

At a meeting of the MANAGEMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE on THURSDAY, 18TH FEBRUARY, 2010 at 3.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Tate in the Chair

Councillors Copeland, D. Forbes, M. Forbes, P. Gibson, L. Martin, Mordey, J. Scott, Walker and T. Wright.

Also present:-

- Councillor P. Watson - Leader of the Council
- Councillor Anderson - Deputy Leader of the Council
- Councillor Allan - Portfolio Holder for Resources
- Councillor Blackburn - Portfolio Holder for Attractive and Inclusive City
- Councillor Charlton - Portfolio Holder for Prosperous City
- Councillor Trueman - Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Communities
- Councillor D. Wilson - Portfolio Holder for Safer City
- Councillor N. Wright - Portfolio Holder for Healthy City
- Councillor Ball - Vice Chairman of the Community and Safer City Scrutiny Committee
- Councillor Heron - Chairman of the Community and Safer City Scrutiny Committee
- Councillor S. Watson - Chairman of the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillor Barkess and also on behalf of Councillor Gofton, Portfolio Holder for Responsive Services and Customer Care and Councillor P. Smith, Portfolio Holder for Children and Learning City, together with the following Scrutiny Committee Chairmen and Vice Chairmen:-

Councillor Arnott, Vice Chairman for Prosperity and Economic Development;

Councillor Errington, Vice Chairman for Sustainable Communities;

Councillors Miller and Wakefield, Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively for Environment and Attractive City;

Councillors Stewart and A. Hall, Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively for Children, Young People and Learning; and

Councillor Shattock, Vice Chairman of Health and Wellbeing.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 21st January, 2010

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on 21st January, 2010 (copy circulated), be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest (including Whipping Declarations)

Item 4 – Reference from Cabinet – 2nd February and 10th February, 2010 – Budget Service Reports

In accordance with Part 5 – [Part 2, Paragraph 11(b)] of the Council's Constitution, the following Councillors declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the item as a Member of the Cabinet and left the meeting having addressed questions from Members of the Committee in respect of their presentation and prior to any deliberation:-

Councillors Allan, Anderson, Blackburn, Charlton, Trueman, D. Wilson, N. Wright and P. Watson.

Councillor Tate declared personal interests as a Governor of Hetton School in relation to Building Schools for the Future, a member of Sunderland Empire Theatre Trust, a Member of Hetton Town Council, the Chair of Hetton Homecare Voluntary Management Committee, a member of G.M.B. in relation to Single Status issues, a member of the Local Government Pension Schemes, a Director of Newcastle Airport, as his wife works at Easington Lane School, as a Council appointed representative on Easington Lane Access Point and as a member of the National Association of Councillors.

Councillor M. Forbes declared a personal interest as a Governor of St. Anthony's School.

Councillor P. Gibson declared a personal interest as Chairman of the Governors of Farringdon Community School.

Item 7 – Approval of Funding Arrangements with the Homes and Communities Agency and One North East for Strategic Regeneration Purposes – Call-in of Decision.

In accordance with Part 5 – [Part 2, Paragraph 11(b)] of the Council's Constitution, Councillors Allan and P. Watson declared personal and prejudicial interests in the item as a Member of the Cabinet and left the meeting having addressed questions from Members of the Committee in respect of the decision taken by the Cabinet on 3rd February, 2010 in relation to the above report and prior to any deliberations.

Call-in of Decision – Urgent Business

The Chairman reported that a call-in had been received from the following Members of the Committee:-

- Councillor Lee Martin;
- Councillor Margaret Forbes;
- Councillor Angela Barkess.

He advised that the call-in asked the Committee to review the executive decision taken by the Cabinet on 3rd February, 2010 to authorise the Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Director of Financial Resources and the Chief Solicitor, to enter into the appropriate funding agreements to secure funding for the acquisition of a key regeneration site.

The Chairman advised that he had agreed to add this to the Committee's agenda as urgent business in accordance with Section 100(B) of the Local Government Act 1972 by reason of special circumstances related to the timescales involved in the funding agreement.

Variation of Agenda

The Chairman reported he was proposing to vary the agenda in order to consider the call-in as the first item of business. The report had been circulated under Part II of the agenda as the Committee was considered likely to exclude the public during consideration thereof as it contained information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information) (Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A, Part I, Paragraph 3).

The Chairman advised that Officers had prepared a report which had been tabled at the meeting which set out the parts of the report that could be considered in public.

The Chairman stated that the Committee needed to consider whether the call-in should be heard in public or private session. He stated that he was proposing that the Committee considered the call-in in public. He pointed out that this would require Members to honour the trust placed in them to ensure that no information about the potential value of the site, or the details of negotiations, was provided or asked for while the meeting was open to the public.

He stated that Members must understand that any breach of that confidentiality would be a matter for the Standards Committee. He added that all Members must watch for the risk that confidential information might be disclosed. If the discussion could not usefully be had in public, the Committee would need to move into private session.

Councillor L. Martin welcomed the proposal to consider the report in public and commented that as long as the funding amounts were redacted that he felt there was nothing else that could not be discussed in public.

Ms. Rhiannon Hood, Assistant Chief Solicitor, confirmed that details of the funding arrangements and negotiations needed to be preserved as confidential.

Ms. Janet Johnson, Deputy Chief Executive, stated that there were no issues in connection with naming the organisations involved as this information was in the public domain, however, the funding amounts were not and this should not be discussed in public.

2. RESOLVED that the agenda be varied accordingly and that the Call-in of Decision be now considered and that it be held in public subject to Members observing that no information about the potential value of the site be disclosed or details of the negotiations be provided or asked for.

Approval of Funding Arrangements with the Homes and Communities Agency and One North East for Strategic Regeneration Purposes – Call-in of Decision

The Chief Executive and Chief Solicitor submitted a joint report (copy circulated) for the Committee to review the executive decision taken on 3rd February, 2010 in relation to the above matter.

(For copy reports – see original minutes).

The Chairman drew the Committee's attention to paragraph 2.2 concerning exempt information and the application of the public interest test.

The Chairman invited the two Members present who had called-in the decision to explain their reasons for believing the Principles of Decision Making had not been followed.

Councillor L. Martin queried the certainty of funding, referring to four different tranches over a four year period and commented that in his opinion, no Government agency could guarantee funding or give any assurance beyond 2010/2011 as whatever Government was to take charge this year would undertake a funding review. He enquired therefore how guaranteed the funding was. He sought clarification around the discussions concerning the continuation of One North East, and assurances and clarification around the money the Council was prepared to lend to One North East.

Ms. Rhiannon Hood, Assistant Chief Solicitor, advised the Committee that any further level of detail in respect of the funding arrangements was not suitable for discussion in public as it would inevitably lead to discussions on the negotiations around funding.

Councillor Martin asked for clarification as to why the Homes and Communities Agency were to be involved and what were the arrangements as to their engagement.

Ms. Hood advised that this information was related to joint venture arrangements and not current to this discussion.

Councillor Martin stated that the entire deal was dependent upon the Council getting its money back and asked what guarantee there was that this would happen as this was in the public interest.

Councillor M. Forbes stated there was uncertainty around the funding arrangements and asked whether it would not be better for the Council to take the burden and therefore be able to call more of the shots by using the strategic investment reserve in order to secure the acquisition of the regeneration site.

The Chairman reminded Councillors Martin and Forbes of the need to follow the process and to explain why they felt the principles of decision making had not been followed.

Councillor M. Forbes stated that there was a need to show clarity of aims and desired outcomes. There was a degree of uncertainty as to what the ultimate success of the proposed partnership would be.

The Leader of the Council expressed concern that Councillor Martin had disclosed some of the detail around the funding arrangements after Members had specifically being warned that this type of disclosure would not be in the public interest for the reasons stated in the report. He felt that Councillor Martin was raising spurious concerns, that he had breached confidentiality and this merited reporting to the Standards Committee.

Councillor Allan commented that every Member of the Council was able to discuss confidential matters with relevant officers. Councillor Martin could have chosen to seek the information he needed around the proposed funding arrangements without calling in the decision, however, he had chosen to do this and was now preventing the Council from moving forward in respect of this key regeneration site.

Councillor T. Wright commented that he felt that the funding arrangements would lead to the Council securing a valuable asset and that there was a sound business case for this. The land was standing empty. He could not see anything wrong with the decision taken by the Cabinet and it was a win win situation for the City.

Councillor Gibson stated that the Members concerned had still not explained why they considered that the principles of good decision making had not been satisfied, and proposed that the Committee proceed to decide the issue.

Councillor Martin repeated that there was no certainty around the funding. It was of huge interest to the City what happened on the Vaux site and the amounts involved. There were no assurances around any of the questions he was asking.

Councillor Forbes queried why the report had not been included on Part I of the Cabinet agenda without the detail of the funding amounts and arrangements as had been the case with the report on the joint venture agreement which had been made public after the negotiations had been finalised. She stated that the Council was being thrust into this one without the necessary information.

Ms. Hood advised that to discuss the matter at any further level of detail Members would need the call-in to be discussed in private session. She stated that the first point to decide on was in relation to the merits of the decision making.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor P. Watson, commented that the joint venture was legitimate and that further information around the funding arrangements would be available when the matter was no longer commercially sensitive. However, public disclosure would at this point in time be detrimental to the public interest as it would decrease the prospects of bringing the site into public ownership which was key to bringing the development forward.

Councillor Allan commented that he was convinced that the decision had been taken in the best interests of the principles of decision-making. Appropriate advice had been taken by Cabinet from officers who had acted appropriately at all times and he asked the Committee to endorse the decision of the Cabinet.

The Chairman commented that he felt it was a major step forward to acquire the Vaux site.

Councillor Martin repeated that he did not believe any assurances had been provided and if it were necessary to hold the meeting in camera in order to do this he felt this should be done. The decision involved a huge amount of money and if it was necessary to hold the discussion in private to find out the detail of the funding arrangements then this should take place in private.

Councillor L. Martin moved and it was duly seconded by Councillor M. Forbes that the discussions be held in camera to get the assurances in respect of the development and address all aspects of uncertainty.

Members having been reminded that the Committee's decision must be made in the absence of Members involved in the decision under consideration, the Leader of the Council, Councillor P. Watson, Councillor Allan, Portfolio Holder for Resources and Cabinet Members in attendance, withdrew from the meeting in order to allow the Committee to make its decision.

Upon a vote being taken the motion was defeated with 2 Members voting in favour thereof and 7 against.

The Chairman moved that in the light of what had been heard, that recommendation 1 detailed at paragraph 5.1 be approved.

Upon a vote being taken, the motion was carried with 7 Members voting in favour thereof and 2 against.

3. RESOLVED that having reviewed the decision taken by the Cabinet on 3rd February 2010, that the Scrutiny Committee believed the decision is appropriate (and therefore should be implemented without further delay).

Reference from Cabinet – 3rd February and 10th February, 2010 – Budget Service Reports

The Chief Solicitor submitted a report seeking the Committee's advice and consideration on a number of reports (copies circulated) which were considered by the Cabinet at its meetings held on 3rd and 10th February, 2010:-

- (A) Final Revenue Support Grant Settlement 2010/2011;
- (B) Collection Fund 2009/2010;
- (C) a. Capital Programme including Prudential Indicators and Treasury Management Strategy;
b. Revenue Budget and Proposed Council Tax 2010/2011;
c. Draft Council Tax Leaflet 2010/2011.

(For copy reports – see original minutes).

At the invitation of the Chairman, the Leader of the Council provided the Committee with a brief presentation on the strategic priorities within his portfolio as follows:-

- the Community Leadership Programme;
- performance improvement and the CAA;
- strategic developments, inward investment and the International Strategy;
- the investment in Scrutiny.

The Deputy Leader of the Council paid tribute to the Leader in respect of his leadership in promoting Sunderland's interests and proceeded to brief the Committee on the responsibilities within her portfolio as follows:-

- the economic masterplan;
- community cohesion;
- the equalities and diversity agenda;
- partnership working including the LSP and the ARC.

The Deputy Leader commented that Sunderland had achieved a great deal, however, there was an awareness of the areas highlighted in the CAA and the Council was looking at the broader picture in working to make the City a place where people wanted to live, work and visit.

Councillor Gibson referred to the key medium term priorities and commented on the importance of developing measures to increase the level of business activity and stimulate sustainable economic interest and investment in the City.

Councillor M. Forbes commented that she was in full support of all economic growth, however, the point of bringing the call-in considered earlier on the agenda was the uncertainty around the funding. She added that all parties were united in wanting the best for the City, however, they had different ways of achieving their aim.

Councillor T. Wright commented that he thought it was an excellent Capital and Revenue Programme. He fully supported the Deputy Leader in her commitment to

diversity issues and commented that she should be encouraged and supported with this.

The Chairman thanked the Leader and Deputy Leader for their contributions.

The Portfolio Holder for Resources, Councillor Allan, then proceeded to address the Committee and briefed Members on the key strategic priorities for which he was responsible, including:-

- overall responsibility for the efficient, co-ordinated management and use of all the Council's key resources;
- budgeting and financial affairs;
- reviewing procurement procedures for the Council and regionally;
- the Buy in Sunderland First Campaign;
- e-government – making services more accessible;
- Legal and Democratic Services – Member ICT facilities, updating the Committee rooms, review of Members' Support Services;
- strategic management of Council land, buildings and other assets including the port;
- corporate personnel matters – Single Status, working with the Trades Unions, Single Status II negotiations, the Sunderland Way of Working;
- Corporate ICT matters – Digital Challenge, the new website.

The Chairman commented that Councillor Allan was recognised for the work he was undertaking in relation to the Council's financial matters.

In response to Councillor Copeland, Councillor Allan stated that there was no intention to force Members to use blackberrys but that staff would work with Councillors to provide help and support to enable and encourage them to make best use of the technology available. However, if any Member still did not want to have this equipment, they would not be forced to.

Councillor M. Forbes stated that Government had said that Single Status I would be cost neutral and enquired whether the cost was available.

Councillor Allan advised that an evaluation of jobs had been undertaken and in those cases where the jobs were evaluated to be worth a lower pay grade, the job descriptions were looked at and responsibilities adjudged to ensure each role was appropriate to the grade.

Mr. Keith Beardmore, Director of Financial Resources, advised that implementation in October 2005 had cost £4.3M, £2.7M for schools and £1.5M in respect of the rest

of the Council. This had been fully reflected in the base budget as were the enhanced roles which Councillor Allan had referred to.

Councillor M. Forbes asked that where additional responsibility had been taken from one post to another, whether there had been a reduction in posts.

Councillor Allan stated that the Council had achieved a massively increased efficient service. There had been some reduction in the number of jobs, however, no compulsory redundancies and the Council had maintained good services with the lowest Council tax.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Allan for his presentation.

The Chairman advised that as the Portfolio Holder for Children and Learning City, Councillor P. Smith was away on Council business, the Leader of the Council had agreed to brief the Committee in relation to the key aspects of the portfolio.

The Leader was accompanied by Ms. Meg Boustead, Head of Safeguarding. The Leader stated that the following were key priorities:-

- safeguarding and securing the wellbeing of children and young people;
- corporate parenting, looked after children, the number of which was rising;
- reduction of child poverty;
- delivering Building Schools for the Future;
- managing the supply of school places;
- developing the potential of children and young people through education, training, personal development to reduce the number of young people not in education, employment or training;
- promoting good health and reducing the under 18 conception rate and childhood obesity;
- protecting children and young people from harm by e.g. increasing the number of social care workers and implementing a foster care strategy; and
- continuing to raise standards at Key Stage 4 and narrow the gap.

The Chairman commented that through BSF and the renewal of primary schools all wards had seen an improvement in academic results and that children reacted to better surroundings.

Councillor T. Wright noted that with regard to young people not in education, employment or training (NEETs), the CAA had been happy with the direction of travel and enquired what progress had been made.

