framework they could include indicators that were more relevant to Sunderland and local priorities.

Councillor Rolph then referred to Sport and Leisure and the indicator around the number of adults who partake in at least three sessions of 30 minutes or more exercise. She commented that the Active Sunderland Strategy was measuring for adults who took part in exercise on 5 or more occasions and asked if the recommended activity levels had changed, and if so when and why. Ms. Julie Gray, Head of Community Services, advised that her understanding was that 5 occasions was a health related indicator which was relevant when the Active City document was produced the LAA and national indicators developed, subsequently recorded participation in exercise on 3 occasions which was the indicator that was reported.

Councillor Rolph also asked if the activities being undertaken in the XL villages and youth buses around the city were recorded where young people used the climbing walls, danced or used the Nintendo Wii and commented that if they weren't they should be.

With regards to sustainability, Councillor Rolph commented that she could not distinguish if the indicator around the percentage of CO2 reduction from the local authority was a good or bad thing. The target had been met but she asked if this

was merely due to the fact that with a reduced workforce and a push toward home working how much of it may be simply that the issue had been moved elsewhere.

Ms. Davison-Pullan commented that the appendix to the report may help give more detail but stated that the indicators were complex around what they were actually measuring. She stated that she was happy to look into the issue further and on a more local context if needed. Councillor Rolph asked that a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee advising whether there had been real improvements made or if the figures were reduced for the reasons as stated earlier.

The Chairman thanked the Officer for her informative report, and it was :-

4. RESOLVED that the continued good progress made by the Council and the Sunderland Partnership and the areas that require further development to ensure performance is actively managed be received and noted.

Policy Review – Monitoring of Recommendations

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with progress in relation to the Place to Play; Access to Housing; and Local Studies Provision Policy Review recommendations

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Lancaster presented the report advising that following Cabinet consideration of the Committee's recommendations from the Place to Play, Access to Housing and the Local Studies Provision Policy Reviews, they had agreed that progress towards the completion of the actions would be monitored through the Action Plan, with standardised six monthly monitoring reports, which this was one of.

Councillor Rolph referred to the recommendation around partnership working with other cultural organisation and the continuance to work in partnership with Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums, English Heritage, etc and commented that she had not seen evidence that these changes had been made. Ms. Aimee Waugh, Local Studies Manager, advised that she had been working with the records office in Durham and had visited most local studies centres and was now at a point where she was developing the partnerships for the future and working towards regularly attending regional meetings to better link the partnership working between them.

With regards to the Local Studies Groups, Ms. Waugh advised that they were having their first local studies user group in October and interested parties should have received a letter of invitation to it. She confirmed that quite a few groups did attend and offered to provide Councillor Rolph with a list of regular attendees to see if any were missing.

5. RESOLVED that the progress towards completion of the action detailed within the Action Plan be received and noted.

Empty Property Plan

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which advised that the Committee would be briefed on the Empty Property Plan in advance of its consideration by Cabinet

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Mr. Alan Caddick, Head of Housing, presented the report advising that the Empty Property Action Plan 2011-2012 would be being submitted to the November meeting of Cabinet and that this was the Committee's opportunity to feed into the consultation on the Plan that is due to end. He explained that he would pick up the Committee's input today and feed it back into the final report to be presented to Cabinet.

He explained that the plan would serve as a tool to ensure that communities are sustainable at a local level and would ensure early intervention prevents residential empty properties causing problems to neighbourhoods and provide local people with local homes.

Councillor Watson sought more detail on the New Home Bonus Scheme and how they worked and was advised that it was a new government initiative, whereby every new property built or empty property brought back into use would be financially rewarded. These monies could then be used by the Council elsewhere so the onus was really on the Council to ensure empty properties are brought back into use as soon as possible and Members could help in this by sharing their local, grass roots knowledge.

Councillor Smiles asked if the Bonus was a loan or grant and was advised by Mr. Caddick that it was neither, it was an amount the government would give the Council for bringing new homes into the city, so it was more of an incentive.

When asked if this could be abused by private landlords, Mr. Caddick advised that there would be checks and balances in place to establish why a property is not in use and then brought back.

Councillor Foster commented that it was essential to have the input of Ward Members as they could identify properties and use their local knowledge to help the process run smoothly. Mr. Caddick explained that they intended to use Members information as much as possible to gather strong local view. He explained that each area would have a new empty property officer, an environmental health officer and a building control officer to help build intelligence of each area. Members could only add value to this and this was acknowledged.

In response to comments from Councillor Rolph, Mr. Caddick advised that if properties were demolished the Council would not receive any New Homes Bonus. The Bonus was purely for empty properties that were brought back into use.

Councillor Rolph went on to say that it was an excellent report with a lot of information captured in one place and commented that she felt it could be strengthened further as it did not include commercial or community properties at the moment, as it was not just residential properties that could cause issue but now that the government had relaxed the planning legislation around converting commercial

properties to residential this may help. Mr. Caddick commented that the service would work more corporately around picking up owners of empty commercial properties to understand their intentions.

Councillor Watson referred to the number of Gentoo properties that were being built but not selling and asked what, if anything, the Council could do. She referred to the number of people on the housing waiting list and asked if there were any intentions by Gentoo to move to letting the properties until they sold. Mr. Caddick advised that they were looking at how to best work with Gentoo and he was aware that it had happened in other areas where properties had been rented. He did advise that if some of the builds had been undertaken with public funding then they would need to make sure they had agreement on undertaking such a scheme but the Council would have the same approach as any empty property owner in helping them get them back into use.

In response to a question from Councillor McClennan regarding tenants taking up a rental property with Gentoo but then being asked to leave and the issues around their position on the housing waiting list, Mr. Caddick advised that any tenant moving into a property would have certain rights and could not just be evicted. He also advised that the new allocations policy will deal with issues such as tenants who are homeless through no fault of their own and if the Council know in advance that there is going to be an issue they can work with the tenant to prevent them becoming homeless.

The Chairman thanks Mr. Caddick for his informative report, and it was:-

6. RESOLVED that the information received in the report be received and noted.

Work Programme 2011-12

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which set out the work programme for the Committee's work during the 2011-12 Council year.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Helen Wardropper, Scrutiny and Area Support Officer, presented the report advising that any requests for future reports that had been raised at this meeting would be added to the Work Programme at the appropriate future meeting.

Councillor Rolph referred to the make up of the work programme and commented that some of the same issues may be raised repetitively as reports were scheduled to be brought back and asked if it could be coordinated so that this did not occur. Ms. Lancaster advised that she had been having discussions with the Chairman around managing the work programme more efficiently and possibly bringing joint reports where it was felt necessary.

7. RESOLVED that the information contained within the Work Programme be received and noted.

Forward Plan – Key Decisions for the Period 1st September – 31st December, 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 September to 31st December, 2011 which related to the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee.

(for copy report – see original minutes).

8. RESOLVED that the contents of the Forward Plan be received and noted.

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

(Signed) S. WATSON,
Chairman.

**BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE AND LASTING LEGACY IN SPORT
AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY POLICY REVIEW 2011/12: ACTIVE
SUNDERLAND BOARD**

**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 This report provides background to the Scrutiny Committee in relation to the Active Sunderland Board. This report and the supporting presentation contributes to the evidence for the Committee's policy review for 2011/12; Building a Sustainable and Lasting Legacy in Sport and Physical Activity.
- 1.2 A supporting presentation will be given at the Scrutiny Committee by the Lead Officers of the review, and Elected Members will have the opportunity to seek evidence from two members of the Board; Ivan Whitfield, Director of Sport, University of Sunderland and Graham Robinson, Football Development Director, SAFC Foundation. In addition two of the city's Activators will be in attendance.

2. Background

- 2.1 At its meeting on 13 September 2011, the Scrutiny Committee agreed the approach to the Policy Review; Building a Sustainable and Lasting Legacy in Sport and Physical Activity, which included a contribution from the Active Sunderland Board.
- 2.2 This report contributes principally to the following draft terms of reference for the review;
 - (c) To understand the role of the Active Sunderland Board in developing a sustained and lasting legacy in sport and physical activity;

3. Active Sunderland Board

- 3.1 In 2007, the national review of sport and physical activity by Sport England culminated in the need to ensure we have one joined up 'Single Delivery System' for sport in order to plan, deliver and evaluate

improvements in participation from grassroots through to elite sporting performance. At a local level, there is a requirement by Sport England that each local authority establishes a Community Sport Network. Sunderland responded to this challenge by establishing the Active Sunderland Board (in 2008), which aims to drive forward participation in sport and physical activity at a local level.

3.2 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, which chaired by the Cabinet Secretary, comprises partners from all sectors, which contribute to the development and delivery of sport and physical activity within the city including;

- City Council;
 - Children's Services
 - Health Housing and Adults Services
- Secondary Education;
- Sunderland City College;
- University of Sunderland;
- SAFC Football Foundation;
- Local Primary Care Trust;
- Gentoo; and
- Tyne & Wear Sport

3.3 The Sunderland Active Project focuses 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.

Through a successful partnership with Sunderland AFC Foundation, they have provided a revamped bus, appropriately fitted out with a range of equipment suitable for both project target audiences. The Active Bus is staffed by the Activators. The bus is a mobile resource to provide a lifestyle assessment, which aims to raise residents' awareness of their current activity levels and the benefits that exercise and making healthier lifestyle choices can have on their lives.

There are 5 Activators in the team and to date they have worked with over 2700 adults, providing lifestyle education and advice and delivering activities. The team have, and continue to work with a number of minority groups in the city, including the Bangladeshi and Polish communities in the East of the city and the wider Asian community of Sunderland. The team has also worked extensively with groups such as Wearside Women in Need, a number of residents groups, Age Concern and homeless organisations in the city.

- 3.4 The Board has been active in appointing two externally funded posts. The Community Sport Network Coordinator has a specific remit for signposting and enabling participation through the Active Sunderland website. In addition, a Football Development Officer has been appointed to increase participation for over 16's and this has already seen an increase in the number of city clubs with the FA Charter Standard accreditation, from 14% to 80%. Work has taken place with Young Asian Voices to engage with BME communities and this has seen an increase of over 50 new players into regular participation.
- 3.5 The ActiveSunderland website has been redesigned and now includes a Funding Section which has benefited 20 different organisations and 80 volunteers have accessed training opportunities. In addition, a monthly newsletter has been launched site visitors have increased to over 2,500.
- 3.6 The Active Sunderland Board comprises partners from all sectors, which contribute to the development and delivery of sport and physical activity within the city. The Board links into the 'Healthy City' agenda, but it is recognised that sport is unique in its cross cutting role on virtually all themes in the Sunderland Strategy. A number of key cross cutting partnerships have therefore been formally endorsed to take the work of the Board forward and these are shown in Appendix 1;
- Cycling Network
 - Walking Network
 - Running Network
 - PESSYP Network
 - Badminton Network
 - Cricket Development Network
 - Sunderland Disability Forum
 - Basketball Development Network
 - Tennis Development Network
 - Volunteering Network
 - Football Board
- 3.7 The Board was the commissioning lead, for Play and Positive Activities from Children's Services. The project aims to engage young people across the city and is also working with play providers to ensure the workforce is upskilled with nationally recognised qualifications. In 2010/11, the following outputs were achieved
- More than 2500 children were engaged in activities across the city, of which 759 children participated in more than 4 sessions
 - 26 community groups received 'one to one' support in developing their groups, and looked at areas such as funding, health and safety and constitutional issues
 - 100 people received training to develop their personal skills and obtained nationally recognised qualifications.