The Leader advised that the NEETs figures had reduced from 1,410 to approximately 800 which was somewhere around the national average. He added that buildings were not everything, however, the new modern schools with the best ICT must be an improvement for pupils from the old Victorian schools with leaky roofs.

Councillor Copeland asked if the NEETs figure could be produced on a ward by ward basis.

Ms. Boustead stated that it was possible to identify schools.

Councillor M. Forbes commented that with regard to training it was important that young people were trained to do the jobs that were needed.

Ms. Boustead advised that emphasis was on apprenticeships and getting young people into sustainable employment.

The Leader added that the strategy for the future was that the North East was able to retain and get jobs to the region. Software City, for example, was almost totally graduates. Decent paid jobs were needed so that the people doing them spend their money in the City. As a region, employers were being considered to see what kind of jobs the area was short of so that training was provided to tailor to the needs of the City and the region.

Councillor M. Forbes referred to the promotion of young people's good health quoting Chlamydia, alcohol and drugs as threats to this and asked how the Council was tackling these issues and what work was being done with partners.

The Leader advised that in relation to drugs and alcohol the Council was working with the Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust (STPCT). Ms. Nonnie Crawford, Director of Public Health, was the "alcohol champion" and was working to raise awareness that alcohol abuse was a severe problem.

Sexual health, testing was being promoted and the Council was tackling obesity by providing healthy school meals and promoting healthy eating as well as its investment in Wellness Centres and the two new swimming pools.

Ms. Boustead advised that Mr. Mark Hopkinson of the STPCT was leading on the Health Improvement Plan. Reducing obesity was the main strand to this. Substance misuse and alcohol were being tackled in a joined up way by working with Adult Services and looking at the impact on younger children of parent substance misuse.

Councillor Copeland asked how successful the Council was in recruiting foster parents.

The Leader advised that extra provision had been made of £140,000 in the budget for this.

Ms. Boustead stated that the Council always had a turnover. Foster carers were paid an allowance. They were difficult to recruit to, however, the retention rate was good. Voluntary foster carers were generally very loyal.

The Chairman thanked the Leader for his contribution.

Councillor Charlton, Portfolio Holder for Prosperous City, briefed the Committee on the key areas of his portfolio.

Councillor Charlton advised that work was focussing on the physical regeneration of the City, planning and the Corporate Improvement Plan priorities relating to the City Centre, together with economic development and drawing in European funding for Tyne and Wear. The Seafront Strategy was also a current priority and Stadium Park was a further development for the City. He added that Sunderland was doing well despite the economic climate, and work was continuing in relation to business investment.

Councillor Charlton commented that Sunderland had bucked the trend in that unemployment had not increased as much as in other areas.

Councillor J. Scott enquired how difficult it was at the moment to bring in businesses due to the economic downturn.

Councillor Charlton commented that developers only came for profit. Banks were not lending money at the moment. However, a lot of time was still being invested in trying to bring in developers and Sunderland was not any worse off in this respect than anywhere else.

Councillor Mordey welcomed the public realm work which was being undertaken at the moment in the Sunnyside area of the City and stated that it was excellent to see through the Seafront Strategy that one of the City's main assets was getting investment.

Councillor Charlton advised that the Seafront Strategy was a long term strategy. £1,848,000 was being spent on the seafront this year.

Councillor M. Forbes commented on the number of empty shops in the City and that this was creating a bad impression. She asked whether there were any contingency plans to fill the empty units on a temporary basis in order to stop the look of dereliction.

Councillor Charlton advised that this needed to be looked at but it was not unique to Sunderland. He added that not all the properties belonged to the Council. Where possible, efforts were made to encourage businesses to set up. He was aware that Land Securities, for example, was giving rent rebates for business in their shops in order to help them in the current economic climate.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Charlton for his presentation.

Councillor N. Wright, Portfolio Holder for Healthy City, briefed Members on the key responsibilities for her portfolio, including:-

- adult social care services;
- the strategic partnership with the TPCT and other partners to promote public health and wellness;
- specialist housing support services and provision.

Councillor Wright advised that the priorities for 2010/2011 where provision had been made in the budget for delivery were:-

- free personal care – to be in place by October 2010 – any financial implications for the Council to be met and arrangements put in place;
- implementation of a new assessment model for adult social care;
- a range of housing options for vulnerable people, including those with learning disabilities of which extra care homes was one;
- working with the Home Improvement Agency, providing loans to make homes safe and secure;
- disabled facilities grants to ensure people are able to remain in their own homes;
- safeguarding in terms of home care, quality standards to improve the quality of life for vulnerable people.

Councillor P. Gibson commented that the new extra care home, Beckwith Mews, was fantastic. He asked if it was known whether Gentoo was to be a partner in any future extra care housing schemes.

Mr. Neil Revely, Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services advised that the fourth extra care housing scheme was being developed with Gentoo. Discussions were ongoing with others. Gentoo was refurbishing homes and was not ruling out partnership with the Council. They knew the Council's plans were to develop 1,400 units over the next 6-7 years.

Councillor Copeland commented that it was Government policy to keep as many people living in their own home as possible rather than in a residential home. Funding free home care, although a financial burden for the Council, would mean people would get the correct care they needed.

The Leader of the Council commented that Adult Care was a massively volatile budget. The Council had made a prudent provision and projection forward as to how much this would cost. It was anticipated that Sunderland would get £1.2M from Government for this and there was £1M in contingencies for the service. No-one, though, could guarantee that demand would not be greater than had been provided for.

Mr. Revely added that the Council had predicted the demand and the cost of care for the next 25 years as far as it was able to and provision had been made in the

Council's Plan. Councillor Wright had addressed the quality issue where increased emphasis was being put on quality through the Scrutiny Review in order to improve services which were already good. In the past the Council had spent too much on residential care but this was not where people wanted to live. The Council was investing in community services so it could disinvest in residential services. A Green Paper was currently being consulted on, trying to get a consensus on how to fund personal care.

Councillor M. Forbes commented that Councils would need to pick up $\frac{1}{3}$ of the cost of free personal care with Government paying for $\frac{2}{3}$ of the cost. This was a considerable problem for budgeting and difficult to predict. It would be an ongoing problem and would need updating as to how it was going. Providers would need to be commissioned to provide the care. Councillor Forbes asked whether there was any indication of whether there would be any difficulty in getting someone to provide the service and whether the provision for those who have mental health problems was adequate in Sunderland now.

Mr. Revely stated that the unknown in the budget was information about those accessing care by their own means. He had looked at this three times to get a good estimate but there would still be those people who the Council was unaware of. Funding had been added to contingencies in case it was needed. Once the arrangements were in place (from 1st October) the Council would have a better understanding of whether there was sufficient money in place. With regard to the ageing population there was expanding need. Officers were constantly in discussions with providers, who were banded in terms of standards. In relation to mental health provision there was a need to concentrate more on preventative work, however, there would still be a need for support to people with mental health needs.

Councillor N. Wright advised that in terms of increasing support and making people feel safe, more investment had been made in the telecare system in staff and equipment. There were evening and overnight services and there was greater engagement in the preventative agenda. She had a determination and passion to ensure the Council provided the best services it could.

The Leader added that putting people in homes perpetuated dependence and so the added bonus of the way the Council was providing services to enable people to stay in their own homes meant that they were being re-enabled to help themselves.

Councillor D. Wilson, Portfolio Holder for Safer City, proceeded to inform the Committee of the key responsibilities included in his portfolio:-

- anti social behaviour;
- public and environmental health;
- cultural strategies and initiatives;
- the Safer Sunderland Partnership.

Councillor Wilson advised the Committee of the Food Certificate Scheme that was to be introduced, the drink banning orders and closed orders being used to reduce anti social behaviour, partnership work being undertaken with the Football Club, of the raised profile of the Sunderland Empire Theatre in that acts were coming into Sunderland after being on the West End, of the work undertaken on the World Cup

bid and the Heritage Lottery bid in respect of Hylton Castle and the re-enactment planned for the Hylton Castle battle (photographs circulated). He pointed out that the future of heritage in Sunderland was being developed firstly with experts in respect of Bowes Railway, Maritime Heritage, the Marine Activities Centre and the Aircraft Museum. These were all ways to divert young people into positive activities.

Councillor Copeland commented that the two windows next to the City Library in Fawcett Street which were owned by the Council were letting the City down. She suggested that they should be cleaned, together with the adjacent pavement, the shutters lifted and attractive displays be set up.

Councillor T. Wright welcomed the Hylton Castle battle re-enactment and the information that this would see approximately 5,000 people coming into the City who would be using the City's pubs and spending money in the shops.

Councillor J. Scott acknowledged the role the Sunderland Empire Theatre was playing in bringing people into the City which he attributed to the standard of shows that were being staged there.

In response to Members' enquiries, Councillor Wilson advised that the Food Certificate Scheme would be voluntary. It would be in businesses' interests to have one.

Mr. Ron Odunaiya, Executive Director of City Services, added that the Government had been proposing to bring out such a scheme for a number of years. It would encourage the licensee to ensure there was quality provision as people would vote with their feet if any establishment did not have a certificate making it a very positive way to encourage quality standards.

In response to Councillor M. Forbes, Councillor Wilson commented that with regard to the Old Sunderland Townscape and the East End, the river was an asset that was not getting used. Sunnyside needed attractions to bring people down to that area of the City. He was looking at the possibility of a ferry to link up with St. Peter's and the beach. With regard to the Connexions windows on Fawcett Street, thought was being given to a programme to let local people use the window space to show displays for artists to showcase their work or develop a calendar of events to decorate the window, one such event could be the Chinese New Year for example.

Mr. Odunaiya added that he had tasked his team to look at opportunities for the above.

Councillor Wilson advised that the Hylton Castle business plan was due to be completed and would be available to look at in the near future.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Wilson for his briefing.

Councillor Blackburn, Portfolio Holder for Attractive and Inclusive City, was in attendance and proceeded to highlight key responsibilities for his portfolio including:-

- neighbourhood, environmental services and street scene, included in this was tackling flytipping;

- grounds maintenance and buildings maintenance;
- facilities management;
- highways maintenance;
- refuse collection.

Councillor Blackburn highlighted:-

- the refurbishment works to Barnes Park which had commenced in October 2009;
- the completion of the community 25m swimming pools at Hetton and Silksworth;
- the increased and improved play provision in the City through the Play Pathfinder Initiative; a project worth £4.1M which was on schedule for completion;
- the free swimming initiative for under 16's and over 60's;
- the renewed and refurbished libraries at Silksworth and Washington.

Councillor Blackburn advised of the following initiatives for 2010/11:-

- the Kerb It scheme new blue bin to replace the black box and the changes to collection vehicles;
- the refurbishment of Washington Leisure Centre and changing facilities;
- the Football Investment Strategy;
- the Northumbria Centre development;
- play parks maintenance;
- the development of the Sunderland Strategic Transport Corridor;
- the capital provision for structural maintenance of highways resulting in the increased repudiation rate of claims made against the Council resulting in a reduction of public liability insurance premiums;
- the Library service review; and
- supporting the development of the new Houghton Primary Care Centre with a new wellness centre.

In response to Councillor Walker, Mr. Ron Odunaiya, Executive Director of City Services, advised that the Council was working with a number of community entities in relation to the Northumbria Centre. The playing surface was not safe and was closed. There was no proposal to sell the Centre but to work as a partner to ensure access was maintained and influence facilities development as it tied back to the wider Football Investment Strategy.

The Chairman thanked the staff for the work done on winter highway maintenance. He commented that the investment in highway maintenance had resulted in lower insurance premiums and therefore had paid for itself.

Councillor Copeland asked that provision be made to maintain paths in cemeteries.

Councillor D. Forbes commented that he would like to see the extension of the Metro to Fence Houses and Penshaw from South Hylton.

The Leader advised that he had impressed upon Lord Adonis the journey times from the North East and the position with regard to the regional infrastructure. He stated that the opening of the Leamside Line would be a waste of time for freight. He would, though, like to see the extension of the Metro to Fence Houses and Houghton.

Councillor J. Scott stated that he would like to see the old mineral line opened to extend to the Metro. He also commented that he would like to thank the Council for the opening of the new swimming pool at Hetton which was a fantastic facility.

Mr. Odunaiya stated in response to Councillor Copeland that there were pressures on the budget but issues around the maintenance of cemeteries would be considered.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Blackburn for his presentation.

Councillor Trueman, Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Communities, proceeded to address the Committee. He briefed Members on the key aspects of his portfolio as follows:-

- Housing strategy;
- Housing renewal;
- Cohesive and inclusive communities;
- Carbon management;
- Strategic waste management; and
- Recycling – a new campaign called 'love food, hate waste'.

Councillor Trueman advised that the key areas for development with his portfolio were:-

- bringing more empty homes into use;
- the extension of the Warm Homes Initiative;
- the implementation of the Selective Licensing Scheme;
- the implementation of the North East Loans Partnership;

- the development of the Suitable Homes for Living Strategy;
- the Urban Renewal Programme.

Councillor Walker asked how many empty homes had been brought back into use.

Councillor Trueman advised that the Council had been very successful with approximately 160 homes coming back and the figure was increasing year on year.

Councillor Mordey commented that he and his fellow Ward Councillors, Councillors T. Martin and M. Smith appreciated the Selective Licensing Scheme.

Councillor Copeland asked how successful the Council had been in getting accredited landlords on board as some had said there was too much 'red tape'.

Councillor Trueman stated that there was a need to ask questions and there were rules and regulations to follow, however, the Council had been very successful and the Tyne and Wear Partnership saw Sunderland as leading the way. He added that there was a number of landlords that the Council would never 'get to grips with' and also some unaccredited landlords had withdrawn from the rental market.

Councillor M. Forbes enquired with regards to the Waste Management Strategy, whether there would be any direct benefit from the electricity generated to the Council, in the form of a share of the profits.

Councillor Trueman advised that the Council was currently in the position of evaluating two tenders which were proposing different solutions to Waste Management.

Mr. Odunaiya added that each proposal would have to demonstrate how they would use the waste facility and it would be for the Council to decide which option it preferred.

Mr. Keith Beardmore, Director of Financial Resources, advised that different bidders were bringing different solutions around heat and power and scope existed to sell in the marketplace.

Councillor M. Forbes asked for further information in relation to the 48 acquisitions of homes at Hetton Downs.

Mr. Neil Revely, Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services, advised that the acquisitions allowed the Council to demolish the homes and build new ones in the City. The Homes and Communities Agency was a partner in that delivery and also in relation to the scheme in Castletown.

Councillor Copeland referred to the waiting list in the City for social housing.

Councillor Trueman stated that a myth surrounded the size of the waiting list. He would need to check the current figures, however, the list included people who were not homeless but simply wanted to move house.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Trueman for his attendance.

Councillor Gofton, Portfolio Holder for Responsive Services and Customer Care was not able to attend as she was away on Council business.

The Leader of the Council therefore proceeded to brief Members in relation to the key responsibilities and achievements of the portfolio. Councillor P. Watson advised that:-

- a Head of Customer Services had been appointed;
- the Community Services restructure had been completed;
- a Customer Care Contact System had been developed;
- the Washington Customer Service Centre had opened;
- the Community Network Business Plan had been agreed;
- the Sunderland Compact was progressing.

New starts for the portfolio included:-

- a scheme to develop the Civic Centre reception for visitors; and
- a contribution towards the works in relation to the new Houghton Primary Care Centre.

The portfolio also covered development of the Sunderland Way of Working. Southwick Sports Hall had also been picked up under the Positive Futures Programme.

Mr. Odunaiya undertook to give consideration to a suggestion by Councillor Mordey that a cash machine be installed as part of the Civic Centre reception scheme.

Councillor Copeland thanked the Director for his work in connection with the Southwick Sports Hall which she hoped would have a happy ending.

Mr. Odunaiya advised that money had been allocated to the facility to allow it to stay open. An exit strategy needed to be developed, however, the Council had 12 months to look at alternative options.

The Chairman thanked the Leader for his contribution and invited Mr. Keith Beardmore, Director of Financial Resources, to provide Members with a summary of the budget and service reports and address comments and questions.

Mr. Beardmore paid testament to the hard work and support of others in preparing the budget for 2010, principally the Leader of the Council and Councillor Allan, the Deputy Leader and all the Cabinet Members for their co-operation. He thanked Chief Officer colleagues for researching the proposals and the due diligence of his own staff, namely Mr. George Blyth, Deputy Director of Financial Resources and Ms. Sonia Tognarelli, Head of Financial Management, and recognised the contribution they had made.

Mr. Beardmore proceeded to provide a brief summary of the key points of the budget and service reports. He pointed out that the Government had reiterated that it expected the average Council Tax increase in England for 2010/2011 to fall to a 16 year low which would mean increases should be lower than the national increase

of 3% in 2009/2010. He highlighted the small surplus in the Collection Fund of £50,000 which would be taken into account when setting the Council Tax level for 2010/2011. Mr. Beardmore drew attention to Appendix B, Capital Programme 2010/2011 Environmental, Protective and Cultural (Other Services) new starts and Appendix C, Capital Programme 2010/2011 Children's Services, Adult Services, Highways and Housing proposed schemes, projects and areas for investment. He then referred Members to the Revenue Budget and proposed Council Tax for 2010/2011 which had taken the results of the consultation fully into account and was now recommending an increase of 1.2% in respect of the Council, providing an overall increase of 1.29% after adding the Northumbria Police and Fire and Rescue Authority precepts.

The Leader of the Council commented that everyone was aware of the economic outlook and the budget had been set with that in mind, but notwithstanding that, it was still a positive budget. He was aware that other Councils had had to take drastic action. Here in Sunderland the Council had not had to do this but had a plan to manage the situation and look ahead and not impose compulsory redundancies as long as they followed the Sunderland Way of Working. He thanked the people of Sunderland for helping the Council to do this and the Trades Unions who had supported the Council. He thanked the Heads of Service, the Director of Financial Resources and his staff, acknowledging their importance to the wellbeing of the City by providing measures to protect businesses and vulnerable people and keep the Council Tax rise to the lowest they could. There were measures to ameliorate the effects of Council Tax on the worst off. The budget returned the lowest Council Tax in the Tyne and Wear area and the region and was one every Member should be proud of.

Councillor M. Forbes enquired whether there were any implications with Inland Revenue of including all PFI on the balance sheet.

Mr. Beardmore advised that there was no impact on the balance sheet. The UK's position meant there was no impact on Council finances or on future borrowing requirements or restraints in relation to this.

Full discussion having taken place on the report, it was:-

4. RESOLVED that the Council be advised that the Scrutiny Committee noted that, notwithstanding the difficult economic outlook and the restrictions this presented, the Cabinet had still managed to bring forward a progressive proposed budget for 2010/2011, which would result in a low Council Tax. The Committee thanked the Cabinet, the Director of Financial Resources and his team and the Service Directorates for being able to formulate a budget to allow the Council to achieve its aims.

Forward Plan – Key Decisions for the Period 1st March, 2010 to 30th June, 2010

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) providing Members with an opportunity to consider those items on the Executive's Forward Plan for the above period which relate to the Management Scrutiny Committee.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Sarah Abernethy, Trainee Scrutiny Officer, introduced the report and invited Members to consider the Forward Plan.

Councillor Mordey advised that at the Prosperity and Economic Development Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 17th February it had been noted that four entries on the latest copy of the Forward Plan had appeared that were to be considered at the next Cabinet meeting on 10th March and, as the next meeting of the Scrutiny Committee would take place after this date, Members had been disappointed to note that they would not have the opportunity of considering the reports prior to their consideration by the Cabinet.

Councillor Mordey asked that the Committee's comments be passed to the relevant department(s).

In response to Councillor T. Wright's request for the Management Scrutiny Committee to receive the report to Cabinet on the governance arrangements at the Port of Sunderland, Councillor Mordey advised that the Prosperity and Economic Development Scrutiny Committee would be receiving a report on this. It was suggested that all Members receive a copy of the report.

Councillor T. Wright drew attention to entry No. 01362 – 'To consider the implementation of further key improvement projects' and commented that the description was very vague and that it needed to be more specific in order that people would know what the entry on the Plan referred to.

Ms. Rhiannon Hood, Assistant Chief Solicitor, suggested that the time was right in view of the many organisational changes in the Council to re-issue the guidance to Officers on the Forward Plan to make them aware of what was required.

The Chairman commented that it was important that this was undertaken and Service Directorates were made aware of the need to include entries on the Forward Plan and also that the descriptions of the decisions to be taken were clear.

5. RESOLVED that the Executive's Forward Plan for the period 1st March, 2010 to 30th June, 2010 be received and noted and that the above actions be taken forward.

Scrutiny Committees' Work Programmes for 2009/2010

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) attaching for information, the variations to the Scrutiny Committees' Work Programmes for 2009/2010 and providing an opportunity review the Committee's own Work Programme for the remainder of this municipal year.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Sarah Abernethy, Trainee Scrutiny Officer, introduced the report.

6. RESOLVED that the variations to the Scrutiny Committees' Work Programmes for 2009-10 and to the Scrutiny Committee's own Work Programme be noted.

(Signed) Councillor R.D. Tate,
Chairman.

MANAGEMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

AUDIT COMMISSION ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER 2008-09

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

18 MARCH 2010

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide Members with an opportunity to consider the Audit Commission's Annual Audit Letter for 2008-09, considered by the Cabinet on 3 February 2010, and to meet with representatives from the Audit Commission.

2. Background Information

- 2.1 The Cabinet, at its meeting on 3 February 2010, gave consideration to the attached joint report of the Chief Executive and the Director of Financial Resources in relation to the City Council's Annual Audit and Inspection Letter covering the year 2008-09 (appendix A refers).
- 2.2 The letter includes issues arising from the audit of the Council's financial statements on the results of the Audit Commission's work undertaken as part of the assessment of the Council's arrangements to securing value for money in its use of resources.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Committee considers the City Council's Annual Audit Letter for 2008-09 and seek the views of the Audit Commission where felt appropriate.

4. Background Papers

There were no background papers used in the preparation of this report.

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CABINET MEETING – 3 FEBRUARY 2010

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I

Title of Report:

Audit Commission Annual Audit Letter – November 2009

Author(s):

Chief Executive and Director of Financial Resources

Purpose of Report:

To report to Cabinet the Audit Commission’s Annual Audit Letter

Description of Decision:

Cabinet is recommended to:

- Note the contents and receive a presentation from the Audit Commission regarding the Annual Audit Letter;
- Refer the report to Council for its consideration.

Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework?

Yes/No

If not, Council approval is required to change the Budget/Policy Framework

Suggested reason(s) for Decision:

To ensure that the council acknowledges the progress made, and takes appropriate action in relation to those areas requiring further development, as described within the Audit Commission’s Annual Audit Letter.

Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected:

Consideration of the Annual Audit Letter by Members and its publication are statutory requirements and therefore no alternative options are proposed.

Is this a “Key Decision” as defined in the Constitution? Yes / No

Is it included in the Forward Plan? Yes / No

Relevant Scrutiny Committee:

Management Scrutiny Committee

AUDIT COMMISSION ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER – NOVEMBER 2009

Report of the Chief Executive and Director of Financial Resources

1.0 Purpose of the report

- 1.1 This report details the Audit Commission's (AC) Annual Audit Letter (AAL) covering the year 2008/2009. The letter includes issues arising from the audit of the council's financial statements and the results of the AC's work undertaken as part of the assessment of the council's arrangements to securing value for money in its use of resources.
- 1.2 The former Audit Manager, Lynn Hunt, will attend Cabinet to present a summary of the AC's findings and address any questions Members may have.

2.0 Description of Decision

- 2.1 Cabinet is recommended to:
- Note the contents of this report and receive a presentation from the AC regarding the AAL;
 - Refer the report to Council for its consideration.

3.0 Introduction / Background

- 3.1 The AC prepares an annual statement which provides an overall summary of the Commission's assessment of the council, drawing on audit and performance assessment work. The statement summarises the findings and conclusions from the statutory audit and covers the period from April 2008 to March 2009.
- 3.2 The AAL summarises the findings of the AC's local risk based work which have contributed to the judgements made in relation to the council's use of resources, value for money conclusion and Statement of Internal Control.
- 3.3 In previous years the AAL contained a summary of the issues arising from the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) including the Direction of Travel judgement. Under the new Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) issues under the Organisational Assessment including Use of Resources judgements were previously reported to Cabinet at its meeting on 13 January 2009. However the AAL also includes the council's Use of Resources 2008/2009 judgements.
- 3.4 In bringing together the audit work for the year many of the issues in the AAL and corresponding improvement activity have been reported previously to Cabinet and will be addressed in the Council's Improvement Programme to improve the performance and reputation of the council.

4.0 Current position

The key issues identified in the AAL include:

4.1 Financial statements and annual governance statement

- 4.1.1 The AAL indicates that the council's 2008/2009 financial statements and working papers were prepared to a good standard, and an unqualified audit opinion was issued. No significant weaknesses in the council's internal control arrangements were identified.
- 4.1.2 In 2007/2008 the AC received a formal objection to the council's financial statements in relation to car parking enforcement. Similar objections have been received at other authorities and therefore the AC is obliged to consider them together and co-ordinate a consistent response. Although this issue is progressing, it remains unresolved.
- 4.1.3 The AC has recently received correspondence from the same objector indicating that he also wishes to object to the 2008/2009 accounts. Until these two objections have been resolved, the AC cannot issue a formal certificate to confirm that the audit has been completed for 2007/2008 and 2008/2009. However, the AC is satisfied that the issues raised do not have a material impact on the financial statements.

4.2 Local risk based work

- 4.2.1 As part of the 2008/2009 audit, the AC focussed on community cohesion and health inequalities (with a specific focus on harm caused by alcohol). The AC has also followed up on the previous year's work on performance management and target setting.

Community Cohesion

- 4.2.2 Promoting equality and diversity is one of the AC's key strategic priorities and is an important component of CAA. The work in this area was undertaken in 2 stages, as follows:
- Phase 1 (2007/2008) – assessing internal arrangements for providing fair access to services, ensuring that the council understands the needs of local people and is taking steps to promote equality and diversity within its own workforce;
 - Phase 2 (2008/2009) – an externally facing review of the council's approach to supporting inclusive communities.
- 4.2.3 The AAL explains that an action plan was agreed with officers in 2007/2008 following the work undertaken as part of Phase 1. The AC is pleased to report that the council has made progress against all elements of the action plan including developing structures and mechanisms to support approaches to cohesion, encouraging partners to adopt equality impact assessments, and working with and through Children's Services to enhance schools duty to promote cohesion.
- 4.2.4 The AAL draws attention that the council and its partners have an agreed definition of community cohesion, which is realistic, clearly articulated and relates well to the local area. Partners understand the specific risks to cohesion in Sunderland, and manage them proactively. However, action plans to support delivery of this strategy have not been developed, and there are insufficient measures in place to gauge progress and outcomes in this area.
- 4.2.5 A summary report providing progress against the action plan agreed at the end of Phase 1, and feedback on Phase 2 has been considered within the Council. The findings were also reported to other organisations in November 2009. All comments have been considered by the Partnership Community Cohesion Working Group and included into existing improvement plans.

Health inequalities in the North East

4.2.6 A joint review was undertaken by the AC and Deloitte with public sector bodies across the North East, as well as the voluntary sector, to consider how organisations are working together to tackle health inequalities. The AC referred to a number of positive findings as follows:

- Good progress is being made in tackling health inequalities through leadership from regional agencies, partnership working between public sector bodies and the voluntary sector at the local level, and by increasing or prioritising funding;
- Life expectancy is increasing and, in most areas, the mortality rate is reducing at a faster rate than nationally, narrowing the gap between the North East and the rest of the country;
- Organisations in the North East need to build on the progress made to date and ensure that they move further and faster to address these inequalities.

4.2.7 The report also refers to alcohol misuse as an important issue for Sunderland. As was reported to Cabinet last month the council and its partners have a range of plans in place to secure improvement including a new Alcohol Strategy is being developed by the Sunderland Partnership, informed by public consultation and the 'Big Drink Debate'. Work is also being undertaken as part of the 'Total Place' pilot, in partnership with Gateshead and South Tyneside Councils. Alcohol Treatment programmes targeted towards violent offenders with alcohol misuse issues started in July 2009.

4.3 Performance management and target setting

4.3.1 The AAL comments that the council's performance management and target setting arrangements have improved since the review undertaken in 2007/2008. The AAL draws attention to some key improvements made including:

- An IT based performance management system (Performance Plus) has been put in place and there is a clearer focus on tackling underperformance;
- Issues of underperformance which require additional financial investment, ICT solutions etc., are addressed through the Business Improvement Programme;
- The council's scrutiny function has been improved during 2008/2009, with increased capacity, officer support and better alignment to corporate objectives. This has enabled members to play a more central role in challenging key decisions and reviewing performance information.

4.4 Use of resources and value for money

4.4.1 The council's use of resources assessment report was presented to Cabinet on 13 January 2010. The main findings are repeated within Appendix 1 of the AAL. The AAL reaffirms that the AC has assessed the council to be 'performing well' in its use of resources and has judged its performance as 3 out of 4,

4.4.2 The AAL indicates that the council successfully integrates service and financial planning and has secured significant efficiency savings in recent years whilst at the same time investing in corporate priorities and improvements for local people. Processes for good governance and internal control are well established and effective.

4.4.3 The AAL also highlights that there are elements of particularly strong performance across a number of the KLOEs, in particular provision of value for money services, especially adult care; risk management arrangements and partnership governance.

- 4.4.4 The council demonstrates examples of best practice in relation to asset management and natural resources and the AC identifies areas where the council has opportunity to improve, for example further embedding sustainability into all of the council's activities and plans.
- 4.4.5 These issues have been included within the council's use of resources improvement plan and the council is already undertaking actions to secure the necessary outcomes. The council has a clearly stated ambition of improving its Use of Resources assessment in 2010, with the ultimate ambition of securing level 4 performance (performing excellently).
- 4.4.6 The AAL refers to the arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the council's use of resources using the nine criteria set out in the key lines of enquiry and concludes that the VFM criteria has been met for each of these. The AC has issued an unqualified conclusion stating that the council had adequate arrangements in place.

5.0 Reasons for the decision

- 5.1 To ensure that the council acknowledges the progress made, and takes appropriate action in relation to those areas requiring further development as described within the AC's AAL.

6.0 Alternative options

- 6.1 Consideration of the AAL by Members and its publication are statutory requirements and therefore no alternative options are proposed.

7.0 Relevant considerations / consultations

- 7.1 Government regulations require the AAL to be published. In addition to publication as part of the Cabinet, Management Scrutiny Committee and Council Agendas, and its publication on the AC website it is proposed to place the full report on the council's website.