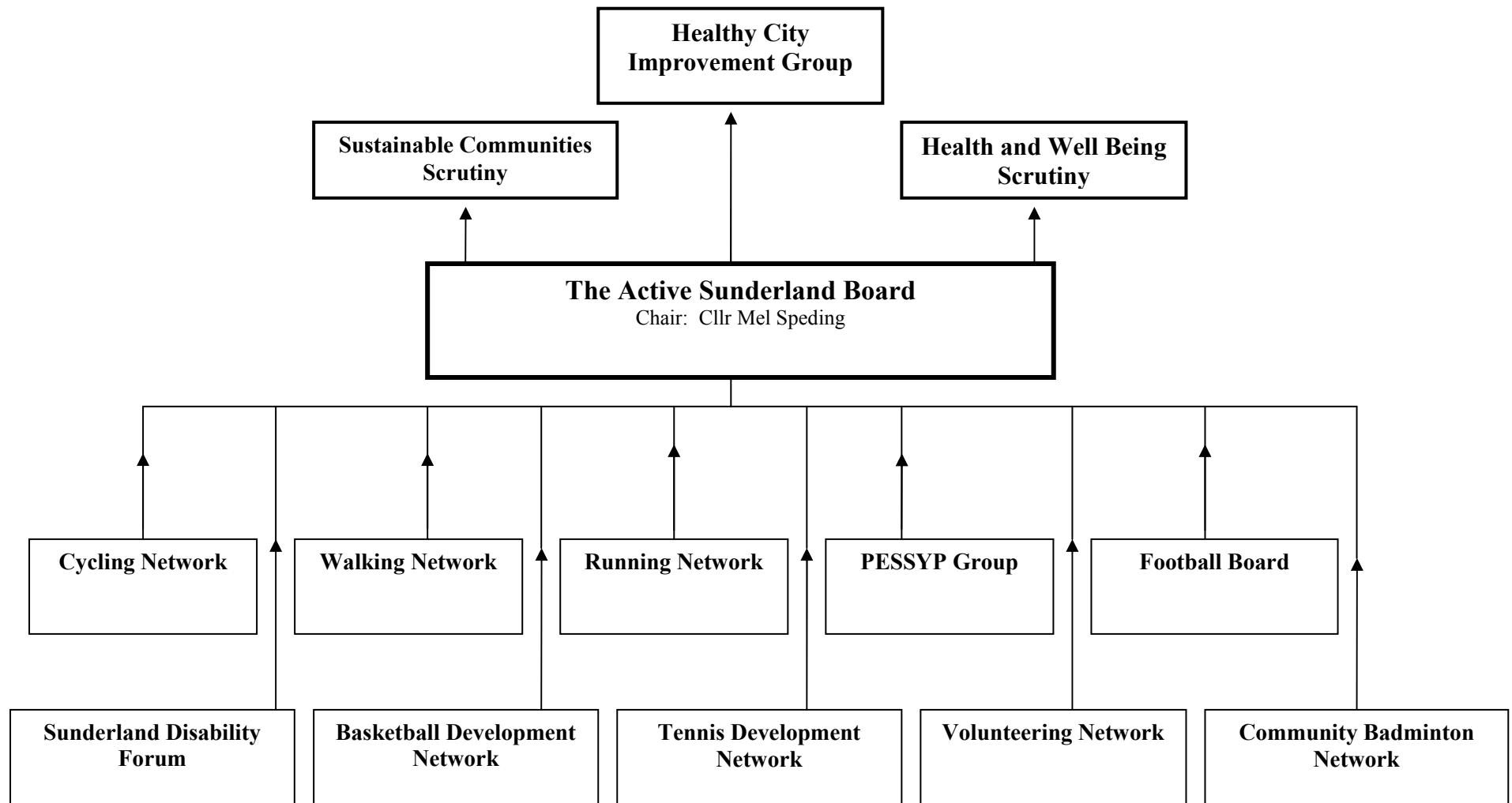
4. Recommendations

- 4.1 The Committee is recommended to receive evidence from Ivan Whitfield, Director of Sport, University of Sunderland, Graham Robinson, Football Development Director, SAFC Foundation and Victoria French, Sport, Wellness and Partnership Manager.

5. Background Papers

- Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee Minutes, 26 July 2011; 13 September 2011

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EMPIRE THEATRE ANNUAL REPORT

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CITY SERVICES

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is an annual update to members of the work ongoing within the Sunderland Empire Theatre and the monitoring systems currently in place to ensure the highest quality of service is achieved within the Theatre.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Sunderland Empire Theatre was opened in July 1907 and is now the largest theatre in the region hosting major West End touring shows. The Theatre is now managed by Ambassador Theatre Group Venues (ATGV) on behalf of Sunderland City Council.
- 2.2 ATGV has agreed to manage and operate the Theatre under the terms and conditions of the agreement which was signed by all parties in March 2007. As part of the agreement ATGV report on a regular basis to both Sunderland City Council (Culture and Tourism Section) and to the Sunderland Empire Theatre Trust Limited (which is a limited company established to monitor performance and quality of the Theatre). See appendix I for current Communications Map.
- 2.3 Under the agreement between the parties an agreed maintenance and management fee is paid on an annual basis to ATGV, in which to carry out the necessary functions of the Theatre.

3.0 CURRENT POSITION

3.1 PERFORMANCE 2010/11

- 3.1.1 During the period 1 March 2010 to 31 March 2011 the Empire Theatre has delivered over 253 shows. Performances include a wide ranging programme which is in line with the current management agreement and includes dance, opera, musicals, educational, children's and a Christmas production along with local and community events.

3.1.2 Below is a list of selected performances along with attendance figures for the period March 2010 – March 2011. (For a full programme of annual performances please see Appendix II).

Show	Performances	Paid Admits	Total Admits	% Capacity
BRB Sleeping Beauty	1	5,659	5,905	49.21%
Jimmy Carr	1	1,250	1,284	64.20%
Derren Brown	3	5,023	5,065	84.42%
Dream Boats & Petticoats	8	5,935	6,427	40.17%
Rocky Horror	8	6,373	6,490	40.56%
Hairspray	16	2,4821	25,525	79.76%
John Bishop	1	1,923	1,936	96.80%
Ken Dodd	1	1,679	1,714	85.70%
White Christmas	50	30,633	32,038	32.03%
Sally Morgan	1	1,810	1,816	90.80%
Alexandra Burke	1	1,616	1,698	84.90%
Spamalot	8	5,866	6,795	42.40%
The City Sings*	1	1,254	1,331	66.50%
Calendar Girls	8	1,2678	12,920	76.80%

NB Total Capacity per performance is 2,000 (1,858 seated, 10 wheelchair spaces 132 standing). Complimentary ticket figures are made up group concessions, 2 for 1 offers, press, guests, staff incentives, Trust Members, competition winners and charitable donations. As standing seats are not sold for most events, 100% capacity cannot be reached therefore sell out is reached at approximately 97%.

3.2 FUTURE PRODUCTIONS

- 3.2.1 New shows for the forthcoming autumn 2011 include the return of Calendar Girls, We Will Rock You, Grease and Annie and a new production for Sunderland of Whoopi Goldberg's Sister Act. Birmingham Royal Ballet is also presenting La Fille Mal Gardee.
- 3.2.2 Other major events for 2012 are Dreamboats and Petticoats, Blood Brothers, Chicago, Spamalot and South Pacific. The highlight of the autumn programme for next year is the UK tour of Dirty Dancing, which is already selling extremely well.
- 3.2.3 The Christmas production for this year is the west end's highly successful Legally Blonde, featuring an all star cast including Claire Sweeney, Michael Stark, Dave Willetts and Faye Brookes as Elle.

3.3 EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

3.3.1 ATGV continue to be committed to delivering education as part of their service delivery and their experienced and qualified staff are on hand to deliver this element of their programme. The diverse programme is varied and works to encourage young people to have the opportunity to experience the Theatre and also allows for ATGV to take the Theatre to an outside audience.

3.3.2 Elements of their education programme include:

- Varying show related activities including post-show talks, pre-show family fun events and educational workshops.
- Theatre tours and talks.
- Work experience programme.
- Stage Experience.
- Stand alone projects in partnership with other organisations.

3.3.3 The Stage Experience project is now in its sixth year and continues to be very popular. *Oliver* was produced in August 2010 and was a huge success. Over 200 young people aged 9-25 applied to take part as either a performer or theatre technician which subsequently resulted in a cast of 144 and technical team of 9.

The fee to participate remains fixed from 2009 at £175 (with a £20 discount for siblings) and will also stay at this price for 2011. The fee covers two weeks professional tuition, loan of costume and souvenir T-shirt. Once again, the project aimed to offer funded places and thanks to the contributions from local businesses and individuals, a total of 13 sponsored places were made available. There were four performances of *Oliver* on 5-7 August 2010 and a total of 4,923 attended making it the most successful project, in terms of ticket sales, to date.

The title for 2011 is *Bugsy Malone* and a well-attended launch event was held to announce this in January 2011.

3.3.4 Tours of the theatre continue to be popular, especially with school groups and are charged at £3 per person. For the first time, special 'Christmas Gift Tours' were offered in December 2010 and proved to be extremely popular; selling out completely. These special tours were charged at £7.50 (or £4.50 if purchased with ticket for *White Christmas*) and included backstage access and mulled wine.

3.3.5 The venue continues its involvement with the Heritage Open Day scheme and September 2010 saw the theatre's doors open to the public for the sixth year running. 64 people enjoyed a free tour of the building over the two day period and excellent feedback was received.

3.3.6 Plans are in place for the introduction of a new scheme in 2011 to add to the already popular theatre tours. The project, entitled 'Theatre

Experience' will see a brand new, two hour theatre workshop available to school, youth and drama groups. This will include a full theatre tour including onstage and backstage access followed by a one hour drama session culminating in a performance by the students based on the early history of Sunderland Empire. Theatre Experience sessions will be charged at £5 per person.

3.3.7 March 2011 saw the end of the Arts Council funded 'A Night Less Ordinary' scheme which provided free theatre tickets for young people aged under 26 years. 2,272 individuals benefited from this scheme at Sunderland Empire and feedback suggests that where this provided an initial theatre visit, the young person was much more likely to return to the venue in the future.

3.3.8 The venue is aiming to provide free drama/movement workshops to coincide with shows that have a clear educational link to group bookings of 10 or more. Some very successful 'Ancient Egypt' sessions were held alongside the run of Joseph in February 2011 and plans are in place for a selection of workshops for those groups coming to see Legally Blonde.