8.0 Glossary

AAL	Annual Audit Letter
AC	Audit Commission
CAA	Comprehensive Area Assessment
CPA	Comprehensive Performance Assessment
EMT	Executive Management Team
KLOE	Key Lines of Enquiry

9.0 List of appendices

1. Audit Commission Annual Audit Letter – November 2009

10.0 Background papers

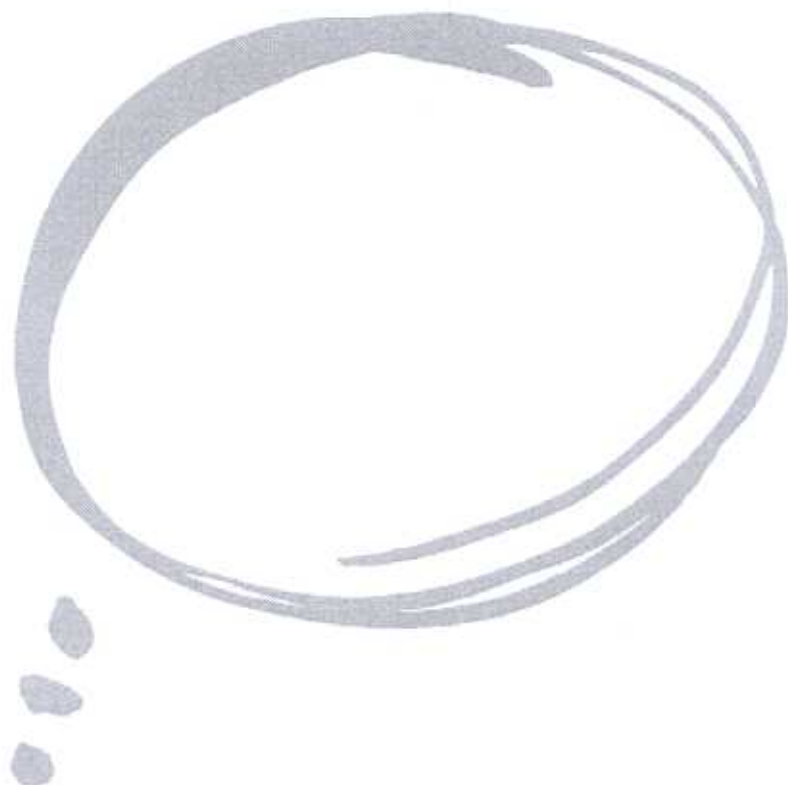
- CAA reports and Performance update (April - September) - Cabinet, 13 January 2010

Annual Audit Letter

Sunderland City Council

Audit 2008/09

November 2009



Contents

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Status of our reports

The Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies issued by the Audit Commission explains the respective responsibilities of auditors and of the audited body. Reports prepared by appointed auditors are addressed to non-executive directors/members or officers. They are prepared for the sole use of the audited body. Auditors accept no responsibility to:

- any director/member or officer in their individual capacity; or
 - any third party.
-

Key messages

This report summarises the findings from our 2008/09 audit. It includes messages arising from the audit of your financial statements and the results of the work I have undertaken to assess your arrangements to secure value for money in your use of resources.

Audit Opinion

- 1 On 30 September 2009, I issued an unqualified audit opinion on Sunderland City Council's 2008/09 financial statements. No significant issues were identified during the course of our work, and we identified no material weaknesses in internal control.
- 2 On the same day I also gave an unqualified Value for Money conclusion, confirming that the Council had adequate arrangements in place for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

Formal audit powers

- 3 I have received formal objections from a local elector in respect of both the 2007/08 and 2008/09 financial statements. Until these have been resolved I cannot issue my formal certificates to confirm that the audits have been completed. However, I am satisfied that the matters raised do not have a material impact on the financial statements.

Community Cohesion

- 4 Community cohesion is an important component of Use of Resources assessments, organisational assessments, and Comprehensive Area Assessments. The Council and its partners have an agreed definition of community cohesion, which is realistic, clearly articulated and relates well to the local area. Partners understand the specific risks to cohesion in Sunderland, and manage them proactively. However, action plans to support delivery of this strategy have not yet been developed, and there are insufficient measures in place to gauge progress and outcomes in this area.

Health Inequalities

- 5 Progress is being made in tackling the significant health inequalities in the North East through leadership from regional agencies, partnership working between public sector bodies and the voluntary sector at the local level, and by increasing or prioritising funding.
- 6 But data is not always available to ensure that services are targeted at those who need them most, and value for money and improved outcomes cannot be demonstrated if accountability and performance management arrangements are weak. Agencies need to look for better ways to involve the community and voluntary sectors, and take community views into account when developing high level strategies and service development plans.

Use of resources

- 7 The new national use of resources framework was introduced in 2008/09 and scores are based on the Audit Commission's four point scale. Level 1 represents failure to meet the minimum requirements. Level 4, the highest score, is reserved for genuinely exceptional performance.
- 8 Sunderland City Council scored level 3 overall and has demonstrated strong performance across a number of the Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOE). The Council successfully integrates service and financial planning and has secured significant efficiency savings in recent years while at the same time investing in corporate priorities and improvements for local people. Processes for good governance and internal control are well established and effective. Particular strengths were identified in relation to adult social care, risk management and partnership governance arrangements.

Audit Fees and Independence

- 9 Audit fees are set out in the table below. These are in line with scale fees published by the Audit Commission and have been discussed and agreed with those charged with governance. The audit has been carried out in accordance with the Audit Commission's policies on integrity, objectivity and independence.

Table 1 Audit fees 2008/09

	Actual	Proposed	Variance
Financial statements, annual governance statement and WGA	£207,780	£207,780	0
Value for money (includes data quality)	£96,320	£96,320	0
Total audit fees	£304,100	£304,100	
Non-audit work - grant claims	£38,000	£38,000	
Non-audit work - challenge and objections	£6,000	£0	£6,000
Total	£348,100	£342,100	£6,000

Actions

- 10 Throughout the year, I have made recommendations where appropriate to assist the Council in meeting its responsibilities and to help support improvement. Recommendations have been agreed with officers and we will continue to monitor progress as part of next year's work.

Financial statements and annual governance statement

The Council's financial statements and annual governance statement are an important means by which the organisation accounts for its stewardship of public funds.

Financial Statements and Internal Control

- 11 The Authority's 2008/09 financial statements and supporting working papers were prepared to a good standard and I issued an unqualified audit opinion on 30 September 2009.
- 12 Management had taken action since the draft financial statements were approved in June 2009 to:
 - revise and increase NNDR bad debt provisions to reflect the current economic climate and write offs to date in 2009/10;
 - review the accounting treatment adopted in respect of Newcastle Airport; and
 - make some minor presentational and disclosure amendments to the accounts.
- 13 These changes were approved by the Council's Audit and Governance Committee on 29 September 2009.
- 14 We identified that the prior period adjustment made to the financial statements in respect of FRS17 pension liabilities was not required by CIPFA's 'Statement of Recommended Practice' as the sums involved are not material. In the Council's opinion however the prior period adjustment gives a more complete picture of the impact of the changes, which do affect a number of statements and disclosure note, therefore the accounts were not amended.
- 15 I did not identify any significant weaknesses in the Council's internal control arrangements.

Formal audit powers

- 16 I have:
 - a power to issue a public interest report. I do so when I believe this is necessary to draw a matter to your attention, or to that of the public;
 - a power to apply to court for a declaration that an item in the accounts is contrary to law; and
 - a power to seek judicial review of a decision made by the Authority.

- 17 I also have a power to issue an advisory notice. An advisory notice requires the Authority to meet and consider the notice before:
- making a decision that might give rise to unlawful expenditure;
 - taking an unlawful course of action that would give rise to a loss; or
 - making unlawful entry in the accounts.
- 18 I received a formal objection to the 2007/08 financial statements in relation to car parking enforcement. Similar objections have been received at other authorities which means we are obliged to consider them together and co-ordinate a consistent response. Therefore, although this matter is being progressed it remains unresolved. Also, I have recently received correspondence from the same objector indicating that he also wishes to object to the 2008/09 accounts.
- 19 Until these two objections have been resolved I cannot issue my formal certificate to confirm that the audit has been completed for 2007/08 and 2008/09. However, I am satisfied that the issues raised do not have a material impact on the financial statements.

Local risk based work

We undertake local risk based work in order to inform our judgements on use of resources, our value for money conclusion and our audit of the Statement of Internal Control.

Work undertaken in 2008/09

- 20 This year we have undertaken local risk based work on community cohesion and health inequalities, focussing specifically on harm caused by alcohol. We have also followed up previous year's work on performance management and target setting.

Community Cohesion

- 21 Local government is expected to provide community leadership and to work with, and through, partners to promote community cohesion. Cohesion is an important component of Use of Resources assessments, organisational assessments, and Comprehensive Area Assessments:
- 22 Previous years' work has focused on assessing internal arrangements for ensuring that the Council understands the needs of local people, provides fair access to services and promotes equality and diversity within its own workforce. We are pleased to note that the Council has made progress against all elements of the 2007/08 action plan agreed with officers.
- 23 We also reviewed the Council's approach to supporting inclusive communities and found that partners have an agreed definition of community cohesion, which is realistic, clearly articulated and relates well to the local area. Partners understand the risks to cohesion in Sunderland - community tensions are managed proactively, and misconceptions challenged. However, action plans to support delivery of the community cohesion strategy have not yet been developed, and there are minimal measures in place to gauge progress and outcomes in this area.
- 24 Specific action points have also been agreed with officers, as follows:
- 'community impact assessments' are being carried out as part of equality impact assessments, but there is no timetable for the rollout of these assessments across the partnership;
 - the Council and its partners are developing a more localised approach to cohesion, to reflect the different needs, aspirations and make-up of local communities, but this is at a relatively early stage of development;
 - there is scope to improve the contribution made towards community cohesion by the voluntary and community sectors and schools; and
 - not all councillors understand how cohesion relates to their community leadership role.

Review of health inequalities in the North East

- 25 Our review, completed jointly by the Audit Commission and Deloitte has involved public sector bodies across the North East, as well as the voluntary sector, looking at how organisations are working together to tackle health inequalities.
- 26 We found that good progress is being made in tackling health inequalities through leadership from regional agencies, partnership working between public sector bodies and the voluntary sector at the local level, and by increasing or prioritising funding.
- 27 Life expectancy is increasing and, in most areas, the mortality rate reducing at a faster rate in the North East than nationally, narrowing the gap between the North East and the rest of the country. However, whilst life expectancy is improving, men and women in the North East are still likely to die younger than the national average. Men and women living in the most deprived areas can expect to die on average more than ten years and seven years earlier respectively than their counterparts in the least deprived areas.
- 28 There are also significant issues in the North East around unhealthy lifestyles. For example the percentage of North East women smoking in pregnancy and hospital admission rates related to alcohol are the worst nationally; childhood obesity rates and teenage pregnancy rates are higher than the national average. Organisations in the North East need to build on the progress that has been made to date and ensure that they move further and faster in addressing health inequalities.
- 29 Our North East wide report and local review on alcohol harm and teenage pregnancy highlights a number of key areas that partnerships need to focus on to improve action to address health inequalities:
 - strategic priorities and funding should be aligned. There are significant economic and financial costs associated with health inequalities that can be reduced through successful funding;
 - successful targeting of services to those who most need them, based on good data. We found that this data is often not available;
 - accountability and performance management arrangements were often weak or not in place, so that those delivering services may not be adequately held to account and value for money and improved outcomes cannot be demonstrated;
 - joint working was variable, with some good examples, but also other instances where a lack of partnership working reduces effectiveness. Joint data collection needs to improve, with a lack of shared information systems causing problems;
 - agencies need to look for ways to better support and use the resources available in the community and voluntary sector; and
 - there was mixed practice in taking community views into account in developing high level strategies and service development plans.
- 30 Locally, we also carried out a more detailed review of action being taken to address alcohol harm. Alcohol misuse is an important issue for Sunderland. It has a significant impact on crime rates, hospital admissions and deaths. Sunderland is estimated to be the 4th worst local authority area in England for binge drinking.

- 31 Starting in 2008/09 there has been significant additional financial investment in specialist alcohol advice services, but this investment has been made in advance of an agreed alcohol strategy. Without a clear and agreed strategy partners may not be able to demonstrate that value for money has been obtained from the funding invested in alcohol services or that desired outcomes are being achieved.
- 32 Commissioning plans are based on identified need following health equity audits. But there is not enough robust data to ensure that services are targeted at those who need them most. In addition to this:
- partners across Sunderland do not as yet understand the specific reasons why large numbers of people in Sunderland misuse alcohol, so resources allocated to preventative and counselling work may be misdirected; and
 - there is a commitment to commission from independent, community and voluntary sector providers, but these organisations will need support in terms of both business skills and capacity building before they can deliver the proposed level of new services.
- 33 Looking forward, the Council and its partners have plans in place to tackle the issues that we have raised. A new Alcohol Strategy is being developed by the Sunderland Partnership, informed by public consultation and the 'Big Drink Debate'. Work in this area is also being undertaken as part of the 'Total Place' pilot, in partnership with Gateshead and South Tyneside Councils. Alcohol Treatment programmes targeted towards violent offenders with alcohol misuse issues started in July 2009.

Performance management and target setting

- 34 Performance management and target setting has been improved through a more strategic approach based on local area agreements, Sunderland Strategy objectives and the new national indicator dataset. An IT-based performance management system, Performance Plus, is now in place and there is a clearer focus on tackling underperformance through:
- assessment of the impact of failing to deliver targets;
 - review of expected trajectories, as opposed to year to date performance; and
 - focusing on the remedial action being taken.
- 35 Issues of under performance which require additional financial investment, ICT solutions or business process re-engineering are also addressed through the Business Improvement Programme.
- 36 The Council's scrutiny function has been improved during 2008/09, with increased capacity, more officer support and better alignment to corporate objectives. This has enabled members to play a more central role in challenging key decisions and reviewing performance information.

Value for money and use of resources

I considered how well the Council is managing and using its resources to deliver value for money and better and sustainable outcomes for local people, and gave a scored use of resources judgement.

I also assessed whether the Council put in place adequate corporate arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. This is known as the value for money (VFM) conclusion.

Use of resources judgements

- 37 In forming my scored use of resources judgements, I have used the methodology set out in the use of resources framework. Judgements have been made for each key line of enquiry (KLOE) using the Audit Commission's current four point scale from 1 to 4, with 4 being the highest. Level 1 represents a failure to meet the minimum requirements at level 2.
- 38 I have also taken into account, where appropriate, findings from previous use of resources assessments (updating these for any changes or improvements) and any other relevant audit work. However, the 2008/09 assessment is very different from previous assessments. Judgements are now much more strategic and less detailed, with a focus on outcomes rather than processes. The standard required to merit a level three assessment has been raised, and level four scores are reserved for genuinely exceptional performance.
- 39 The Council's use of resources theme scores are shown below. The key findings and conclusions for the three themes, and the underlying KLOE, are summarised in Appendix 1.

Table 2 Use of resources theme scores

Use of resources theme	Scored judgement
Managing finances	3
Governing the business	3
Managing resources	2

- 40 The Council is performing well. It successfully integrates service and financial planning and has secured significant efficiency savings in recent years while at the same time investing in corporate priorities and improvements for local people. Processes for good governance and internal control are well established and effective.
- 41 There are elements of particularly strong performance across a number of the use of resources Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOE), in particular:
- provision of value for money services, especially adult social care;
 - risk management arrangements; and
 - partnership governance.
- 42 Some scope for improvement has been identified in respect of asset management and the Council's use of natural resources, but all arrangements have been assessed as meeting expected standards.

VFM Conclusion

- 43 I assessed your arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in your use of resources against criteria specified by the Audit Commission. From 2008/09, these criteria are now aligned to use of resources judgements and the Audit Commission now specify each year which of the use of resources KLOE are the relevant criteria for the VFM conclusion at each type of audited body.
- 44 On 30 September 2009, I issued an unqualified conclusion stating that the Council had adequate arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. My conclusions on each of the relevant areas are set out in Appendix 1.

Closing remarks

- 45 I have discussed and agreed this letter with the Chief Executive and the Director of Financial Resources. I will present this letter to the Cabinet in January 2010 and have provided copies to all Council members.
- 46 Further detailed findings, conclusions and recommendations in the areas covered by our audit are included in the reports issued to the Council during the year.

Table 3 Audit reports 2008/09

Report	Date issued
Audit Fee letter	April 2008
Health Inequalities Phase 3 (harm caused by alcohol)	May 2009
Detailed opinion plan	July 2009
Community Cohesion report	August 2009
Annual Governance report Opinion on financial statements Value for money conclusion Whole of Government accounts return	September 2009
Use of Resources assessment	October 2009
Annual audit letter	November 2009

- 47 The focus of our local risk based work next year is expected to be workforce planning and management arrangements, which are being assessed for the first time in 2010. We will also follow up progress made by the Council in respect of managing natural resources and sustainability.
- 48 The Council has always taken a positive and constructive approach to our work. I wish to thank members and staff for their support and co-operation during the 2008/09 audit.

Steve Nicklin
District Auditor
November 2009

Appendix 1 – Use of resources key findings and conclusions

The following tables summarise the key findings and conclusions for each of the three use of resources themes.

Managing finances

<p>KLOE 1.1 (financial planning)</p>	<p>..</p>	<p>4 Yes</p>
<p>Score</p> <p>VFM criterion met</p> <p>A comprehensive medium term financial plan is in place and the annual 'Corporate Improvement Plan' integrates service plans, corporate strategies and improvement targets with financial budgets and sets out the staffing resources required to deliver the Council's plans. Budget setting and the medium term financial plan are informed by public meetings and a high profile 'State of the City' debate each year. Area based committees have been developed in 2008/09 and ring fenced budgets allocated accordingly. No significant overspends have occurred in recent years despite high levels of delegated budget management, and the Council is well placed in terms of balances and reserves.</p> <p>There has been a sustained focus on achieving priorities by shifting resources from low-to high-priority areas, for example through investment in planning services, libraries, streetscape and recycling. Virements are used proactively throughout the year to reinvest savings in priority areas. This has been reflected in improved BVPI performance, for example on planning where the service leapt from bottom to top quartile within two years. Good financial planning has contributed to improved outcomes on priorities such as the wellness agenda, adult social care and safeguarding children. The review of adult social care provision this year has been identified as a notable practice example of how a local authority can challenge and change established patterns of resource use in consultation with partners. The review has led to a move away from residential provision and greater investment in preventative measures and home based support.</p> <p>The capital programme is well managed, and the Council is successful at securing external sources of finance. Developing the 'Sunderland Model' for BSF schools has led to new schools and refurbishments being financed from DCFS grant rather than loans or PFI credits, and the PFI scheme and joint waste strategy being delivered in partnership with Gateshead and South Tyneside MBCs is another example of the Council exploring new ways to deliver priorities and improve value for money.</p>		

Appendix 1 – Use of resources, key findings and conclusions

<p>KLOE 1.1 (financial planning)</p> <p>Score</p> <p>VFM criterion met</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Charges for services are reviewed each year to ensure they help to deliver financial and social priorities in a strategic way' - for example, fees and charges for sports facilities have been reduced for target groups through the exercise on prescription scheme and a rent concessions policy is in place to attract local businesses to deprived areas of the city.</p> <p>The Council makes extensive use of financial modelling, activity analysis and unit costing, this has been done particularly in-2008/09 to challenge the use of resources in relation to looked after children, leading to a significant reduction in residential provision. Equality impact assessments have been carried out for all key service areas and major projects, and are a compulsory component of the business improvement programme. Financial resources have been allocated to address weaknesses highlighted eg in respect of access to buildings and to improve translation/interpreter services.</p>
<p>KLOE 1.2 (understanding costs and achieving efficiencies)</p> <p>Score</p> <p>VFM criterion met</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>The Council has a good understanding of costs, cost drivers, and the relationship between cost and quality of service. There is a significant redirection of financial resources each year - the 2009/10 budget identified £11.67m efficiency savings but also £9.24m improvement funding. All new projects, capital or revenue, are subject to appraisal or a detailed business case for funding. Each policy change is informed by a summary of the financial implications in both revenue and capital terms, then fed into the medium term financial plan, which is regularly updated.</p> <p>The Council prepares an annual value for money self assessment which considers a range of information including spend, investment, improvements to date, residents perception and both national and local indicators, including those within the Local Area Agreement. The Significant Partnership Annual Report sets out both financial and performance information for each significant partnership for both the current and previous years. This report also indicates how the partnership is providing value for money and additional benefits.</p> <p>Costs for key services are benchmarked and demonstrate good value. At an overall level the Council has all CPA assessed services performing well or strongly, with lower median quartile expenditure for above median levels of deprivation. Significant redirection of resources has enabled priority areas to be addressed - the 2009/10 budget process identified £11.670m efficiency savings but also £9.235m improvement funding.</p> <p>Efficiency saving targets are being achieved. £33.12m between 2005/06 and 2007/08 represented 13.2 per cent of spending against a target of 7.5 per cent for the period. The cumulative cash releasing efficiency savings to 31 March 2009 were £13.2m which equates to 4.4 per cent of spending.</p>

<p>KLOE 1.3 (financial reporting)</p> <p>Score</p> <p>VFM criterion met</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>The Council has used citizen's panel and MORI polls to seek the views of stakeholders about what information is required in its external reporting and has tailored its approach accordingly. Council tax leaflets and the annual report are concise, user friendly documents which include glossaries of technical terms and the use of charts to highlight key figures from the accounts.</p> <p>The most recent published accounts and annual audit letter are available to the public and appear on the Council's website together with equalities information. Information is available in a wide range of formats including foreign languages, braille and voicetape. External reporting includes environmental and sustainability information with an analysis of the Council's environmental footprint.</p> <p>Budget monitoring and forecasting information is reliable and up to date, although reports to members could be streamlined. The council regularly reviews financial performance of significant partnerships, and it shares and acts on these results with partners. All finance reports include forecast information which is subject to risk and sensitivity analysis. The Council's 2008/09 accounts were prepared to a high standard, and officers have responded to challenges such as the drive for faster accounts closure, and improved standards of working papers.</p>
<p>Governing the business</p>	
<p>KLOE 2.1 (commissioning and procurement)</p> <p>Score</p> <p>VFM criterion met</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>There is a good understanding of local communities and their needs for services through regular consultation with relevant groups. Many services are commissioned jointly with partner agencies and voluntary sector assistance and guidance is being improved. A Joint Needs Self Assessment analysis of Public Health / Adult Services and Children's Services information has been undertaken and informs future commissioning intentions.</p> <p>Actively identifying and implementing new ways of delivering services and working with others is resulting in more efficient working. The South Tyne and Wear Waste Management Partnership and membership of the North Eastern Purchasing Organisation (NEPO) are examples which have realised measurable financial benefits. The Council has also implemented a category management approach to procurement across specific areas of spend. Scoping reports consider alternative procurement options, analysing the current market and soft market testing.</p>

Appendix 1 – Use of resources key findings and conclusions

<p>KLOE 2.1 (commissioning and procurement)</p> <p>Score</p> <p>VFM criterion met</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>The Council's Procurement Strategy includes a requirement to periodically explore alternative methods of service delivery across the whole range of services, and the Annual Procurement Plan provides a forward plan of categories of spend and procurement opportunities which are programmed to be reviewed. Procurement strategies require officers to consider equality and diversity issues when awarding contracts and procurement pages on the Council's website provide information for suppliers and tenderers.</p> <p>There is good use of e-procurement techniques, such as online catalogues and particularly e-auctions. E-auction success through use of OGC (20 organisations) for computers yielded a 50 per cent saving on a £15m joint bid. The Council is developing a Supplier Relationship Management (SRM) tool, incorporating electronic catalogues and online approvals which has introduced an improved element of control and evaluation.</p>
<p>KLOE 2.2 (data quality and use of information)</p> <p>Score</p> <p>VFM criterion met</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>The Council produces relevant and reliable data and works with partners on the quality of data which is relevant to shared priorities. There is a clear corporate statement on the importance of high data quality standards and guidance on the Council's approach to achieving them, against which directorates are required to demonstrate progress. Members recognise the importance of good data quality and a Cabinet member acts as data quality 'champion'.</p> <p>Responsibility for data quality is defined in strategies and the Council has taken steps to embed these through training and QA by both the corporate improvement team and Internal Audit. The Council is ensuring that appropriate arrangements are in place for the new national data set, including developing a data quality checklist for inclusion into partnership performance arrangements and mapping datasets to the national framework.</p> <p>The Council ensures that decision making is based on robust data. Trend data, performance against target and benchmarking with other authorities are used to support the corporate Value for Money framework and specific resourcing decisions. A robust reporting timetable is in place. Performance management reports have been reviewed during 2008/09 and now show a much clearer link between financial allocations, performance against target, and remedial action required. An IT-based performance management system (performance plus) is now in place. The scrutiny function in the Council is improving in terms of both critical challenge to the Cabinet and review of performance information.</p>

<p>KLOE 2.2 (data quality and use of information)</p> <p>Score 3</p> <p>VFM criterion met Yes</p>	<p>The Council ensures data security and compliance with relevant statutory requirements. There are adequate business continuity and disaster recovery arrangements in place for financial systems, but not for all non-financial data collection systems. We have undertaken spot checks on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NI 132 - Timeliness of social care assessment (adult services); • NI 59 - Initial assessments for children's social care carried out within 7 working days of referral; • NI 173 - people falling out of work and on to incapacity benefits; and • Local PIs on provision of community disability equipment. <p>In all cases we established and evaluated the systems in place to capture the data, checked the basis of calculations and sample tested source data. No errors were identified from this sample testing.</p>
<p>KLOE 2.3 (good governance)</p> <p>Score 3</p> <p>VFM criterion met Yes</p>	<p>The Council's constitution clearly describes roles and responsibilities for members and officers. The Constitution is underpinned by a wide range of other supporting guidance, including schemes of delegation, guidance on the discharge of statutory functions and protocols on officer and member relations. The scrutiny function has made some useful contributions to policy development but it does not, as a general rule, challenge cabinet decisions. A working group has been established to address this and all other Council committees appear to be working well. There are constructive working relationships between members, management and staff. The Council provides a wide range of training and development opportunities for members and staff, which balance the needs of the organisation with personal development.</p>

<p>KLOE 2.3 (good governance)</p> <p>Score</p> <p>VFM criterion met</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Yes</p>
<p>The Sunderland Community Strategy, and the local area agreement, demonstrate a good understanding of the local area. A multi area agreement is also in place. The Corporate Improvement Plan is focussed on the actions the Council needs to take to contribute towards shared partnership outcomes as well as internal improvement actions. Officers have identified a number of instances where consultation outcomes have influenced important decisions on school meals, school admissions policies and special needs provision. A corporate consultation strategy is in place and the Council engages with local people in a variety of ways, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • area committees, public meetings and the 'State of the City' debate; • an interactive website; • citizens panel and MORI polls; and • independent advisory groups representing all identified communities of interest. <p>The Council has adopted codes of conduct for its members and staff, and these are widely publicised. All council members are required to make a declaration that they agree to abide by the code of conduct, and all staff are bound by the Employees' Code. Policies for whistleblowing and 'comments, compliments and complaints' are well publicised and prompt action is taken in response to any allegations made. The Chief Executive has set out clearly, in public documents, its expectation that all elected members will provide visible and credible local community leadership. Registers of interests, gifts and hospitality can be viewed on the Council website.</p> <p>The Council has a comprehensive code of practice for partnerships which has been identified as notable practice. It can evidence examples of this code improving outcomes eg on CRDP and Tyne Wear Sport. There are constructive working relationships between the Council and its partnerships, with data sharing protocols in place to ensure appropriate information is shared in a timely manner. The LSP has been awarded a 'green' rating from GONE. The council regularly reviews the effectiveness of its partnership working using a scorecard approach, and an annual report to Cabinet assesses each key partnership in terms of the outcomes achieved and value for money. A voluntary compact is in place with the 3rd sector, underpinned by codes of practice.</p>	

<p>KLOE 2.4 (risk management and internal control)</p> <p>Score</p> <p>VFM criterion met</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Yes</p>
<p>Risk Management is fully integrated into all corporate processes and has been used to especially good effect on BSF delivery and in formulating the medium term financial plan. All schools and significant partnerships have their own risk registers. Demonstrating effective risk management has enabled the Council to reduce insurance premiums, increase insurance cover at no extra cost and extend self insurance schemes.</p> <p>A comprehensive code of practice for partnerships sets out expected arrangements for risk and performance management, procurement and value for money and includes template agreements for different forms of partnerships. This is reinforced through training and Internal Audit coverage. Adopting the code has enabled partnerships to improve outcomes and access additional sources of finance. The Council regularly reviews the effectiveness of its partnership working using a scorecard approach, and an annual report to Cabinet assesses each key partnership in terms of the outcomes achieved and value for money.</p> <p>Arrangements for producing the annual governance statement are robust. The statement is underpinned by an annual report from Internal Audit, a detailed risk assessment and an annual review setting out the sources of assurance examined. Any issues arising are incorporated into a corporate action plan but no significant internal control failures have been identified in recent years. The quality and scope of Internal Audit coverage is good. Anti Fraud and Corruption Policy and Whistleblowing Policies are published on the Council's website and intranet. A Money Laundering Policy is also in place and training for staff and members has taken place to reinforce the importance of probity and good governance.</p> <p>There have been no cases of proven fraud or corruption in recent years, except for Benefits claims. The Benefits Investigation Unit has consistently met its targets for successful prosecutions, with 164 cases in 2008. Counter fraud arrangements have been assessed against the newly issued 'red book' from CIPFA, and appear to be meeting all identified criteria. The Council can demonstrate it is creating a strong deterrent effect, by poster campaigns and local press coverage of successful cases of proven benefit fraud.</p> <p>Business Continuity Plans are in place which comply with Civil Contingencies Act 2004 requirements. Corporate arrangements currently being reviewed in line with the new British Standard. A review in March 2008 considered the business continuity of significant contractors and put an assessment matrix, register and additional support in place. Procurement process ensures that potential contractors have adequate insurance and contingency plans to ensure continuous service delivery.</p>	

Managing resources

<p>KLOE 3.1 (use of natural resources)</p> <p>Score</p> <p>VFM criterion met</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Yes</p>
<p>Sunderland has the 8th lowest per capita consumption of natural resources of all UK cities, is recognised by the Carbon Trust as a national leader in managing carbon emissions, and recently won the LGC and HSJ Sustainable Communities Award 2009 for Tackling Climate Change. The city has had a 'Sustainable Development Strategy since 2001, and the Council benefits from a dedicated and enthusiastic sustainability team. The need to make effective use of natural resources is clear in corporate strategies and plans, and Sunderland was one of the first local authorities to develop its Ecological Footprint. But this level of awareness is not yet fully embedded across all of the Council's activities, and not always evidenced in departmental service plans.</p> <p>Over the past four years the Council has made significant steps in understanding and starting to manage its use of key natural resources. Sustainability impact assessments and baselines exist for waste, water, energy, road fuels, carbon emissions and travel. Assessments are now part of all major project development and procurement decisions, but have not yet been undertaken across all service areas. To improve further, the baseline of services with indirect impacts such as impact of procured goods and services is to be assessed through the creation of a natural resources register. This aims to help all service areas, understand and contribute more to better use of natural resource.</p> <p>Strategies and programmes are in place to manage and reduce the most significant natural resources and the Council is in the process of consolidating these programmes within an overarching Sustainability Policy which is scheduled to be adopted in November 2009. Management of energy and water consumption is improving through automatic meters, other initiatives such as vehicle tracking are reducing fuel demand, and the Council's biggest waste stream, road planings, are 100 per cent recycled.</p> <p>The Council's is aiming to cut its annual carbon emissions by 10 per cent and business miles by 10 per cent between 2007 and 2012. In the first two years, at the end of 2008/09, the Council has cut carbon emissions by 4 per cent, reduced business travel miles by 3.5 per cent and achieved an 8 per cent drop in lease car CO2 emissions. It appears to be on track to meet its 2012 targets. Sunderland's 10 per cent carbon reduction target allows for an expected 10 per cent increase in carbon emissions during the five years from service expansion such as leisure centre and street lighting provision. Therefore the 10 per cent target, is in reality a 20 per cent cut. But neighbouring councils have set, and appear to be delivering, more challenging targets.</p> <p>Additional dedicated resources have been provided to implement plans for continued improvement during 2009/10. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • development of a Waste Plan to set targets for recycling of office and service waste; • creation of a natural resources register to capture key resource consumption areas; and • a joint strategic waste plan in partnership with Gateshead and South Tyneside MBCs. 	