3.4 SERVICE QUALITY

3.4.1 As part of the service quality and monitoring of the theatre all complaints and compliments to the theatre are investigated and responded to accordingly. In all cases the appropriate action is taken and if necessary passed on to the appropriate production company for comment. For March 2010 – March 2011 a total number of 103 complaints along with 70 compliments were received to the Theatre. All complaints are attended to on receipt but in some cases certain complaints received are beyond the control of the Theatre and its staff.

Complaints include:

- Behaviour of fellow Patrons
- Temperature in auditorium
- Restricted view seating
- Booking Fees(Ticketmaster)
- Cast Alterations
- Staff Attitude

Compliments include:

- Excellent Customer Service
- The kindness of staff
- General welcome within the venue
- Good practice during first aid situations
- Programming

3.4.2 ATGV continue to receive customer feedback through customer experience questionnaires. The Theatre uses two types of form; one which is carried out by the council and one which ATGV issue to customers selected at random. The council questionnaire looks at the following criteria's and asks questions to ascertain the Theatre's performance within the following areas:

- Performance quality
- Customer Care
- Health and Safety
- Venue Cleanliness

3.4.3 The in-house questionnaire in addition to the above also asks more specific questions to ensure the Theatre staff are maximising sales opportunities from customers. It also enables ATGV to check that staff have a good knowledge of the facilities offered by the venue.

3.4.4 During the period March 2010 – March 2011 a total of 52 mystery visits were made to various performances at the Theatre. The vast majority of respondents showed high levels of satisfaction with the facilities, service and product offering. When dissatisfaction has been shown, it is often price related.

ATGV will continue to monitor feedback and act accordingly to any suggestions made during the process. Customers are now able to visit the venue website and can communicate with a named staff member to leave their comments. During the next twelve months ATGV will also be communicating with visitors prior to their attendance to the venue by email. Customers who supply their email address will receive a pre visit communication that will give them information regarding their forthcoming visit. It will also invite customers to feedback their experiences to ATGV post attendance.

3.5 DR GILBERT FUND

3.5.1 As part of the legacy left by Dr Gilbert the City Sings event has gone from strength to strength. The aim of the event is to fulfil the wishes of the late Dr Gilbert to encourage the appreciation of music by young people in the city.

3.5.2 The competition consists of two categories – Primary and Open (for tertiary and mixed age secondary groups). The theme for 2011 was based on City Sings USA, with all schools encouraged to introduce one song that had a link to the USA, thus building on the Friendship Agreement with Washington DC.

3.5.3 The winners of each category for 2011 were as follows:

Primary:	East Herrington Primary School
Open:	St Robert's Secondary School

- 3.5.4 The quality of the performances continues to be of the highest standard and all performers were very well received. The adjudicating panel for the evening, was chaired by the Editor of the Sunderland Echo, Rob Lawson, along with the Mayor of Sunderland, Chairman of the Empire Theatre Trust and Music experts from region.
- 3.5.5 Each choir received a prize fund of £150 from the Dr Gilbert Fund along with £150 from the School Governors Association, with the overall winner, St Robert's, receiving the Dr Gilbert Trophy plus tickets to attend a performance of 'Thriller Live'.

3.6 EMPIRE THEATRE TRUST

- 3.6.1 The formal role of the Empire Theatre Trust as set out in its Memorandum of Association is "to promote, maintain, improve and advance education, particularly by the production of educational plays and the encouragement of the Arts".
- 3.6.2 As part of that role and the monitoring process the Trust has agreed to address a number of priorities in order to improve performance and assist in raising the profile and further promoting the Theatre. These areas include:
- Continued promotion of the Theatre to sponsors/businesses in the city/region
 - Promoting the education programmes devised by ATGV
 - Further development and promotion of the City Sings project in conjunction with Children's Services
- 3.6.3 Members of the Trust continue to work with Officers from City Services and ATGV to ensure the above issues are addressed and delivered.

3.7 BUILDING MAINTENANCE

- 3.7.1 As part of the contract with ATGV a building maintenance budget is in place which allows for the City Council to work in close partnership with ATGV to ensure that this iconic building is maintained and protected for the long term future.
- 3.7.2 During recent months the venue has seen a significant amount of investment being made, both in terms of the council's maintenance fund being utilised and ATG's venue development programme being invested.
- 3.7.2 Recent works include carpet and re-upholstery work throughout the building, repairs to all windows and roofs ensuring the building is completely watertight, electrical and plumbing works. Works are also planned to include a new CCTV system, investment to the Stalls bar area, a new box office ventilation system and new circle bar carpets.

3.8 CHRISTMAS PROGRAMMING

- 3.8.1 Over the last two years the Sunderland Empire has not scheduled a traditional pantomime for the Christmas period. The rationale behind this was based on the fact that the pantomime audience over previous years had been in decline. Regionally all other theatre venues offer pantomime as their traditional performance.
- 3.8.2 Within the ATG portfolio, other venues had offered a large scale West End Production rather than traditional Pantomime. The strategy proved to be successful, and as Sunderland had previously offered Starlight Express over Christmas the decision to move away from pantomime seemed a sensible one. This was confirmed with last years production of White Christmas being one of the Empires best selling shows.
- 3.8.3 This years production at the Theatre has been confirmed as Legally Blonde, which is still playing in London's West End and is anticipated to prove equally popular due to its "feel good" musical factor, which always does very well with the Sunderland audience. ATG feel that the alternative performance is providing choice to their customer base, as within a thirty minute drive customers have the opportunity of at least two professional pantomimes. The decision also allows for local amateur performances to be increased which has been the case at the local Royalty Theatre. As the number one touring venue in the region ATG react to visitor trends and allow for customers to have access to top quality touring products. To date no decision has been made as to the December 2012 offering.

3.9 ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

- 3.9.1 During the last few years customers disposable income for leisure spending has been for many reduced or for some curtailed. The Sunderland Empire has not been exempt from this trend, with audience numbers down over the previous twelve months. Also the number of producers prepared to take risks by touring product has reduced, which has brought the number of performances at the Theatre down over the previous twelve months.
- 3.9.2 Sunderland Empire patrons have however shown high degrees of support for major product as this presents them with less risk of being disappointed with the shows they attend. This trend was also seen throughout all of ATG's regional theatres. Only Londons West End bucked the lower sales trend, as they showed growth over the same period. However it should be noted that in London the audience make up is very different and is based highly on overseas visitors.
- 3.9.3 ATG are confident that for the coming year they will be able to show a recovery, with ticket sales selling well since June of this year. There is a very varied programme for the remainder of this year and for early

2012m with some major shows appearing over the next twelve months, including Dirty Dancing which is already selling extremely well.

- 3.9.4 The indication that customers are prepared to pre pay for tickets in advance of a twelve month period for a production is highly indicative that confidence is returning for patrons to invest in their leisure time.
- 3.9.5 ATG will continue in its investment in quality productions. It also has a section within the Company that focuses on dynamic pricing to monitor how sales are progressing and alters its prices to achieve best yield. ATG are also moving to a new ticketing system that is better able to track customers and understand their habits, this is in turn is used to aid programming within their venues. ATG have also invested in mosaic profiling that studies thier customers and the catchment areas they serve. This helps to target their customer more effectively and ensure their offering is suitable for the demographic in which they operate. At the Empire, ATG are committed to audience development, with their own Creative Learning Department continually working to develop links within the community. ATG continues to encourage local community productions to use the Empire for their performances, as the theatre is a City Council owned venue, it is therefore important that the local community and theTheatres patrons feel a true ownership to the building.

4.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 Sunderland Empire Theatre under the management of ATGV continues to provide an excellent service to the people of Sunderland and the wider region. Through the monitoring systems in place it is anticipated that the service will continue to flourish and enable Sunderland Empire to continue to be recognised as one the region's leading Theatre facilities.

5.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 Members are asked to note the contents of this report and to receive an update on the Empire Theatre on an annual basis.

6.0 APPENDICES

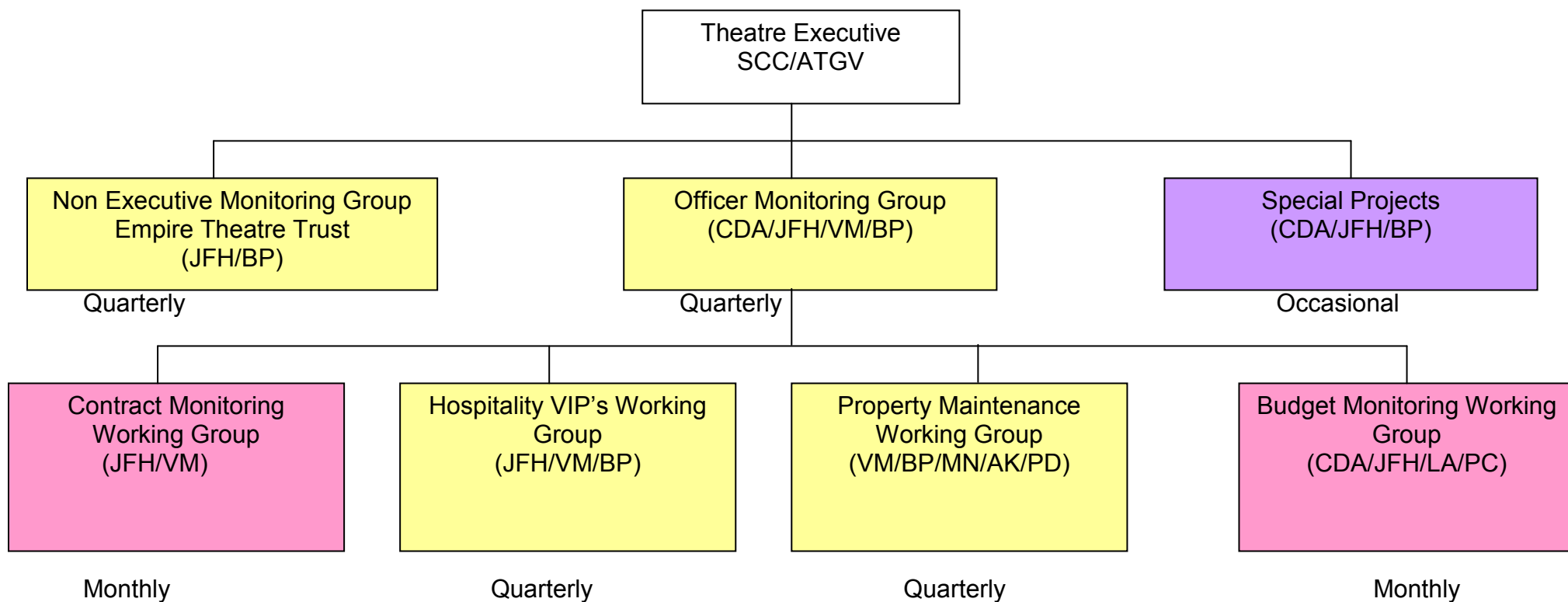
- 6.1 Empire Theatre Communication Map 2010 – Appendix I
Annual Performance List and Figures 2010-2011 – Appendix II

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 Empire Theatre Performance Figures 2010-2011.