<p>KLOE 3.2 (strategic asset management)</p> <p>Score</p> <p>VFM criterion met</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>The Council displays a number of strengths in respect of asset management, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • excellent examples of outcomes from partnership working, most notably the Primary Care centres at Washington and Bunny Hill; • purpose built one stop shops across the City; and • successful delivery of major projects such as the Aquatic Centre and the first wave of (predominantly new build) BSF schools. <p>Appraisal processes to prioritise capital investment are good, and the Council is successful at securing external sources of capital funding. There is good consultation with users and stakeholders on new projects, less so in relation to existing facilities.</p> <p>The Council has considered the use of a Local Asset Based Vehicle to promote economic regeneration, and can point to a number of successful regeneration initiatives, for example at Doxford Park, Sunnyside and Rainton Bridge. Alongside partners, a City-wide regeneration strategy is now being developed to better target outward focused asset management and capital investment.</p> <p>Council property is used to support wider corporate and partnership objectives, for example the use of swimming pools and leisure centres to support the 'Wellness' agenda. There is scope to improve the ways in which Council owned commercial property and industrial units are being used to support wider corporate objectives, especially in respect of regeneration and combating the recession.</p> <p>Comparative data and benchmarking are used to assess and help improve value for money. The depot rationalisation programme has been recognised as an example of good practice nationally, and GIS mapping data, shared with partners, has also been used to help rationalise the property portfolio.</p> <p>The estate is fit for purpose in that it meets relevant health and safety standards. The Council has not significantly reduced backlog maintenance on buildings over the past four years, but £1m of additional finance has been allocated to address this, and overall backlog levels compare well with similar authorities. Officers accept there are issues to address in respect of operational property management, for example on the timeliness of rent reviews and tenancy enforcement.</p>
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REFERENCE FROM CABINET – 10TH MARCH, 2010

**COMPREHENSIVE AREA ASSESSMENT (CAA) USE OF RESOURCES
IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

Report of the Chief Solicitor

1. Why has this report come to the Committee?

- 1.1 At the request of the Chairman to report, for information, a report considered by Cabinet on 10th March to seek approval for the Council's CAA Use of Resources Improvement Plan, which details the Council's priorities for improvement in the management and use of its resources.
- 1.2 The report also provides helpful background for the Third Quarter Performance Report which will be considered at the April meeting of the Committee.

2. Background and Current Position

- 2.1 The Cabinet, at its meeting held on 10th March, 2010, gave consideration to a report of the Chief Executive. The report sought approval for the Council's CAA Use of Resources Improvement Plan, which details the Council's priorities for improvement in the management and use of its resources. This would support the Council in its ambition of improving its CAA use of resources assessment scores in 2010 towards an ultimate ambition of securing level 4 performance overall.
- 2.2 Copies of the 10th March, 2010 Cabinet agenda were circulated to all Members of the Council.
- 2.3 Recommendations from Cabinet will be reported orally to the meeting.

3. Conclusion

- 3.1 The report is referred to this Committee for information.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 The Scrutiny Committee is invited to note the attached report of the Chief Executive.

5. Background Papers

5.1 Cabinet Agenda, 10th March, 2010.

5.2 A copy of the Agenda is available for inspection from Chief Solicitor's or can be viewed on-line at:-

<http://www.sunderland.gov.uk/committee/CmisWebPublic/Meeting.aspx?meetingID=1604>

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CABINET MEETING – 10/03/10

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I

Title of Report:

COMPREHENSIVE AREA ASSESSMENT (CAA) USE OF RESOURCES IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Author(s):

Chief Executive

Purpose of Report:

To seek Cabinet approval for the council’s CAA use of resources improvement plan, which details the council’s priorities for improvement in the management and use of its resources. This would support the council in its ambition of improving its CAA use of resources assessment scores in 2010 towards an ultimate ambition of securing level 4 performance overall.

Description of Decision:

Cabinet is recommended to approve the use of resources improvement plan.

Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework? *Yes/No

If not, Council approval is required to change the Budget/Policy Framework

Suggested reason(s) for Decision:

The council’s use of resources improvement plan will support the council on its improvement journey and enable it to more effectively and efficiently manage and use its resources, thus delivering value for money and better and sustainable outcomes for local people. This should in turn result in the council achieving improved scores within the use of resources assessment, which would enable the council to continue to be recognised as a high performer in the management of its resources.

Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected:

The alternative option is to not approve the council’s use of resources improvement plan. The consequences of this would be that the council does not maximise the value for money from its use of resources, which is essential within the current economic climate. Failure to improve upon the council’s use of resources scores will also risk the council being ‘left behind’ by other improving councils and could lead the AC to arrive at the conclusion that the council is ‘coasting’. This would be harmful to the council’s reputation, as it has previously been considered a high performer in the management of its resources.

Is this a “Key Decision” as defined in the Constitution? Yes/No

Is it included in the Forward Plan? Yes/No

Relevant Scrutiny Committee:

Management Scrutiny Committee

COMPREHENSIVE AREA ASSESSMENT (CAA) USE OF RESOURCES IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Report of the Chief Executive

1.0 Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To seek Cabinet approval for the council's CAA use of resources improvement plan, which details the council's priorities for improvement in the management and use of its resources. This would support the council in its ambition of improving its CAA use of resources assessment scores in 2010 towards an ultimate ambition of securing level 4 performance overall.

2.0 Description of Decision (Recommendations)

- 2.1 Cabinet is recommended to approve the use of resources improvement plan.

3.0 Introduction / Background

Use of resources in Sunderland

- 3.1 Comprehensive Area Assessment was introduced in April 2009 to provide an independent assessment of how local public services are working in partnership to deliver outcomes for an area. It replaces Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA).
- 3.2 The first CAA results were reported on the new Oneplace website (www.oneplace.direct.gov.uk) on 9 December 2009 and were reported to Cabinet at its meeting on 13 January 2010.
- 3.3 The organisational assessment combines a scored use of resources assessment and a scored managing performance assessment into a combined assessment of organisational effectiveness scored on a scale from 1 (lowest) to 4 (highest). The council scored 3 out of 4 (i.e. exceeds minimum requirements - performs well) for its organisational assessment and both of its component assessments i.e.

	Score	Assessment	Score
Organisational assessment	3	Managing performance	3
		Use of resources	3

- 3.4 The use of resources assessment was a feature of CPA; however within CAA it has been expanded and focuses on broader issues including how the council is using its resources such as finance, staff, assets and natural resources. There is a much stronger focus on partnerships and outcomes and the value for money judgement is mainstreamed within the overall judgement rather than as a separate element under CPA. The standard to demonstrate a level 3 performance has been raised and to achieve a level 4 performance (i.e. significantly exceeds minimum requirements – performs excellently) organisations councils needs to be able to demonstrate innovation and excellence, which clearly sets them above others and demonstrate consistent impacts upon priority outcomes. This is the first time the council

has received the new use of resources assessment and due to the changes in the framework there is no comparison with previous years.

- 3.5 The overall use of resources score is arrived at through a series of scored themes and Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOEs). The council's scores are set out below:

Theme	Score	KLOE	Score
Managing finances	3	1.1 Financial planning	4
		1.2 Understanding costs & achieving efficiencies	3
		1.3 Financial reporting	3
Governing the business	3	2.1 Commissioning & procurement	3
		2.2 Data quality & use of information	3
		2.3 Good governance	3
		2.4 Risk management & internal control	4
Managing resources	2	3.1 Natural resources	2
		3.2 Strategic asset management	2
		3.3 Workforce	Not assessed
OVERALL	3		

- 3.6 The use of resources report recognised that Sunderland successfully integrates service and financial planning and has secured significant efficiency savings in recent years whilst at the same time investing in corporate priorities and improvements for local people. Processes for good governance and internal control are also considered to be well established and effective.
- 3.7 The report identified that there are elements of particularly strong performance including financial planning and risk management and internal control where the council scored 4 out of 4, which means that it is classed as a national exemplar from which others can learn.
- 3.8 Although the council was able to demonstrate a clear corporate commitment to improve asset management and sustainability, the report identified key improvement areas which will support using its resources to deliver value for money and better and sustainable outcomes for local people.

Use of resources - national and regionally

- 3.9 The council's score of 3 (performing well) for its use of resources assessment is comparable with others both nationally and regionally - 52% of councils achieved this score. Only three councils nationally (i.e. 2%) achieved a score of 4 overall for use of resources - one of which was in the North East (i.e. Stockton). Only 11 scores of 4 were awarded for any of the three themes which inform the overall use of resources score (three of which were awarded to councils in the North East).

Score	Overall		Managing finances		Governing the business		Managing resources	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
4	3	2.0%	3	2.0%	4	2.7%	4	2.7%
3	76	51.7%	92	62.6%	67	45.6%	49	33.3%
2	67	45.6%	50	34.0%	75	51.0%	94	63.9%
1	1	0.7%	2	1.4%	1	0.7%	0	0.0%
Councils receiving a score of 4	Camden Stockton Tameside		Camden Stockton Tameside		Kensington & Chelsea Stockton Tameside Westminster		Camden Islington Middlesbrough Sutton	

*NB 147 single tier and county councils were assessed. 5 were not assessed.
Sunderland City Council's scores are highlighted in the table.*

3.10 In terms of the use of resources themes, councils are clearly higher performing in relation to the managing finances themes than the governing the business theme. Councils are in turn significantly higher performing in both these themes than they are in relation to the managing resources theme. This latter trend is reflective of the position in Sunderland.

4.0 Use of resources assessment 2010

4.1 The council is subject (as under CPA) to an annual use of resources assessment and the Audit Commission is proposing that for the 2010 assessment a more proportionate and risk based approach will be taken than in 2009, which was a baseline year. CAA differs from CPA in that it is a year round assessment process and to this end, the new Audit Manager has agreed a protocol with the council, to support ongoing conversation with the council rather than an inspection event. This will include drawing evidence from performance against the LAA and community strategy, national indicator set, local performance information and views of local people and organisations using local services.

4.2 For the 2010 assessment the timescales for evidence gathering have been brought forward and the Audit Manager needs to submit the council's scores to the national moderators by mid April 2010. Clearly this timescale has implications for the council in providing evidence of improvement before the end of March to impact positively on the assessment.

4.3 The use of resources is an annual assessment with each KLOE reassessed on an annual basis, with the exception of those KLOEs within the Managing Resources theme. The Managing Resources KLOEs are assessed on a cyclical basis, which means that they are only assessed twice in every three years i.e.

Managing Resources KLOE	Assessed in 2009	Assessed in 2010	Assessed in 2011 (presumed)
3.1 Natural resources	✓	X	✓
3.2 Asset management	✓	✓	X
3.3 Workforce	X	✓	✓

4.4 The Workforce KLOE which looks at how effective the council is at using its staff resources will be assessed for the first time in 2010. This will be informed by the findings of a mini-review, which the AC has been undertaking across Sunderland, Gateshead and North Tyneside during the winter.

4.5 Whilst the council's Natural Resources score will not be revisited until 2011, progress with the council's sustainability agenda (which includes natural resources) will however be reflected in both the area assessment and managing performance assessment in 2010.

Improvement strategy and actions

- 4.6 As part of its improvement programme, the council has already taken forward a number of actions which enable it to more effectively and efficiently manage and use its resources. These include:
- Adopted a new Sustainability Policy in January 2010, which also increased targets for reducing council carbon emissions and waste
 - Revised and adopted a new Sustainable Construction Policy for new council buildings
 - Established and implemented a system for the management and monitoring of rent reviews and lease compliance
 - Agreed a Land Acquisition Policy in December 2009
 - Strengthened the capacity of elected members in relation to performance management and developed Scrutiny's links to the Sunderland Partnership
- 4.7 An improvement plan (see **appendix 1**) has been developed with the improvement priorities informed in part by the Audit Commission's 2009 feedback. This should enable the council to demonstrate a clear commitment to using its resources effectively and efficiently, thus delivering better value for money and better and sustainable outcomes for local people which the council is confident will be reflected in improved scores against the KLOEs, which were assessed in 2009. Improvement actions for the tenth KLOE (i.e. Workforce) will be identified once the Audit Commission has shared the findings of its work in 2010.
- 4.8 The improvement plan has identified a number of actions to maintain a level 3 for the individual KLOE areas (which will demonstrate the council is managing its resources well in all areas) with level 4 arising from cross cutting programmes of work such as further embedding of sustainability, impact of smarter working on outcomes and the implementation of the Economic Masterplan which we believe have the potential to demonstrate real innovation in the way we manage our resources.
- 4.9 The three tiers around which the improvement plan has been developed are described in the following paragraphs.
- 4.10 **KLOE Actions:** These actions are within the responsibility or influence of the individual KLOE Lead in terms of implementation and ensuring the necessary impact is being achieved, although they will clearly require the support of council directorates. Key KLOE actions include:
- Further roll out of the Category Management approach within procurement
 - Implementation of the 'Buy in Sunderland first' initiative
 - Consistent disaggregation of performance information in terms of geography and user profiles
 - Development of the format and presentation of performance information for decision makers
 - Development of an employee training programme to support the new Sustainability Policy
 - Development of a draft corporate waste plan
 - Establishment of a baseline of the council's current resource consumption, which will enable the setting and monitoring of directorate reduction targets

- Further implementation of the Smarter Working Project and its various workstreams
- Development and implementation of a strategy to achieve 70% planned maintenance spend from the delivery of the council's buildings maintenance programme

4.11 **Corporate Actions:** Exemplar authorities for use of resources are able to demonstrate strong evidence of an organisation wide approach to managing the KLOEs as a corporate resource and evidence of its systematic integration into key corporate programmes and transformation agendas. To this end a series of actions have been identified for implementation which are wider than the individual KLOE but demonstrate the wider organisational approach to using council resources to meet the needs of local people in a way that provides value for money and which will positively impact upon individual KLOEs in terms of demonstrating good / exemplary practice. Key corporate actions include:

- Delivery of a Regeneration Strategy for the City
- Further embedding sustainability across the council for example, in all council decisions, contracts, projects (including construction) and financial plans
- Further development and roll out of the Improvement Programme and Operating Model Commissioning and Service Review workstream
- Implementation of the Scrutiny Service Improvement Plan 2009/10 and delivery of actions arising from the recent IDeA Scrutiny Fitness Check.
- Further development of the centralised collection and analysis of customer contact and complaints
- Review of the council's approach to partnerships, including consideration of how Partnership Leads are supported

4.12 **Demonstrating Best Practice / Outcomes:** Central to the use of resources assessment is the demonstration of how excellent practices are delivering outcomes for the council and the city as a whole - this is key to the achievement of level 4. Many of these examples cut across a number of KLOEs and therefore joint working and data collection and research arrangements have been put in place across the council by the KLOE leads and staff within the Corporate Policy and Performance Improvement Team, in order that approach case studies and information can be presented demonstrating the impact to the Audit Commission. Key projects and programmes for which outcomes will be identified include:

- Improvement Programme and Operating Model
- Community Leadership Programme
- Area committees / arrangements
- Achievements as a result of investment – for example BSF, Waste Partnership, Community Cohesion and Safer Sunderland Partnership.