Contact Officer: Chris Alexander, Head of Culture and Tourism,
0191 5618420
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EMPIRE THEATRE COMMUNICATIONS MAP



Key	
Monthly	
Quarterly	
Annually	
Occasional	

CDA	Chris Alexander	Head of Culture and Tourism, City Services
JFH	Jane Hall	Assistant Head of Culture and Tourism
BP	Ben Phillips	General Manager, ATGV
VM	Vicki Medhurst	Cultural Heritage Manager, City Services
LA	Lisa Armstrong	Finance, City Services
PC	Philip Clasper	Management Accountant, City Services
MN	Mark Nicholson	Regional Property Manager - ATGV
AK	Anne Kirk	Building Services, City Services
PD	Paul Davison	Building Surveyor, City Services

Show	Performances	Paid Admits	Total Admits	% Capacity
The City Sings*	1	1227	1291	64.55%
BRB-Sleeping Beauty	6	5659	5905	49.21%
Jimmy Carr	1	1250	1284	64.20%
Essence of Ireland	1	660	715	35.75%
Ricky Tomlinson	1	722	761	38.05%
That'll Be the Day	1	419	438	21.90%
Kathleen Davis-Dance Jam*	1	493	493	24.65%
Caroline Oliver-Dance Magic*	1	446	446	22.30%
ABBA Forever	1	354	422	21.10%
Joe Longthorne	1	521	543	27.15%
When Harry Met Sally	8	930	1950	12.19%
Jim Davidson	1	390	404	20.20%
Derren Brown	3	5023	5065	84.42%
Laughter in the Rain	8	2087	2566	16.04%
Oklahoma	7	3715	3829	27.35%
Dreamboats and Petticoats	8	5935	6427	40.17%
Shameen School of Dance	1	684	684	34.20%
The Ratpack	8	2076	2929	18.31%
Magic of Motown	1	684	750	37.50%
For the Love of Mrs Brown	5	5401	5701	57.01%
Reaching for the Stars*	1	538	548	27.40%
John Hylton	1	311	337	16.85%
Back for Good	1	413	493	24.65%
Variety Club*	1	480	809	40.45%
Horrible Sciences	6	3592	3914	32.62%
Laughter Live(MPJS)	1	12	99	82.50%
Rocky Horror Show	8	6373	6490	40.56%
Derren Brown	1	1766	1776	88.80%
It's Showtime*	1	424	424	21.20%
Sunderland's Schools Dance*	1	1534	1614	80.70%
Everybody Dance*	1	386	414	20.70%
Jake and Elwood	1	291	331	16.55%
Trish and Trina Performers Academy*	1	850	864	43.20%
Mums the Word	3	400	668	11.13%
Kathleen Knox School of Dance*	1	710	836	41.80%
Sandhill View School*	1	39	539	26.95%
Alice in Wonderland*	1	938	1020	25.50%
Fiery Feet*	1	422	422	21.10%
Remember When	1	487	505	25.25%
Oliver!*	4	4646	4929	61.53%
Michael MacIntyre	1	0	1947	97.35%

Hairspray	16	24821	25525	79.76%
Postman Pat	2	867	972	24.30%
Vampires Rock	1	766	835	41.75%
Shakespeare for Kidz	2	871	952	23.80%
How Sweet it is-The Motown Show	1	748	842	42.10%
Sing-a-longa-Sound of Music	1	370	447	22.35%
Laughter Live(MPJS)	1	34	54	43.20%
BRB-Romeo & Juliet	6	5134	5319	44.32%
John Bishop	1	1923	1936	96.80%
Move It, Groove It*	1	455	455	22.75%
Talon	1	416	490	24.50%
ABBA Mania	1	572	607	30.35%
Scrooge	7	7356	7651	54.65%
Reginald D Hunter	1	639	664	33.20%
Roy "Chubby" Brown	1	951	993	49.65%
The Vagina Monologues	1	814	902	45.10%
Laughter Live(MPJS)	1	43	65	52.00%
Ken Dodd	1	1679	1714	85.70%
White Christmas	50	30633	32038	32.03%
Laughter Live(MPJS)	1	73	85	68.00%
One Night of Queen	1	1121	1170	58.50%
Laughter Live(MPJS)	1	100	111	88.80%
Monkwearmouth School Awards*	1	0	1000	50.00%
Circus of Horrors	1	553	610	30.50%
80's Mania	1	694	725	36.00%
Sally Morgan	1	1810	1816	90.80%
Elvis-Live in Concert	1	613	663	33.00%
Big Time American Wrestling	1	370	378	18.90%
Stars on Stage*	1	852	852	42.60%
Joseph	11	7045	7289	33.10%
Laughter Live(MPJS)	1	72	72	57.60%
Alexandra Burke	1	1616	1698	84.90%
Jimmy Carr	1	1700	1702	85.10%
Spamalot	8	5866	6795	42.40%
Swan Lake	2	2926	2982	74.50%
The Chippendales	1	210	306	15.30%
Magic A Kind of ELO	1	258	431	21.50%
Joe Longthorne	1	493	528	26.40%
Laughter Live(MPJS)	1	72	84	67.20%
The City Sings*	1	1254	1331	66.50%
Moscow State Circus	5	1051	1175	11.70%
Bootleg Beatles	1	1173	1231	61.50%
Kathleen Davis School of Dance*	1	444	444	22.20%

Calender Girls	8	12678	12920	76.80%
Totals	253	185424	200441	43.24%

Local & Community Events
Musicals
Plays/Drama
Comedy
Ballet/Opera/Dance
Childrens/Educational/Family
Concert

**NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL ASSESSMENT (NRA) FOR
MAUDLIN STREET, HETTON DOWNS**

**REPORT OF THE 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; CIO2 One
Council; CIO3 Efficient and effective council; CIO4 Improving
partnership working**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To brief the Committee on the NRA for Maudlin Street, Hetton Downs, prior to its consideration by Cabinet on 2 November 2011.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Hetton Downs was designated a renewal area, after the Private Sector House Condition Survey in 2003 and NRA's on Nicholas Street and Downs Lane in 2004 found that the properties studied in the area were among some of the poorest quality housing and living environments experienced in Sunderland.
- 2.2 An Area Action Plan was developed by external consultants and, in consultation with the local community and stakeholders, a Preferred Option was developed in 2007. Within the Preferred Option Area Action Plan, Maudlin Street was proposed as part of a site for a new housing development. Community consultation showed that there were a number of people who opposed this proposal. A subsequent survey of owners and tenants in the street in 2008 showed that the majority of the 11 respondents wanted the street to remain.
- 2.3 The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) has provided funding in relation to the Hetton Downs renewal area. In March 2010 a funding agreement was signed between the Council and the HCA for £7.15 million of funding for the assembling of land in the Hetton Downs area for the purpose of redevelopment. Cabinet approved the execution of the Funding Agreement on 14th January 2009.
- 2.4 It was agreed with the HCA, the Government's regeneration body which is assisting with funding the current renewal programme in Hetton Downs,

- that the best way forward for Maudlin Street was to undertake a robust and objective assessment through a NRA which would enable a decision to be made on the future of the street and in turn enable residents and owners to make plans for their future. Additionally, it would enable the wider renewal programme, through the development of the Area Action Plan, to progress.
- 2.5 Consult CIH (the consultancy arm of the Chartered Institute of Housing) was appointed as an independent consultancy, in October 2010, to undertake the NRA. Following the methodology above, they have consulted widely with residents, owners, ward members, town councillors and key stakeholders. A final NRA report with recommendations was produced in May 2011.
- 2.6 The NRA report recommends as its preferred option that the remaining 23 properties in Maudlin Street are acquired by the Council and all 28 properties are demolished and replaced with a new housing development. This decision is based on the current condition of the properties, the surrounding environment (especially the unadopted road) and the size and design of the houses, all of which no longer make the street sustainable or desirable to meet the housing aspirations of today. Rigorous appraisal and value for money calculations have been used on all options, including the preferred option. Details of the options and the value for money calculations can be found in Section 9 of the NRA Report "Option Generation, Development and Appraisal" on pages 53 and 54.

3. CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 At its meeting of 2 November 2011, Cabinet will be invited to; note and approve the outcomes of the NRA and the proposed actions described in this report; and authorise the Executive Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services to continue with the programme of acquisition and assembly of land at Maudlin Street and the demolition of the street. The full Cabinet report and appendices are attached as **Appendix 1**.
- 3.2 Mr Alan Caddick, Strategic Head of Housing will attend the Scrutiny Committee meeting to brief members and answer any questions on the NRA for Maudlin Street, Hetton Downs.

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 The Committee is recommended to consider the NRA for Maudlin Street, Hetton Downs in advance of Cabinet on 2 November 2011.

5. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Maudlin Street, Neighbourhood Renewal Assessment Report – May 2011;

- Cabinet Report, 2 November 2011

Contact Officer: **Alan Caddick, Head of Strategic Housing (0191 566 1711)**
 Alan.caddick@sunderland.gov.uk

CABINET MEETING – 2 November 2011 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I	
Title of Report: Neighbourhood Renewal Assessment (NRA) For Maudlin Street, Hetton Downs	
Author(s) Executive Director Of Health, Housing And Adult Services	
Purpose of Report: The purpose of the report is to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) inform Cabinet of the findings and recommendations of the Neighbourhood Renewal Assessment (NRA) for Maudlin Street, Hetton Downs; and ii) inform Cabinet of progress on the Hetton Downs Area Action Plan, in relation to Maudlin Street and refresh of the acquisition and clearance policy for the area. 	
Description of Decision: Cabinet is invited to a) note and approve the outcomes of the NRA and the proposed actions described in this report, b) authorise the Executive Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services to continue with the programme of acquisition and assembly of land at Maudlin Street and the demolition of the street.	
Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework? Yes	
Suggested reason(s) for Decision Implementing the outcomes of the NRA in Maudlin Street will provide the Council with the opportunity to deliver an appropriate course of action and robust housing policy for Hetton Downs set in the context of the Hetton Downs Preferred Option Area Action Plan.	
Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected: The council could decide not to act on the outcome of the NRA. Without the delivery of the NRA, the Council would not be able to demonstrate that they are implementing the most appropriate course of action for the area and Homes and Communities Agency funding would be lost. This course of action is therefore not recommended.	
Is this a “Key Decision” as defined in the constitution? Yes Is it included in the Forward Plan? Yes	Relevant Scrutiny Committee:

CABINET REPORT**2 November 2011****REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH, HOUSING AND ADULT SERVICES****NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL ASSESSMENT (NRA) FOR MAUDLIN STREET, HETTON DOWNS.****1.0 Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to:
- i) inform Cabinet of the findings and recommendations of the Neighbourhood Renewal Assessment (NRA) for Maudlin Street, Hetton Downs; and
 - ii) inform Cabinet of progress on the Hetton Downs Area Action Plan, in relation to Maudlin Street and refresh of the acquisition and clearance policy for the area.

2.0 Description of the Decision

- 2.1 Cabinet is invited to:
- i) note and approve the outcomes of the NRA and the proposed actions described in this report,
 - ii) authorise the Executive Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services to continue with the programme of acquisition and assembly of land at Maudlin Street and the demolition of the street.