4.13 The improvement plan is designed to be risk based and therefore proportionate i.e.

- The majority of actions are geared towards improving the two KLOEs that currently score 2 out of 4 (i.e. Natural resources and Asset management)

- A minimal number of actions have been developed to maintain scores for the council's two exemplar KLOEs that currently score 4 out of 4 (i.e. Financial planning and Risk management and Internal Control)
- The remainder of actions are designed to demonstrate exemplary practice and the achievement of outcomes for the five KLOEs which currently score 3 - which is key to achieving a score of 4.

4.14 Once agreed the improvement plan will be integrated into the Corporate Improvement Plan and individual Service Plans, with progress monitored through the council's performance monitoring arrangements.

5.0 Reasons for the decision

5.1 The council's use of resources improvement plan will support the council on its improvement journey and enable it to more effectively and efficiently manage and use its resources, thus delivering value for money and better and sustainable outcomes for local people. This should in turn result in the council achieving improved scores within the use of resources assessment, which would enable the council to continue to be recognised as a high performer in the management of its resources.

6.0 Alternative options

6.1 The alternative option is to not approve the council's use of resources improvement plan. The consequences of this would be that the council does not maximise the value for money from its use of resources, which is essential within the current economic climate. Failure to improve upon the council's use of resources scores will also risk the council being 'left behind' by other improving councils and could lead the AC to arrive at the conclusion that the council is 'coasting'. This would be harmful to the council's reputation, as it has previously been considered a high performer in the management of its resources.

7.0 Relevant considerations / consultations

(A) Financial considerations

There are no direct financial considerations. The use of resources assessment scores the council's financial management processes and internal governance. This is reflected in the council's Managing Finances and Governing the Business sub sections where scores of 3 out of 4 for each were achieved.

(B) Risk Analysis

There are no direct risk management considerations. However the use of resources improvement plan is a control action to mitigate the impact of not achieving Corporate Risk 15: Failures within the council to identify/ develop/ implement changes that enable it to meet the challenges of value for money and efficiency savings.

8.0 Glossary

AC	Audit Commission
CAA	Comprehensive Area Assessment
CPA	Comprehensive Performance Assessment
KLOE	Key Lines of Enquiry

9.0 List of appendices

1 Use of resources improvement plan

10.0 Background papers

Use of resources report – Sunderland City Council (Cabinet, 13 January 2010)

Appendix 1: Use of resources improvement plan

Ref	KLOE	Action	Detail	Cost (if any)	Responsibility & timescale	Type of action
	1.1	Financial planning				
1	1.1	Provide plans which demonstrate area based approach to financial planning.	Production of Single Investment Plan		Director of Financial Resources March 2010	KLOE
2	1.1	See actions in 1.2 which contribute to 1.1				
	1.2	Understanding costs & achieving efficiencies				
3	1.2	Demonstrate how the continued approach to efficiency planning continues to prioritise front line services & strategic planning priorities	Provide summary of impact of redirection of resources to priority areas. Work with Heads of service to provide case studies e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Cohesion & Safer & Stronger Communities Area Based & Specific Grants redirection 		Head of Financial Management March 2010	Outcomes
4	1.2	Demonstrate how the council's Improvement Programme has already impacted by protecting front line services	Demonstrate how the Improvement Programme is protecting front line services & community priorities		Head of Financial Management March 2010	KLOE/Outcomes
5	1.2	Demonstrate how investment in the Waste Disposal Strategic Solution, BSF programme & Adult Social Care has led to improved outcomes & VFM	Work up case studies with relevant Heads of Service		Head of Financial Management March 2010	Outcomes
6	1.2	Develop the new self assessment process (through the council's Improvement Programme) All Heads of Service will be required to complete a self-assessment & this will include the need to demonstrate VFM.	Heads of Service self assessment framework developed Service plans to include key actions for service improvement informed by self assessment to demonstrate value for money Process to be reviewed & refined in line with development of commissioning framework		Assistant Chief Executive April 2010 November 2010	Corporate
7	1.2	Further develop the Service Review programme & roll out (through the council's Improvement Programme)	Service review matrix developed taking into consideration key budget, VFM & opportunities for maximising efficiencies & delivering outcomes Service Assessment Review programme to be identified through the Commissioning & Service Review workstream Service Assessment methodology to be developed through the Commissioning &		Assistant Chief Executive April 2010 April 2010	Corporate

Ref	KLOE	Action	Detail	Cost (if any)	Responsibility & timescale	Type of action
			Service Review workstream Service Review resources to be identified & delivered through the Strategic & Shared Services Workstream		April 2010	
	1.3	Financial reporting				
8	1.3	Demonstrate impact of revised Area Arrangements reporting	Provide examples of impact of new Area Committee reporting on services provided within local communities		Head of Financial Management March 2010	Outcomes
	2.1	Commissioning & procurement				
9	2.1	Implement a commissioning framework through the Commissioning & Service Review workstream of the Improvement Programme.	PID currently being developed by workstream lead (Deputy Director of Children's Services)		Deputy Director of Children's Services Implementation from February 2010 onwards.	KLOE / Corporate
10	2.1	Demonstrate outcomes (e.g. significant savings) from the Procurement Strategy in place. This will be supported through the Procurement work stream of the Improvement Programme (including roll-out of Category Management approach).	The target of £750,000 for 2009/2010 has been achieved & it is expected that the outturn will be over £1m. Target for 2010/2011 has been significantly increased to £3.5m.		Head of Audit & Procurement Ongoing	KLOE
11	2.1	Implement "Buy in Sunderland first" initiative to secure an increase in the proportion of spend which is awarded locally.			Head of Audit & Procurement System in place by January & in operation March / April time.	KLOE
	2.2	Data quality & use of information				
12	2.2	Develop a formal programme of data quality checks & associated reporting mechanisms to officers & members.	Data quality measures established for key service areas & reporting arrangements to EMT confirmed.		Corporate Performance Monitoring Manager Ongoing	KLOE
13	2.2	Ensure consistent disaggregation of information in terms of geography / user profiles & identify gaps in information availability & report to officers & members to ensure decisions are based on need.	Local Area Plan progress reported to Area Committee.		Area Officers Quarterly	KLOE / Corporate
			Results of budget consultation reported to Scrutiny Committee as part of performance reports.		Corporate Performance Monitoring Manager / Consultation Manager April 2010	
			E-consultation tool procured & management information will start to be available to officers & Members to enhance challenge to performance (via Area & Scrutiny Committees).		Corporate Consultation Manager April 2010	
			The research phase of the RIEP pilot commences with delivery of pilot training sessions scheduled for November 2010.		Corporate Consultation Manager March 2010	

Ref	KLOE	Action	Detail	Cost (if any)	Responsibility & timescale	Type of action
14	2.2	Agreement to consistent consideration of options for the format & presentation of information to decision makers (for example, considering the use of dashboards, exception-based reports or graphics)	Performance management software available for key users.		Corporate Performance Monitoring Manager March / April 2010	KLOE
			Scrutiny & Area Committee outcomes mapped onto performance system to strengthen performance management information including progress with current reviews in addition to monitoring recommendations.		Corporate Performance Monitoring Manager February - April 2010	
			Performance management software live. More flexible range of reports available to users.		Corporate Performance Monitoring Manager From April 2010	
15	2.2	Members & officers have the information to understand reasons for underperformance & use this information appropriately. Information on performance includes measures which are not simply based on performance against outcome targets & help members & officers understand progress towards outcome targets.	Progress in relation to LAA delivery plans presented to Scrutiny Committee(s) as part of quarterly performance monitoring arrangements.		Sunderland Partnership Manager / Delivery Partnership Leads Ongoing	KLOE / Corporate
			Corporate Improvement Plan objectives & key improvement activity reported to Scrutiny Committees for challenge & revision.		Head of Corporate Policy March 2010	
			Interim Place Survey results, progress re CAA & LAA key risks reported to EMT & Scrutiny Committee(s) using new system functionality to make information more accessible as part of 3 rd quarter performance reports.		Corporate Performance Monitoring Manager / Consultation Manager April 2010	
			Progress re: Total Place pilot reported to Scrutiny Committee(s) to facilitate identification of efficiencies & future model to challenge service delivery.		Assistant Chief Executive May 2010	
			Management information utilised to identify key outcomes required from Scrutiny Committees 2010/11 work programme.		Head of Overview & Scrutiny / Corporate Performance Monitoring June 2010	
16	2.2	Further develop a corporate needs assessment model to support the Commissioning Framework & through this process identify gaps in service provision.	Ward profiles used to compile draft needs assessment model to inform next year's priorities at city & area level.		Corporate Performance Monitoring Manager May 2010	KLOE
17	2.2	Further information is required in relation to customer contact with the council & complaints to support & facilitate more localised & targeted decision making & service provision.	Complaints & customer contact information incorporated into performance monitoring arrangements.		Corporate Performance Monitoring Manager April 2010	Corporate
	2.3	Good governance				
18	2.3	Demonstrate outcomes from the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Leadership Programme (see also action 8 & area committees below) 			Corporate Policy & Performance Improvement Team April 2010 & then quarterly /	Outcomes

Ref	KLOE	Action	Detail	Cost (if any)	Responsibility & timescale	Type of action
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved scrutiny (see also actions 20-22) Area Committees (see also action 8) Improvement Programme & Operating Model (see also action 4) 			six monthly thereafter.	
19	2.3	Better demonstrate our 'one council approach' & the outcomes achieved.			Corporate Policy & Performance Improvement Team April 2010 & then quarterly / six monthly thereafter.	Outcomes
20	2.3	Implement the Scrutiny Service Improvement Plan 2009/10 to ensure a fresh approach to Overview & Scrutiny			Head of Overview & Scrutiny March 2010	Corporate
21	2.3	Share findings of IDeA fitness check of Scrutiny with AC			Head of Overview & Scrutiny March 2010	Corporate
22	2.3	Implement actions arising from IDeA fitness check of Scrutiny			Head of Overview & Scrutiny March 2010 onwards	Corporate
	2.4	Risk management & internal control				
23	2.4	Identify how the positive impact of the Partnerships' Code of Practice can be proactively reported in the Partnerships' annual report.			Assistant Head of Performance Improvement Ongoing	Corporate
24	2.4	Undertake the review of the council's approach to partnerships, which is currently being scoped. This will include consideration of how the council supports Partnership Leads (e.g. training & development)			Assistant Head of Performance Improvement June 2010	Corporate
	3.1	Natural resources				
25	3.1	Produce Natural Resources register.	To include major natural resources consumed by the council, which would need to cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minerals (e.g. salt, aggregates) Paper Wood products Food Clothing, natural fibres Land 	None – resource provided by new Sustainability Assistant	Sustainability Co-ordinator / Head of Corporate Procurement December 2010	KLOE
26	3.1	Determine the total environmental & carbon footprint for all council expenditure	Footprint to be determined through regionally procured footprinting software, to prioritise the largest environmental impacts of the council. (To be carried out alongside natural resource register work)	None – resource provided by new Sustainability Assistant	Sustainability Co-ordinator December 2010	KLOE
27	3.1	Achieve the Carbon Trust Standard	This accreditation will confirm that the council has cut carbon emissions by more than 5% in 2 years. Current data shows this will be the	Small accreditation fee, picked	Energy Conservation Team Leader September 2010	KLOE

Ref	KLOE	Action	Detail	Cost (if any)	Responsibility & timescale	Type of action
			case by year-end 2009/10.	up by Energy Conservation Team budgets		
28	3.1	Consider sustainable construction standards for major civil construction projects (e.g. the New Wear Crossing).	One significant opportunity is if the council could commit to sustainable construction standards for the New Wear Crossing. SSTC project team currently assessing cost implications of attaining CEEQUAL accreditation	Potential increase to project cost of new wear crossing.	SSTC Interim Project Director Awaiting approval from Project Board	Corporate
29	3.1	Develop "quick wins" on waste reduction & recycling.	Report to updated the waste audit with 08/09 figures, plus approval to proceed with easy waste reduction projects	All projects aiming to make cost savings.	Sustainability Co-ordinator July 2010	KLOE
30	3.1	Develop draft corporate waste plan.	Draft corporate waste plan will include broad waste reduction targets & range of projects & initiatives to be in final waste plan.	All projects aiming to make cost savings.	Sustainability Co-ordinator July 2010	KLOE
31	3.1	Create a Sustainability Board, to oversee the Sustainability Policy.	Head of Service level board to be created, to have responsibility for implementing the Sustainability Policy		Sustainability Co-ordinator July 2010	KLOE
32	3.1	Develop employee training programme for sustainability.	Employee training programme rolled out to all employees, to increase understanding of sustainability issues & responsibilities.	Training programme costs	Sustainability Co-ordinator September 2010	KLOE
33	3.1	Monitor & set directorate sustainability targets	Begin to monitor & publish key sustainability impacts of directorates, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carbon emissions • Waste produced • Travel • Water used • Total environmental footprint Embed targets into service planning framework from 2011.		Sustainability Co-ordinator December 2010	KLOE
34	3.1	Embed Sustainability Impact Appraisal into Capital Project Appraisal process	Include Sustainability Impact Appraisal on the Capital Appraisal Form Conduct Sustainability Impact Appraisal of financial plans.		Deputy Director of Financial Resources December 2010 Sustainability Co-ordinator December 2010	Corporate
35	3.1	Conduct Sustainability Impact Appraisal of decisions	Better enforce sustainability impact guidelines within the cabinet decision reports & procedures.		Chief Solicitor Ongoing	Corporate

Ref	KLOE	Action	Detail	Cost (if any)	Responsibility & timescale	Type of action
36	3.1	Conduct Sustainability Impact Appraisal on key decisions, contracts & projects	Template exists, & is being applied to contracts & projects, & now examples of how sustainability impact appraisals have achieved outcomes will be provided.		Sustainability Co-ordinator September 2010	KLOE
	3.2	Strategic asset management				
37	3.2	The council should ensure that a more specific asset strategy is developed, based on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An overall assessment of accommodation requirements arising from key service requirements & aspirations over five to ten years; An overall area delivery strategy, developed in conjunction with partners; & Regeneration & economic development needs across the City. 	Requirements to be assessed & options considered via asset management workshop & taken forward as part of Smarter Working Project.		Capital Strategy Group September 2009 Accommodation strategy being developed as part of Improvement Programme & Smarter Working project	KLOE
38	3.2	The council should explore with the voluntary & community sector whether there may be opportunities for transfer of community assets with could be beneficial to the community.	Options to be considered as an output from the review of the use of community assets.		Capital Strategy Group & Community Asset Group. March 2010	Corporate
39	3.2	The council should improve its coverage of diverse users' satisfaction with assets.	Develop engagement framework for capturing diverse user views of council buildings.		Head of Land & Property & Assistant Chief Executive February 2010	KLOE
40	3.2	The council should ensure that a comprehensive & robust review of all assets is undertaken. This should be based on up to date data.	Requirements to be assessed & options considered via asset management workshop & taken forward as part of Smarter Working Project. Programme for review of non operational property to be completed.		Review of operational property complete & being taken forward as part of Improvement Programme. Programme of reviews of non operational property complete in draft. Finalise in February 2010.	KLOE
41	3.2	The council should extend its review of community assets to ensure that there is comprehensive coverage of the facilities available in local communities.	Non council owned assets will be included in the scope of the community asset review.		Capital Strategy Group & Community Asset Group March 2010	KLOE
42	3.2	The council should extend formal project & management processes to all projects above a deminimis value.	Deminimis value to be agreed & guidelines issued.		Head of Land & Property & Head of Programme & Project Office. February 2010	KLOE
43	3.2	The council should consider how its property related services can best be market tested.	Report to Executive Management Team		EMT February 2010 & options to be considered as part of the commissioning framework	KLOE
44	3.2	The council should determine an overall	Policy approach to be led by Board &		Space utilisation targets	KLOE

Ref	KLOE	Action	Detail	Cost (if any)	Responsibility & timescale	Type of action
		corporate policy on modern working arrangements & implement it consistently throughout the council. Outcomes should be measured, & related targets set.	implemented as part of individual projects going forward.		agreed by EMT & being applied as part of Improvement Programme	
45	3.2	Prepare & implement a strategy for the delivery of the council's buildings maintenance programme that will result in a 70% planned maintenance spend.	Approach to be agreed by Capital Strategy Group & EMT		Head of Land & Property. March 2010	KLOE
46	3.2	Deliver a Regeneration Strategy for the City	Economic Masterplan (final draft) to Cabinet		Head of Strategic Economic Development July 2010	Corporate

REFERENCE FROM CABINET – 10TH MARCH, 2010

LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT ANNUAL REVIEW PROCESS 2009/2010

Report of the Chief Solicitor

1. Why has this report come to the Committee?

- 1.1 At the request of the Chairman to report, for information, a report considered by Cabinet on 10th March outlining the outcome of the Local Area Agreement Review 2009/2010 and seeking approval to revised targets for several priority indicators.
- 1.2 The report also provides helpful background for the Third Quarter Performance Report which will be considered at the April meeting of the Committee.