3.0 Introduction/Background

- 3.1 Hetton Downs was designated a renewal area, after the Private Sector House Condition Survey in 2003 and Neighbourhood Renewal Assessments on Nicholas Street and Downs Lane in 2004 found that the properties studied in the area were among some of the poorest quality housing and living environments experienced in Sunderland.
- 3.2 These studies indicated strongly that a wider regeneration plan was required for Hetton Downs to prevent “the ripple effect” of decline spreading to other streets in the area. Consequently, on 14th July 2004, Cabinet agreed for a suitably qualified consultant to be appointed to develop area renewal plans for Hetton Downs. It also agreed to continue early acquisition of any appropriate properties within the priority area for regeneration at Hetton Downs under Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000. Early acquisition was originally agreed at Cabinet in February 2004 for “properties identified within priority areas that have been subject to a Neighbourhood Renewal Assessment” and this was extended to the acquisition of “appropriate properties identified in the wider areas of potential regeneration at Hetton Downs” on 14th July 2004.

- 3.3 Further to the Cabinet report in July 2004, Coalfield Area Committee received and accepted a report on “Area Renewal and Regeneration of Eppleton (Hetton Downs)” in January 2005 which advised members of the three main priorities for Hetton Downs. These were: the development of a renewal plan (Area Action Plan) for the area; the voluntary acquisition of properties in Nicholas Street, Downs Lane, Thomas Street, Henry Street and Maudlin Street; and the implementation of a full community and stakeholder consultation programme.
- 3.4 Following Cabinet’s decision in July 2004 and the report to Coalfield Area Committee in January 2005, approval was given by the Director of Development and Regeneration in April 2005 to appoint Nathaniel Lichfield and Partners, an independent consultancy firm with a specialism in planning, to develop an Area Action Plan (AAP) for Hetton Downs which was to be taken forward for formal adoption within the Council’s planning framework. It is anticipated that this will be adopted in 2012 but consideration is currently being given to the proposals for neighbourhood planning introduced by the Coalition Government. In consultation with the local community and stakeholders, a Preferred Option was developed in 2007 (Appendix 1). The Preferred Option consultation raised several issues and objections around proposals relating to Eppleton Cricket Club, a proposed new access road and the future of Maudlin Street.
- 3.5 Within the Preferred Option Area Action Plan, Maudlin Street was proposed as part of a site for a new housing development. Community consultation showed that there were a number of people who opposed this proposal. A subsequent survey of owners and tenants in the street in 2008 showed that the majority of the 11 respondents wanted the street to remain.
- 3.6 The Council has regularly monitored the street and in the last year has had to intervene in 2 privately rented properties on the street and place Prohibition Orders on them as they were not fit for people to live in. Subsequently, these 2 properties were acquired by the Council to ensure that the properties were maintained safely and securely. The Council now owns 5 properties out of the 28 in the street. Additionally, as more landlords have bought up properties in the street, there are more privately rented properties (12) than owner occupied properties (11). Moreover, there are seven empty properties in the street, of which 5 belong to the council and 2 to private landlords.
- 3.7 The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) has provided funding in relation to the Hetton Downs renewal area. In March 2010 a funding agreement was signed between the Council and the HCA for £7.15 million of funding for the assembling of land in the Hetton Downs area for the purpose of redevelopment. Cabinet approved the execution of the Funding Agreement on 14th January 2009.

- 3.8 It was agreed with the (HCA), the Government's regeneration body which is assisting with funding the current renewal programme in Hetton Downs, that the best way forward for Maudlin Street was to undertake a robust and objective assessment through a NRA which would enable a decision to be made on the future of the street and in turn enable residents and owners to make plans for their future. Additionally, it would enable the wider renewal programme, through the development of the Area Action Plan, to progress.
- 3.9 The NRA approach is built upon the statutory framework in Part IV of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and its methodology is described in the NRA Guidance Manual. Its strengths are that it provides a robust and systematic methodology, which has been tried and tested, to assess local areas within the context of renewal and regeneration. The methodology includes inspection of properties, community involvement, socio-economic research of the area, option development and rigorous appraisal before recommendations are made on which a decision will be made. The NRA process is such that it assists the Council in determining the best course of action in relation to the street.
- 3.10 Consult CIH (the consultancy arm of the Chartered Institute of Housing) was appointed as an independent consultancy, in October 2010, to undertake the NRA. Following the methodology above, they have consulted widely with residents, owners, ward members, town councillors and key stakeholders. A final NRA report with recommendations was produced in May 2011.

4.0 Current Position

- 4.1 The NRA report recommends as its preferred option that the remaining 23 properties in Maudlin Street are acquired by the Council and all 28 properties are demolished and replaced with a new housing development. This decision is based on the current condition of the properties, the surrounding environment (especially the unadopted road) and the size and design of the houses, all of which no longer make the street sustainable or desirable to meet the housing aspirations of today. Rigorous appraisal and value for money calculations have been used on all options, including the preferred option. Details of the options and the value for money calculations can be found in Section 9 of the NRA Report "Option Generation, Development and Appraisal" on pages 53 and 54. Appendix 2.
- 4.2 The findings of this report were presented to stakeholders (including ward members, the Deputy Leader and the Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Communities), residents and owners on 25th May 2011 by Consult CIH. The report appraised a number of options ranging from "do nothing", undertaking essential repairs through to refurbishment and demolition for redevelopment.

- 4.3 Following the presentation to residents and owners, a number of owners have approached the Council and requested that their properties be valued. Three owners have agreed terms with the Council and these properties will be acquired voluntarily and made secure in line with Cabinet's decision in July 2004.
- 4.4 The strategy for implementing the NRA will be based on that for Nicholas Street and Downs Lane in Hetton Downs. Owners will be written to with regard to the voluntary acquisition of their properties. They will also be offered one to one support to help them through this process and find a replacement home that meets their needs. Relocation Equity Loans up to £35,000, as set out in the Council's Financial Assistance Policy approved by Cabinet on 9th March 2011, will be offered to eligible owner occupiers who are unable to get a mortgage on the high street on reasonable terms. This is to help bridge the gap between the value of their existing property and the price of a similar replacement property. As properties are acquired by the Council they will be made secure and will be regularly monitored.
- 4.5 Once the land is assembled, it will form part of the overall Area Action Plan for Hetton Downs which is currently being developed by the Planning Implementation Team. The land is being proposed for housing development. Housing officers are working closely with the HCA, to ensure that the Mauldin Street development is part of the comprehensive development of Hetton Downs. Planning officers will give a more detailed update on the Area Action Plan to members of the Coalfield Area Committee.
- 4.6 As previously agreed by Cabinet on 14th July 2004 the route taken to achieve the future Maudlin Street development is voluntary acquisition on a "deemed CPO" basis. However, if all properties cannot be acquired on a voluntary basis, the use of compulsory purchase powers will need to be considered.

5.0 Reasons for the Decision

- 5.1 Implementing the outcomes of the NRA in Maudlin Street will provide the Council with the opportunity to deliver an appropriate course of action and robust housing policy for Hetton Downs set in the context of the Hetton Downs Preferred Option Area Action Plan.

6.0 Alternative Options

- 6.1 The council could decide not to act on the outcome of the NRA. Without the delivery of the NRA, the Council would not be able to demonstrate that they are implementing the most appropriate course of action for the area and Homes and Communities Agency funding would be lost. This course of action is therefore not recommended.

7.0 Relevant Considerations/Consultations

- 7.1.1 **Financial** – The Director of Financial Resources has been consulted on the financial implications. There is sufficient finance available from that to be provided by the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA), Housing Service Balances and the Council's own Single Housing Investment Pot to fund all acquisition, demolition, relocation and compensation costs in line with the NRA's recommendations. Forecasts estimate total costs for this to be £2,062,934. See Appendix 3.
- 7.1.2 Financial resources that are available for the scheme is as follows;-
- i) HCA funding totalling £4,145,304 until 2015 long stop date, plus
 - ii) Council funding (former SHIP carry over) £274,563 plus
 - iii) Housing Service Balances of £46,000.
- 7.1.3 There are sufficient HCA resources to fund the purchase and demolition of Maudlin Street and for the purchase and demolition of the Springboard and former dairy premises adjacent to Downs Lane.
- 7.1.4 It is anticipated that some of the 5% fee income available to the Council from the HCA spend may be required to assist in the relocation costs of residents of Maudlin Street should all owner occupiers choose to take up and be eligible for the Council's Relocation Equity Loan.
- 7.2 **Risk Analysis** – There is a risk that the acquisition of all properties cannot be secured by voluntary acquisition and powers of Compulsory Purchase may have to be used. To mitigate this risk, resident meetings and one to one support for residents have been provided. The Council's Financial Assistance Policy has provided for relocation loans to help bridge the gap between what owner occupiers may receive for their current property and the price of a replacement property. The staff involved in the project are experienced officers in acquiring properties and rehousing residents and will be able to fully support residents.
- 7.3 **Legal Implications** – The Head of Law and Governance has been consulted and her advice is included in this report.
- 7.4 **The Public** – the residents affected by this report were fully consulted through the NRA process and again on 25th May 2011 about the findings of the report. All residents and owners have been written to and provided with contact officers in the council who can answer any queries. They have also been provided with a list of frequently asked questions and answers and a summary of the report. The area renewal web page which is accessible to the public includes all key information about the NRA, including the NRA report.
- 7.5 **Equalities** – There is no direct negative impact with regard to equalities. All residents will be given one to one support and elderly or disabled people will be provided with suitable accommodation which meets their needs.

7.6 **Project Management Methodology** – The Council’s project management methodology will be used. Officers have been trained in PRINCE 2.

7.7. **Sustainability** – the project meets aim 5 of the Sunderland Strategy.

8.0 **List of Appendices**

Appendix 1 Preferred Option Area Action Plan for Hetton Downs

Appendix 2 Section 9 of the NRA Report – “Option Generation, Development and Appraisal” pages 53 and 54.

Appendix 3 Financial Forecast

9.0 **Background Papers**

Neighbourhood Renewal Assessment – Guidance Manual 2004, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

Cabinet Meeting – 14th July 2004 Neighbourhood Renewal Assessments: Nicholas Street, Downs Lane, Hetton Downs, Eppleton and Barron Street South and Castle Street South, Castletown.

Coalfield Area Committee 12th January 2005 – Regeneration Issues Report: feedback on projects previously funded through strategic initiatives budget (SIB).

Maudlin Street, Neighbourhood Renewal Assessment Report – May 2011.

Maudlin Street Budget**Appendix 3****Income**SHIP

Carry over from 10/11 274,563

Housing Balances

21,000.00

25,000.00

46,000.00

Total 320,563.00

HCA 4,145,304

Grand Total **4,465,867.00**

Expenditure

Demolition 112,000 **HCA**

Boarding up 3500 **HCA**

Council Tax 1140 **HCA**

CCS charges 4034 **HCA**

NRA 3408 **HCA**

Market Value 1495000 **HCA**

Professional Fees 53690 **HCA**

Homeloss 121300 **SHIP**

Basic Loss 54600 **HCA**

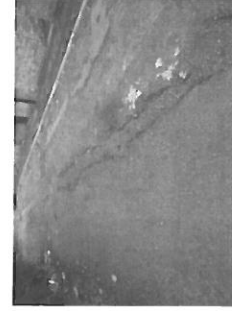
REL 199262 **SHIP**

Disturbance 15000 **HCA**

2,062,934

SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL
Maudlin Street Neighbourhood Renewal Assessment

Volume 1 | Report



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To summarise, these options are as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| Option 1 | Do nothing |
| Option 2 | Retention of the properties with carrying out of essential repairs & other repairs/renewals as they fall due |
| Option 3 | Retention and refurbishment of all 28 houses to give a nominal 30 year life |
| Option 4 | Demolition of all 28 houses with redevelopment of the cleared site |

The option appraisal has incorporated net present value (NPV) analysis and cost-benefit analysis.

NPV Analysis

The NPV of an option gives the cash flow projections based on costs and quantifiable benefits as identified in the option development process.

The costs relate to the items of expenditure attached to delivery of the option such as repair costs, works to improve the environment, demolition and property owner compensation. The benefits include items such as

increases in land or property values as a result of the works and expenditure.

NPV calculations are provided in spreadsheet format in Appendix 4.1 and take into account the relevant costs involved in the developed option. (e.g. demolition and redevelopment costs) which are then netted off the relevant costed benefits (e.g. increase in property values).

The key assumptions used in the NPV analysis are as follows:

Option 1

- Essential repair costs to 16 properties to include remedy of Category 1 hazards (total cost £80,000)
- No increase in market values
- No reduction in management costs

Option 2

- Essential repair costs and other repairs/renewal costs at an average of £14,000 per property (total cost £392,000)
- Road adoption costs £250,000
- Total increase in market values £140,000
- Low reduction in management costs

Option 3

- Refurbishment of each of the 28 properties with an average cost of £32,000 per property (total costs)
- Road adoption costs £250,000 plus £40,000 for front road/path
- Total increase in market values £280,000
- Moderate reduction in management costs

Option 4

- Acquisition of the 23 houses currently not owned by the Council at an average acquisition cost of £50,000 (a total of £1,150,000)
- Total home loss, disturbance and other payments to home owners/tenants of £562,428
- Demolition costs of £112,000
- A notional 24 new properties to be constructed on the site with development costs of £1,824,000
- Increased property values of £1,752,000
- Significant reduction in management costs

NPV Summary

Option 1	Do nothing
-	£1,555,552

Option 2	Retention of the properties with carrying out of essential repairs & other repairs/renewals as they fall due
-	£1,803,369

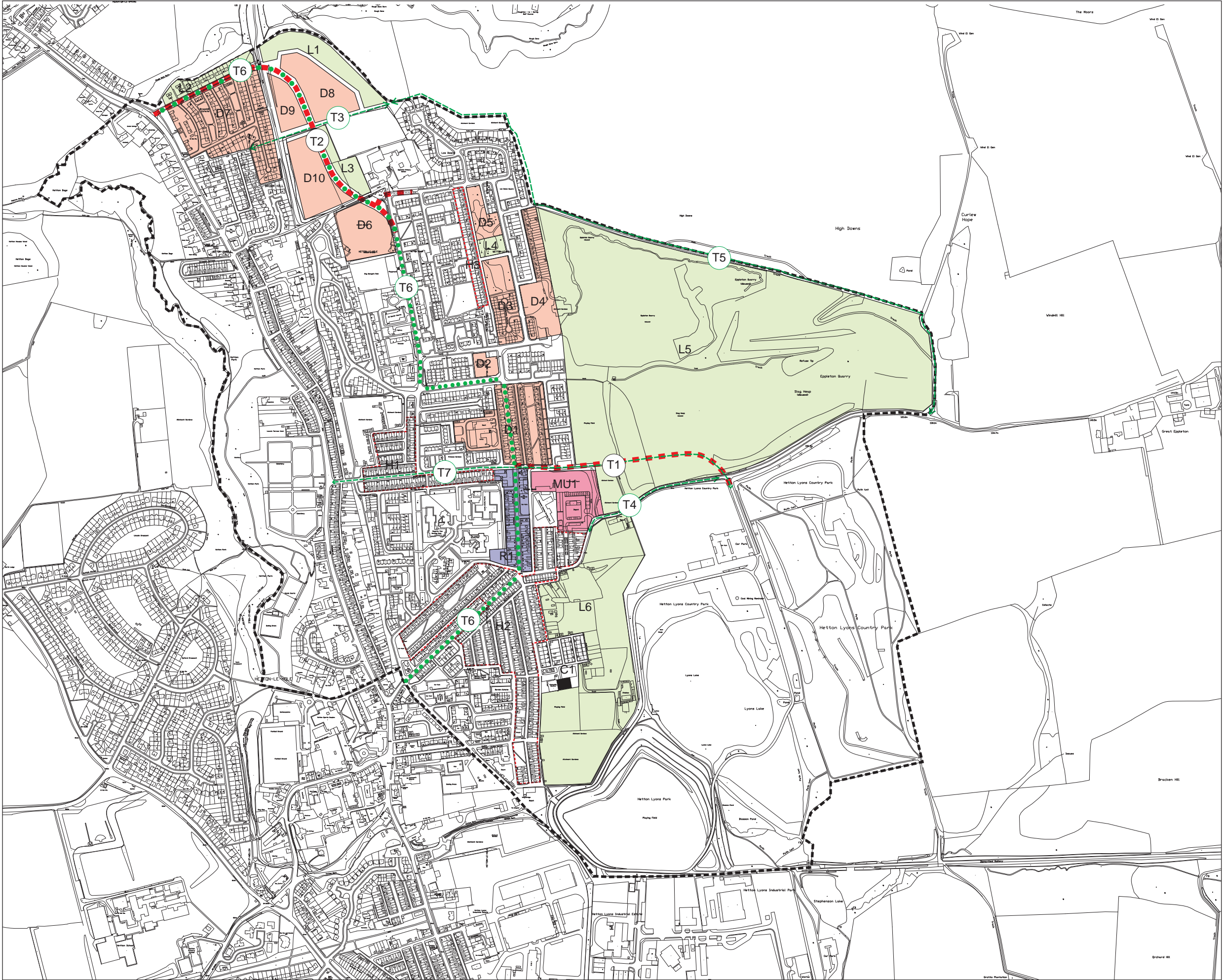
Option 3	Retention and refurbishment of all 28 houses to give a nominal 30 year life
-	£80,590

Option 4 -	Demolition of all 28 houses with redevelopment of the cleared site
-	£105,677

Risk Assessment of the NPV Data

In line with the guidance, ConsultCILH has looked at how the risks that some inputs into the NPV calculation process may turn out differently to that assumed. Each of the inputs into the calculation process has been adjusted by +/- 10% to see which of the variables has the biggest impact on the NPV produced. Naturally, the bigger the sum, the bigger the change to the NPV if the input value changes. Thus, the NPV's calculations are more sensitive to changes in the following inputs:

- Property acquisition costs
- The cost of capital works
- Property valuations



KEY

- AAP BOUNDARY
- HOUSING SITE
- HOUSING INVESTMENT AREA
- RETAIL SUPPORT AREA
- PROPOSED MIXED USE
- LANDSCAPE INVESTMENT
- PROPOSED COMMUNITY USE
- NEW VEHICULAR ACCESS
- NEW PEDESTRIAN/CYCLIST ACCESS
- HETTON DOWNS BUS CORRIDOR

Note: please note that all other saved policies apply throughout the Area Action Plan Area - please refer to the Saved Proposals map



Project Hetton Downs AAP

Title Proposals Plan

Client Sunderland City Council

Date May 2007

Scale N.T.S

Drawn by Pbe

Drg. No 20121/007



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**EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND (ERDF)
PROJECT – LOW CARBON SOCIAL HOUSING PILOT**

**REPORT OF THE 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; CIO2 One
Council; CIO3 Efficient and effective council; CIO4 Improving
partnership working**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To brief the Committee on the ERDF Low Carbon Social Housing Pilot, prior to its consideration by Cabinet on 7 December 2011.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 This project has been developed under Priority 1 of the ERDF programme, in order 'to support the application and testing of innovative energy efficiency and renewable energy measures in existing social housing'. It will deliver a low-carbon social housing exemplar in Sunderland, by focusing on the trialling and deployment of a range of energy saving and low carbon technologies in hard to treat social housing. The technologies will be tested and deployed in a cluster of approximately 100 social houses on the Hylton Lane Estate, which is owned and managed by Home Housing, that meet the tightly defined criteria of the project and are suitable for the installation and monitoring requirements of all partners.
- 2.2 Sunderland's project is only one of two in the region that has been given an ERDF approval. No other local authority is leading on a project under this competitive call for proposals. The value of the project is therefore significant not only in its contribution to the low carbon economy, but in terms of raising the profile of the City Council and its partners in developing flagship projects. In addition, it will also develop the skills and expertise of staff involved in developing and delivering low carbon initiatives.
- 2.3 The project is structured around 3 work packages, as follows:

- **Work Package 1: Project management, survey and feasibility work, monitoring, evaluation and dissemination**

This will involve a range of activities including community engagement activities, energy surveys, a research study, and feasibility work to identify the appropriate technologies to be tested and installed. In addition, it will involve ongoing engagement with householders to record their energy use, experiences and behaviours.

- **Work Package 2: SME engagement, demand stimulation and diversification**

This work package will target SMEs, primarily in the construction and installation sector, with the aim of training them to achieve the Micro-generation Certification Standard and thereby improving their workforce skills and business competitiveness in the growing micro-renewable energy sector.

- **Work Package 3: Deployment, purchase and installation of technologies**

This work package will concentrate on designing, procuring, testing and deploying the technologies in the targeted hard to treat properties. The types of measures to be installed are likely to include include:

- Solar PV
- Heat Pumps
- New voltage control relays
- New/additional voltage control devices
- New dynamic thermal rating monitors
- New energy storage devices
- Use of smart meters to provide data in operational and planning timescales
- New communication channels between smart meters and network controllers

2.4 Following submission of the full Business Case on 29 October 2010, ONE North East undertook a full appraisal of the project. The project was approved by the Heads of Team on 13 December 2010 on condition that the funding and partnership agreements are confirmed prior to the project starting.

2.5 As a result of delays in the confirmation of partner funding the practical project start date is yet to be determined, however, funding can be claimed retrospectively for any eligible expenditure incurred since 1 April 2011. Following these changes a revised timetable has been provided to the Department for Communities and Local Government. It is now anticipated that the project will be completed by 31 March 2014. Match funding from the Low Carbon Networks Fund has been approved and

confirmation of Home Group's contribution was received on 4 October 2011.

3. CURRENT POSITION

3.1 At its meeting of 7 December 2011, Cabinet will be invited to;

- Agree that the Low Carbon Energy project proceeds as planned in the ERDF Business Case;
- Agree that the Council is applicant and accountable body for the project and acts as project manager;
- Agree that the Council draws up partnership and contract delivery arrangements with the project partners (the Registered Social Landlord and the Distribution Network Operator) and sub-contractors where appropriate;
- Agree that the Council procures a supplier or consortium of specialist training services for the targeted SMEs currently estimated at £200-£300k; and
- To agree to the procurement of other appropriate services, including external project evaluation, energy audit and community consultation work

The full Cabinet report is attached as Appendix 1.

3.2 Mr Alan Caddick, Strategic Head of Housing will attend the Scrutiny Committee meeting to brief members and answer any questions on the Low Carbon Social Housing Pilot.

4. RECOMMENDATION

4.1 The Committee is recommended to consider the Low Carbon Social Housing Pilot in advance of Cabinet on 7 December 2011.

5. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- ERDF Business Case;
- Cabinet Report, 7 December 2011

Contact Officer: Alan Caddick, Head of Strategic Housing (0191 566 1711)
Alan.caddick@sunderland.gov.uk

CABINET MEETING –7 DECEMBER 2011

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I

Title of Report:

Approval to proceed with the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) project – Low Carbon Social Housing Pilot

Author(s):

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

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this report is to ask Cabinet to approve the delivery of the project and funding package and to agree project management, partnership and procurement arrangements.

Description of Decision:

Cabinet is asked to:

- To agree that the Low Carbon Energy project proceeds as planned in the ERDF Business Case
- To agree that the Council is applicant and accountable body for the project and acts as project manager
- To agree that the Council draws up partnership and contract delivery arrangements with the project partners (the Registered Social Landlord and the Distribution Network Operator) and sub-contractors where appropriate
- To agree that the Council procures a supplier or consortium of specialist training services for the targeted SMEs currently estimated between £200-£300k
- To agree to the procurement of other appropriate services, including external project evaluation, energy audit and community consultation work

Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework? YES**If not, Council approval is required to change the Budget/Policy Framework****Suggested reason(s) for Decision:**

Cabinet approval is being sought as the project involves the management of external funding of more than £250,000. Approval is also required for the project management, procurement and partnership arrangements.

Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected:

Four alternative options have been considered as follows:

Do nothing - This option has been rejected as it does not contribute to local carbon reduction targets, business development opportunities or the deployment of renewable energy innovations.

Reduce the scale of the project - This option has been rejected because of its more limited contribution to reducing carbon emission levels and its inability to adequately develop the capacity and skills of local SMEs.

Increase the scale of the project - This option is rejected due to the inability to secure additional match funding.

An alternative delivery model - This option is rejected as this delivery method would not be

able to deliver the combination of outputs, research, training and deployment activities that the project proposes.	
Is this a “Key Decision” as defined in the Constitution? Yes	Relevant Scrutiny Committee: Prosperity and Economic Development Scrutiny Committee
Is it included in the Forward Plan? Yes	

CABINET –7 DECEMBER 2011

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

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to ask Cabinet to approve the delivery of the project and funding package and to agree project management, partnership and procurement arrangements.

2.0 Description of Decision (Recommendations)

2.1 Cabinet is asked:

- To agree that the Low Carbon Energy project proceeds as planned in the ERDF Business Case
- To agree that the Council is applicant and accountable body for the project and acts as project manager
- To agree that the Council draws up partnership and contract delivery arrangements with the project partners (the Registered Social Landlord and the Distribution Network Operator) and sub-contractors where appropriate
- To agree that the Council procures a supplier or consortium of specialist training services for the targeted SMEs currently estimated at £200-£300k
- To agree to the procurement of other appropriate services, including external project evaluation, energy audit and community consultation work

3.0 Background

- 3.1 The project has been developed under Priority 1 of the ERDF programme, in order 'to support the application and testing of innovative energy efficiency and renewable energy measures in existing social housing'. This call was unusual in that it directed ERDF resources at social housing properties; nevertheless, the benefits still have to be focused on support for SMEs. It has taken considerable time and consultation to develop a project that meets the criteria.
- 3.2 The project will deliver a low-carbon social housing exemplar in Sunderland, by focusing on the trialling and deployment of a range of energy saving and low carbon technologies in hard to treat social housing. The technologies will be tested and deployed in a cluster of approximately 100 social houses on the Hylton Lane Estate, which is owned and managed by Home Housing, that meet the tightly defined criteria of the project and are suitable for the installation and monitoring requirements of all partners. Details of the actual properties along with the measures they will benefit from are subject to detailed survey work that forms part of the initial phase of the project.
- 3.3 The project will also develop the capacity and expertise of SMEs in the renewable energy and technology sector and its supply-chain, through a package of training and support. This will enable businesses to respond to the increased demand in the application of innovative domestic energy measures.
- 3.4 Sunderland's project is only one of two in the region that has been given an ERDF approval. No other local authority is leading on a project under this competitive call for proposals.
- 3.5 The value of the project is therefore significant not only in its contribution to the low carbon economy, but in terms of raising the profile of the City Council and its partners in developing flagship projects. In

addition, it will also develop the skills and expertise of staff involved in developing and delivering low carbon initiatives.

3.6 The project is structured around 3 work packages, as follows:

- **Work Package 1: Project management, survey and feasibility work, monitoring, evaluation and dissemination**
This will involve a range of activities including community engagement activities, energy surveys, a research study, and feasibility work to identify the appropriate technologies to be tested and installed. In addition, it will involve ongoing engagement with householders to record their energy use, experiences and behaviours.
- **Work Package 2: SME engagement, demand stimulation and diversification**
This work package will target SMEs, primarily in the construction and installation sector, with the aim of training them to achieve the Micro-generation Certification Standard and thereby improving their workforce skills and business competitiveness in the growing micro-renewable energy sector.
- **Work Package 3: Deployment, purchase and installation of technologies**
This work package will concentrate on designing, procuring, testing and deploying the technologies in the targeted hard to treat properties. The types of measures to be installed are likely to include:
 - Solar PV
 - Heat Pumps
 - New voltage control relays
 - New/additional voltage control devices
 - New dynamic thermal rating monitors
 - New energy storage devices
 - Use of smart meters to provide data in operational and planning timescales
 - New communication channels between smart meters and network controllers

4.0 Current Position

- 4.1 Following submission of the full Business Case on 29 October 2010, ONE North East undertook a full appraisal of the project. The project was approved by the Heads of Team on 13 December 2010 on condition that the funding and partnership agreements are confirmed prior to the project starting.
- 4.2 As a result of delays in the confirmation of partner funding the practical project start date is yet to be determined.. However, funding can be claimed retrospectively for any eligible expenditure incurred since 1 April 2011. Following these changes a revised timetable has been provided to the Department for Communities and Local Government. It is now anticipated that the project will be completed by 31 March 2014. Match funding from the Low Carbon Networks Fund has been approved and confirmation of Home Group's contribution was received on 4 October 2011.

5.0 Reasons for the Decision

- 5.1 Cabinet approval is being sought as the project involves managing external grant support of more than £250,000. Approval is also required for the project management, procurement and partnership arrangements.

6.0 Alternative Options

- 6.1 A full options analysis is included in the project's Business Case for ERDF funding. The options below have been considered as part of this analysis.

- 6.2 One alternative option would be to do nothing. This would result in leaving social housing landlords to implement energy efficiency measures including renewables and to not support local business diversification and skills training in micro-renewables. The main disadvantages of this option are that work is unlikely to be undertaken and where it is, not to directly benefit local and regional businesses. This option would not help the city to meet the carbon reduction targets. This option has been rejected as it will not attract over £2.2m of external grant funding to the City. In addition, it does not contribute to local carbon reduction targets, business development opportunities or the deployment of renewable energy innovations.
- 6.3 A further alternative option would be to reduce the scale of activity by targeting a smaller number of social housing properties. The main disadvantages of this option is its more limited contribution to carbon reduction targets, fewer more expensive outputs, limited ability to trial and test a range of technologies in different housing and household types, and reduced capacity to deliver. In addition, if scale of delivery was reduced outcomes and outputs would suffer disproportionately (higher average unit cost per output achieved), fewer SMEs could be supported, and fewer properties could be targeted. This option is rejected because of its more limited contribution to reducing carbon emission levels and its inability to adequately develop the capacity and skills of local and regional SMEs.
- 6.4 Another alternative option would be to increase the scale of activity allowing the project to extend the trials to a larger and wider range of properties. This would allow the project to engage with a larger number of SMEs thereby delivering greater economies of scale. It would offer improved value for money as a result, although doubling the number of target properties would require additional match funding to complete the funding package. The amount of funding sought is the main obstacle to the project going ahead at this level. Given the current financial climate identifying additional match funding for this type of initiative is unlikely. This option therefore is rejected due to the inability to secure additional match funding.
- 6.5 A final option that has been considered would be to deliver the project using an alternative delivery method. This would result in limited council and public sector input, and would not develop SME capabilities. The City Council and its partners would have no control over the geographical focus or technological mix of the energy applications. In the current financial situation it is unlikely that this project would go ahead at all and the ability to secure and manage ERDF would be jeopardised. This option is rejected as it would not be able to deliver the combination of outputs, research, training and deployment activities that the specification requires.

7.0 Relevant Considerations / Consultations

- (a) **Financial Implications:** The total cost of the project is £2,262,232. The funding package would comprise:

- ERDF £1,131,116
- Home Group £572,015
- CE Electric (Low Carbon Network Fund) £500,000
- Sunderland City Council (officer time) £59,101

ERDF grant will provide up to 50% of the project's eligible costs. There is no additional cost to the Council. In the event that all indicative funding is not confirmed, revised proposals will be presented to Cabinet at a future meeting.

The following table shows indicative costs:

Work Package 1	Cost
Technical feasibility work, energy audits, consultation, project management, smart meter and voltage control installation, and research and energy usage monitoring (to be led by CE Electric)	£530,000

Project evaluation	£25,000
Personnel costs including Senior Programmes and Projects Officer, Programmes and Projects Officer, Home Energy Coordinator, Legal, Procurement, Finance, travel, training	£126,313
Other costs including meeting costs, publicity and dissemination	£12, 500
Work Package 2	
Skills and training needs analysis	£7,500
Awareness seminar and recruitment programme	£17,154
Marketing and recruitment	£3,686
Project Management	£42,959
Specialist Training, Accreditation/Certification	£246,000
Work Package 3	
Micro-renewable technologies and installation costs	£1,216,853
Showcase energy demonstration home	£34,266

- (b) **Risk Analysis:** A full risk analysis has been completed as part of the ERDF Business Case including considering risks such as slow progress towards the achievement of outputs, duplication, failure to secure funding and lack of cohesion between partners. The risk register will be reviewed on a monthly basis by the project steering group.
- (c) **Employee Implications:** The project will be managed by Housing Services with support from the Financial Resources Team. It estimates that the City Council will provide a contribution of £59,101 in officer time over the period 01 April 2011 to 31 March 2014. The level of project management support is less than one full-time equivalent post and is deemed appropriate to the size of grant. Additional support will also be required from Legal, Procurement and Finance colleagues. These costs have also been included in the project's budget.
- (d) **Legal Implications:** various meetings have taken place with colleagues in Legal and Procurement to discuss the partnership, governance and procurement arrangements and to agree the most appropriate approach. All procurement undertaken will comply with EU and Council procedures.
- (e) **Policy Implications:** The project will contribute to the delivery of Aim 2 of the City's Economic Masterplan - 'a national hub of the low-carbon economy' - as well as addressing fuel poverty and contributing to national and local carbon reduction targets. In addition, the project will provide a test-case for developing the energy supply and use model for low carbon communities, as well as preparing the city and its partners for future opportunities such as the Community Energy Saving Programme, the ELENA initiative and Green Investment Bank. The results, evaluation activities and lessons learned will be used to present holistic solutions that are readily transferable to other communities across Sunderland and the UK. The project will directly contribute to the City's Climate Change Action Plan and Covenant of Mayors 2020 targets.
- (f) **Implications for Other Services:** The project has been developed jointly across two of the council's service areas. Information will be available on the intranet to advise Services of the project with contact details provided for any Service that wishes to work more closely with the project.
- (g) **The Public:** The project will work with Home Group, a Registered Social Landlord with properties and tenants in Sunderland, and CE Electric (the Distribution Network Operator for the North East of England). A community engagement plan will be drawn up to raise awareness of the initiative and engage residents in its implementation,

which will include 100 households providing energy data and feedback on renewables installed in their properties.

- (h) **Reduction of Crime and Disorder – Community Cohesion / Social Inclusion:** As above, the community will be consulted on the impact of the low carbon energy techniques as and when appropriate. One of the goals of the project will be to reduce fuel bills thereby contributing to a reduction in fuel poverty in the city.
- (i) **Project Management Methodology:** The project will be managed and monitored using the PRINCE 2 Project Management methodology.
- (j) **Equalities:** An INRA is not considered appropriate for this project. However, a community engagement plan will be an important part of the project.

8. **Glossary**

9. **List of Appendices**

10. **Background Papers**
ERDF Business Case

**SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE
WORK PROGRAMME 2011-12**

**25 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 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 13 September 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: Sarah Abernethy, Scrutiny and Area Support Officer
0191 561 1230, sarah.abernethy@sunderland.gov.uk

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 (Cllr Kelly)					
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)	Active Sunderland Board (VF)	Community and Education Facilities (TBC) Olympics Update (VF)	Sport and Physical Activity Providers (TBC) Best Practice (HL)	Sport and Physical Activity Mapping Exercise (TBC) Sport England (TBC) Priority Sports/Activities (TBC)	Policy Review: Final Report (HL)
Performance			Performance Q4 (KDP) Policy Review Progress (HL)		Performance (KDP)			Performance Policy Review Progress (HL)
Scrutiny	Housing Allocations Policy (AC) Forward Plan (HL)	Private Sector Enforcement Policy 2010/11 – Update (AC) Work Programme (HW) Forward Plan (HW)	Empty Property Plan (AC) Work Programme (HW) Forward Plan (HW)	Empire Theatre Annual Report (VM) Maudlin St (AC) Low Carbon Social Housing Pilot (AC) Pilot: VCS Network Representative Cooption (HL) Work Programme (SA) Forward Plan (SA)	Annual Heritage Report (VM) Built Heritage (ML) Community Development Service and VCS Annual Report (JDG) Hostel Plan (AC) Work Programme (SA) Forward Plan (SA)	Cultural Strategy (CDA) Enabling Independence Strategy Update (AC) Work Programme (SA) Forward Plan (SA)	Work Programme (SA) Forward Plan (SA)	Low Carbon Homes (AC) Work Programme (SA) Forward Plan (SA)
CCFA/Members items/Petitions								

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY 25 OCTOBER COMMITTEE

FORWARD PLAN – KEY DECISIONS FOR THE PERIOD 1 NOVEMBER 2011- 29 FEBRUARY 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 November – 29 February 2012.

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 November 2011 – 29 February 2012 is attached at **Appendix A**.

3. Current Position

- 3.1 It should be noted that following member's comments on the Forward Plan, it is presented in its entirety to this Scrutiny Committee. Due to agenda and publication deadlines a revised copy of this information will be circulated at the meeting reflecting any amendments if necessary.
- 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 November 2011 – 29 February 2012.

5. Background Papers
None

Contact Officer : Sarah Abernethy 0191 561 1230
sarah.abernethy@sunderland.gov.uk

**Forward Plan -
Key Decisions for
the period
01/Nov/2011 to
28/Feb/2012**



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

14th October 2011

Forward Plan: Key Decisions from - 01/Nov/2011 to 28/Feb/2012

No.	Description of Decision	Decision Taker	Anticipated Date of Decision	Principal Consultees	Means of Consultation	When and how to make representations and appropriate Scrutiny Committee	Documents to be considered	Contact Officer	Tel No
01532	To approve the Sunderland Green Infrastructure Strategy SPD Draft for Consultation	Cabinet	02/Nov/2011	Head of Law and Governance, Director of Financial Services, Sunderland Partnership, Director of City Services	circulation of draft cabinet paper	To contact officer by end of October - Environment and Attractive City Scrutiny Committee	Sunderland Green Infrastructure Strategy SPD Draft for Consultation	Barry Luccock	5611577
01531	To approve the draft revised Preferred Options Core Strategy.	Cabinet	02/Nov/2011	Head of Law and Governance, Director of Financial Services	Circulation of draft cabinet paper	To contact officer by end of October - Environment and Attractive Scrutiny Committee	Circulation of draft cabinet paper	Neil Cole	5611574
01545	To approve the delivery of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) project pending confirmation of all funding and agree the project management, partnership and procurement arrangements	Cabinet	02/Nov/2011	Deputy Chief Executive	Emails and meetings	Via the Contact Officer by 21 September 2011 - Prosperity and Economic Development Scrutiny Committee and Environment and Attractive City Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet Report	James Garland	5611158

Forward Plan: Key Decisions from - 01/Nov/2011 to 28/Feb/2012

No.	Description of Decision	Decision Taker	Anticipated Date of Decision	Principal Consultees	Means of Consultation	When and how to make representations and appropriate Scrutiny Committee	Documents to be considered	Contact Officer	Tel No
01546	To agree Neighbourhood Renewal Assessment (NRA) for Maudlin Street, Hetton Downs	Cabinet	02/Nov/2011	Cabinet Service Users and Carer Groups, Portfolio Holder, Adult Services Staff, Health Partners	Briefings and/or meetings with interested parties	via the Contact Officer by 21 October 2011 - Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee	Report	Alan Caddick	5662690
01547	To agree the Strategy for Telecare.	Cabinet	07/Dec/2011	Cabinet, Service Users and Ward Members, Portfolio Holders	Briefings and/or meetings with interested parties	Via the Contact Officer by 21 November 2011 - Health and Scrutiny Committee	Full Report	Philip Foster	5662042
01548	To agree Community Equipment Service (CES) - Tender for provision of Riser Recliner Chairs	Cabinet	07/Dec/2011	Cabinet, Service Users and Ward Members, Portfolio Holders	Briefings and/or meetings with interested parties	Via the Contact Officer by 21 November 2011 - Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee	Report	Philip Foster	5662042

Forward Plan: Key Decisions from - 01/Nov/2011 to 28/Feb/2012

No.	Description of Decision	Decision Taker	Anticipated Date of Decision	Principal Consultees	Means of Consultation	When and how to make representations and appropriate Scrutiny Committee	Documents to be considered	Contact Officer	Tel No
01536	To recommend to Council the level of Council Tax Base to be included in the 2012/2013 Budget	Cabinet	11/Jan/2012	None	N/A	Via the Contact Officer by 18 November 2011 - Management Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet Report	Fiona Brown	5611811
01534	To consider any key decisions arising from the Capital Programme and Treasury Management Third Quarterly Review	Cabinet	11/Jan/2012	Directors and third parties affected by the virement proposals	Report will be made available on the Intranet and emailed to Directors	Via the Contact Officer by 16 December 2011 - Management Scrutiny Committee	None	Sonia Tognarelli	5611851
01524	To consider any key decisions arising from the Revenue Budget Third Quarterly Review	Cabinet	11/Jan/2012	Directors and third parties affected by the virement proposals	Report will be made available on the Intranet and e-mailed to Directors	Via the Contact Officer by 18 November 2011 - Management Scrutiny Committee	None	Sonia Tognarelli	5611851

Forward Plan: Key Decisions from - 01/Nov/2011 to 28/Feb/2012

No.	Description of Decision	Decision Taker	Anticipated Date of Decision	Principal Consultees	Means of Consultation	When and how to make representations and appropriate Scrutiny Committee	Documents to be considered	Contact Officer	Tel No
01525	To consider any key decisions arising from the Capital Programme and Treasury Management Third Quarterly Review	Cabinet	11/Jan/2012	Directors and third parties affected by the virement proposals	Report will be made available on the Intranet and e-mailed to Directors	Via the Contact Officer by 16 December 2011 - Management Scrutiny Committee	None	Sonia Tognarelli	5611851
01527	To recommend to Council the level of Council Tax Base to be included in the 2012/2013 Budget	Cabinet	11/Jan/2012	None	N/A	Via the Contact Officer by 18 November 2011 - Management Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet Report	Fiona Brown	5611811
01526	To consider budget proposals for the 2012/2013 Revenue Budget for the Council	Cabinet	11/Jan/2012	Directors, Relevant Portfolio Holders, EMT, Chamber of Commerce, Trade Unions, Citizens Panel and Education Stakeholders	Briefings, Meetings, Presentations	To Contact Officer by 19 December 2011 - Management Scrutiny Committee	Report and Supporting Papers	Sonia Tognarelli	5611851

Forward Plan: Key Decisions from - 01/Nov/2011 to 28/Feb/2012

No.	Description of Decision	Decision Taker	Anticipated Date of Decision	Principal Consultees	Means of Consultation	When and how to make representations and appropriate Scrutiny Committee	Documents to be considered	Contact Officer	Tel No
01538	To recommend the level of Council Tax Collection Fund 2012/2013	Cabinet	15/Feb/2012	None	N/A	In writing to the Contact Officer by the end of January 2012 - Management Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet Report	Sonia Tognarelli	5611851
01540	To recommend the Capital Programme, Prudential Indicators and Treasury Management and Investment Strategy for 2012/2013 to the Council	Cabinet	15/Feb/2012	Representatives of Business Ratepayers and Unions	At Special Meeting in February	At Special Meeting and otherwise in writing to the Contact Officer by end of January 2012 Management Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet Report	Sonia Tognarelli	5611851
01537	To recommend the Revenue Budget and Proposed Council Tax 2012/2013 to Council	Cabinet	15/Feb/2012	Reps. of Business Ratepayers, Unions, Headteachers, Governors, Youth Parliament, Citizens Panel	Presentations, Meetings, Surveys	At meetings arranged and otherwise in writing to the Contact Officer by the end of January 2012 Management Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet Report	Sonia Tognarelli	5611851

Forward Plan: Key Decisions from - 01/Nov/2011 to 28/Feb/2012

No.	Description of Decision	Decision Taker	Anticipated Date of Decision	Principal Consultees	Means of Consultation	When and how to make representations and appropriate Scrutiny Committee	Documents to be considered	Contact Officer	Tel No
01539	To recommend the level of Council Tax to Council	Cabinet	15/Feb/2012	Representatives of Business Ratepayers and Unions	At Special Meeting in February	At Special Meeting and otherwise in writing to the Contact Officer by the end of January 2012 Management Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet Report	Sonia Tognarelli	5611811