2. Background and Current Position

- 2.1 The Cabinet, at its meeting held on 10th March, 2010, gave consideration to a report of the Chief Executive. The report detailed the outcome of the Local Area Agreement Review 2009/2010 and seeking approval to revised targets for several priority indicators. Revising targets provides the basis on which partners can set stretching but attainable targets that will enable the partnership to maximise the reward grant associated with LAA performance. The amount of reward grant payable is dependent on the proportion of agreed targets that are achieved over the life of the LAA period.
- 2.2 Copies of the 10th March, 2010 Cabinet agenda were circulated to all Members of the Council.
- 2.3 Recommendations from Cabinet will be reported orally to the meeting.

3. Conclusion

- 3.1 The report is referred to this Committee for information.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 The Scrutiny Committee is invited to note the attached report of the Chief Executive.

5. Background Papers

5.1 Cabinet Agenda, 10th March, 2010.

5.2 A copy of the Agenda is available for inspection from Chief Solicitor's or can be viewed on-line at:-

<http://www.sunderland.gov.uk/committee/CmisWebPublic/Meeting.aspx?meetingID=1604>

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CABINET MEETING – 10TH MARCH 2010

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET

Title of Report:

Local Area Agreement Annual Review Process 2009/2010

Author(s):

Chief Executive

Purposes of Report:

To outline the outcome of the Local Area Agreement Review 2009/2010 and seek approval to revised targets for several priority indicators.

Description of Decision:

That Cabinet is recommended to:

- (i) Approve the new and revised Local Area Agreement targets as set out in the report.
- (ii) Authorise the Council Leader, Chief Executive, in discussion with the chair of the Sunderland Partnership, to approve any changes in the targets that may result from the negotiations with Government Office North East

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:

The Cabinet's decision will enable the Council to satisfy the requirements of the Local Government and Involvement in Public Health Act in relation to the Local Area Agreement by agreeing targets for the priority indicators included in the document agreed with Government in June 2008.

Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected:

The requirement to review and refresh the Local Area Agreement is a legislative obligation and there are no alternative options. The Council is not obligated to renegotiate targets as proposed. However, the alternative of retaining the targets agreed in June may have an adverse impact on the Council's reputation as measured through the Comprehensive Area Assessment and the level of Performance Reward Grant (PRG) generated.

Is this a key decision as defined in the Constitution? Yes

Is it included in the Forward Plan?
Yes

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Management

Local Area Agreement Annual Review Process 2009 / 2010

Report of the Chief Executive

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To outline the outcome of the Local Area Agreement Review 2009/2010 and seek approval to revised targets for several priority indicators.

2.0 Description of Decision

- 2.1 That Cabinet is recommended to:
- (i) Approve the new and revised Local Area Agreement targets as set out in the report.
 - (ii) Authorise the Council Leader, Chief Executive, in discussion with the chair of the Sunderland Partnership, to approve any changes in the targets that may result from the negotiations with Government Office North East

3.0 Background

- 3.1 LAAs are subject to annual reviews that have the primary function of enabling government to monitor progress towards the targets set in the agreement. Over the last two years the review process has also provided the opportunity to refresh the agreed targets as indicator definitions have been refined and baseline data has been provided.
- 3.2 For the 2009/2010 review government have offered the opportunity for partnerships to revise those targets that are likely to have been affected by the economic recession: NI 152, NI 153, NI 154 and NI 116. Government have also been given the option to remove NI 112 from the calculation of reward grant.
- 3.3 Revising targets provides the basis on which partners can set stretching but attainable targets that will enable the partnership to maximise the reward grant associated with LAA performance. The amount of reward grant payable is dependent on the proportion of agreed targets that are achieved over the life of the LAA period.

4.0 Revising Targets

- 4.1 The measurement of NI 152, NI 153 and NI 116 is based on the numbers of people claiming a particular group of working age benefits (Job Seekers Allowance, Incapacity Benefit, lone parent benefits and other income related benefits) known as 'out of work benefits'. These numbers are compared to the background working age population of the city, or in the case of NI 116, the number of dependant children aged 0 – 15 living with such claimants to the estimated total of all 0 – 15 year old residents to provide a rate.

4.2 As members will be aware the recession that occurred during 2008 and 2009 had a significant effect on claimant count unemployment levels in the city. For five years prior to the summer of 2008 the levels had remained relatively stable at around five or six thousand. However, the levels rose to almost eight thousand by the close of the year and to over eleven thousand by the spring of 2009, almost doubling over the nine month interval. By spring 2009, unemployment in the city had levelled off and even declined slightly while elsewhere in Tyne and Wear the numbers were continuing to increase.

4.3 The scale of the adverse economic conditions that were experienced across the country during 2009 and the impact on the claimant count was largely unforeseen and was therefore not reflected in the targets set for the LAA in March 2008. Revised targets that took account of the impact of the downturn were submitted for NI 152 and 153 in March 2009. However, government considered these to be temporary. The current review provides the opportunity to set revised targets that reflect the greatly changed economic circumstances and the prevailing economic outlook.

NI 152 – Working age people on out of work benefits

4.4 In January 2010 a meeting between representatives of Job Centre Plus and the Council's Strategic Economic Development function took place in order to develop an agreed rationale for the claimant related targets. The outcome of that meeting was agreement to a set of assumptions that have been used to inform the target for May 2011. The assumptions were:

- Without additional intervention the quarterly average benefit claimant levels would be likely to rise given predicted upward pressure on both unemployment and long term out of work benefits and then fall leaving the quarterly average rate in May 2011 at a rate that is similar to that in May 2009 at 19.9%.
- The latest total out-of-work benefit claimants figure available is 35,060 (May 2009) – a rate of 19.9% - calculated using the 2008 mid year working age population estimate of 175,900.
- Performance in May 2011 will be compared as a four quarter average against the May 2007 four quarter average baseline of 18.1%.
- As a result of Working Neighbourhood Fund (WNF) project activity and the additional, targeted activities of Job Centre Plus a net reduction of 2,000 benefit claimants could be achieved between the May 2009 and May 2011 quarterly totals.

4.5 For the purpose of estimating the impact of the reduction on the overall claimant rate it has been assumed that a reduction of 2,000 in benefit claimants will be achieved between May 2009 and May 2011. This assumes a reduction of 300 out of work benefit claimants in each quarter

from May 2009 to February 2010 and then a reduction from the same group of 220 in each quarter from February 2010 to May 2011.

- 4.6 Reducing the claimant numbers by 2,000 people over the two year period will have the effect of reducing the quarterly claimant rate to 18.8% in May 2011. However, NI 152 is calculated as a rolling average of 4 quarters to account for seasonal variation. Using the 4 quarter average calculation means that the 2010/11 overall rate as calculated in May 2011 will be 19.0%, an increase of 0.9% from the May 2007 four quarter average baseline of 18.1%. This represents a reduction in the scale of the increase that would have occurred if WNF interventions had not been applied.
- 4.7 It is therefore proposed that the target we submit to government for NI 152 is an increase in the claimant rate of 0.9%.

NI 153 – Working age people claiming out of work benefits in the worst performing neighbourhoods

- 4.8 The latest quarterly out of work benefit claimant figure available for the 25% worst performing LSOA is 13,210 (May 2009), a rate of 32.8%. As with the overall claimant rate it is assumed that this will rise slightly over the next 14 months.
- 4.9 Looking at the post codes of the 900 Job Linkage clients placed into work over the last three quarters it is possible to conclude that on average 32%, about 300, of all clients placed live in the 25% worst performing Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA). The trend recently has been for the proportion of clients living in the worst performing LSOA to increase and for the purposes of setting a target for this indicator it is assumed that the proportion of Job Centre Plus and Job Linkage clients finding work from the 25% worst performing LSOA over the next 14 months will be 40% of the estimated citywide reduction over this period or approximately 440 people
- 4.10 The aggregate reduction of 740 people against the May 2009 quarterly total of 13,210 will reduce the number of claimants to 12,470 and the quarterly claimant rate to 30.9%. As with NI 152, NI 153 is measured using the four quarter average and final performance will be measured against the May 2007 four quarter average of 30.9%. A total of 300 claimants from the worst performing LSOAs were placed in work in the first three quarters of 2009/2010. Assuming that the planned additional reduction of 440 claimants will be evenly distributed over the next 5 quarters, the overall four quarter average rate for 2010/2011 in May 2011 will be 31.2%, an increase of 0.3% over the May 2007 equivalent.
- 4.11 It is proposed that the target we submit to Government is an increase in the claimant rate within the 25% worst performing LSOA of 0.3%.

NI 116 – Proportion of children in poverty

- 4.12 Earlier this year government announced that the original definition of NI 116: children aged 0 – 15years living in families in receipt of out of work benefits as a percentage of all children, was to be replaced. However, local authorities have recently been informed that the new definition will only be applied to the next round of LAA which is expected to start in April 2011. For the current round of LAA the existing definition, stated above, is to be used.
- 4.13 The update on the indicator definition was accompanied by a new set of baseline data. The data (attached as Appendix 1) is based on the total number of children in families in receipt of out of work benefits in the local authority area but does not include the use of child benefit data to calculate the background number of dependant children as was originally the case. This is now derived from age specific population estimates.
- 4.14 The impact of the recession means that target for NI 116 is unlikely to be achieved as it was set in more optimistic economic conditions. Using the claimant rate figures that are available for May 2009 we have estimated that the proportion of children in families in receipt of out of work benefits was around 13,750. Using this figure as a starting point and factoring in the reduction in claimant numbers that may be achieved as a consequence of WNF interventions it is estimated that the number of children in poverty as defined by the indicator in May 2011 may be approximately 12,800. It seems most unlikely that we can achieve the target of 10,995 that was set in March 2008 and it is considered prudent to take the opportunity to revise the target against which we will be measured.
- 4.15 A condition of renegotiation is that the revised target is expressed as the percentage point difference between the proportion of children in poverty in the area and the England average. Whilst it is possible to use the projections we have made for NI 152, the claimant rate figure in May 2011 to estimate the number of children in families in receipt of out of work benefits for the same period, government are unable or unwilling to provide a 2011 estimate for England. As a consequence it will not be possible to develop a precise calculation of the relationship between the local and national levels.
- 4.16 Nonetheless it is possible to use the available data to understand recent trends. It is clear from the data provided by government that the gap between the proportion of children in families in receipt of out of work benefits in England and Sunderland closed quite significantly from 7.9% in 2004 to 5.7% in 2007. However, the rate rose slightly between 2007 and 2008 from 5.7% to 5.9%. We also know that the gap in the overall claimant rate between England and Sunderland widened during the recession of 2008/2009. It can be assumed that this caused the gap in the proportion of children in families in receipt of out of work benefits to widen further.

- 4.17 The reduction of the overall claimant rate proposed above should have a positive impact on NI 116. Also, data shows that the numbers of dependent children living with lone parents in receipt of benefits is considerably higher than for other types of benefit recipients. WNF proposals to target services at lone parents should therefore increase the numbers of children being removed from poverty as defined by NI 116 in the longer term.
- 4.18 In view of the reduction in the overall claimant numbers that is being proposed it is concluded that the most recently observed tendency for the gap in the number of children in families in receipt of out of work benefits to widen will effectively be halted and that the gap, which we are unable to articulate in measurable terms at this time, will remain the same as in May 2008.
- 4.19 It is proposed that the target we submitted to government in respect of NI 116 should be to maintain the gap between the Sunderland and England averages as measured at May 2008 (i.e. 5.9 percentage points).

NI 171 – New business registration rate.

- 4.20 The 2010 review also provides the opportunity to revise the target set for NI 171. As with other indicators that are sensitive to the prevailing economic conditions there is an assumption that the new business registration rate may have been adversely affected by the recession. However, the view is that the formation of new businesses in the city has not been significantly affected by the recession and that the target set in March 2009 should remain unchanged.

NI 154 – Net additional homes provided.

- 4.21 Nationally government offered partnerships the opportunity to revise the target for NI 154 because it recognised that the recession had had a severe adverse impact on the housing market and house building. Partnerships have the opportunity through the review process to assess the impact that the economic downturn has had on the potential to achieve targets that were set with a more positive view of the future economic conditions.
- 4.22 In Sunderland's case the recession did have an adverse impact of on the level of house building in the city. However, it is possible that the impact has not been as great as in other parts of the country. A more significant factor in terms of the net number of new houses built in the city has been the scale of demolitions which has had the effect of offsetting the net increase in housing development. The rate of demolitions is starting to slow and this is reflected in recent performance against the indicator targets. According to the latest figures available 185 net additional homes were built between April and September 2009 against a target for the full year of 90. The better than expected performance was due to fewer demolitions that had been forecasted.

- 4.23 Government Office North East (GONE) is aware of recent good performance and the £27.8m Kickstart allocation to Gentoo that should lead to the development of 350 homes in the city over the next 18 months. As a consequence GONE has requested that we consider increasing the target of 350 net additional homes provided in 2010/2011 that was set in March 2009.
- 4.24 Analysis shows that, notwithstanding the better than expected performance in 2009/2010 gross builds in the year were 45% less than the average over the previous five years. In addition, even including the houses that will be built as a consequence of the Kickstart scheme, Gentoo's demolition programme will result in a net housing reduction in their own programme of 97 units according to information provided in December 2009.
- 4.25 Therefore, in view of the still precarious nature of the housing market and the high numbers of demolitions that are planned in the coming year it is recommended that the target of 350 net additional homes is retained.

NI 112 – Under 18 conception rate.

- 4.26 Following discussions between government departments and some local authorities it has been decided that all areas with NI 112 in their LAA will be offered the option to take the indicator target out of the consideration of reward grant allocations. The offer is made on the understanding that areas will continue to prioritise the matter and do everything possible to improve delivery and make progress against the targets.
- 4.27 Following discussions with the Director of Public Health it is thought that it would be prudent to take advantage of the offer and remove the indicator from the reward grant assessment mechanism. As required, the partnership will continue to do everything possible to reduce the numbers of under age conceptions in the city.
- 4.28 It is proposed that Cabinet accept the offer from government to remove NI 112 from the LAA for the purpose of calculating reward grant.

NI 117 – 16 – 18 year olds not in employment, education or training.

- 4.29 The target of 8.4% submitted for NI 117 in the original LAA was the unadjusted figure for 16 – 18 year olds not in employment, education or training (NEET). The definition of the indicator refers to the NEET figure after it has been adjusted to take into account the young people whose records have lapsed. The target quoted in the LAA should therefore be 8.8% and we will ask government to change the target so that it is accordance with the indicator definition.
- 4.30 It is proposed that Cabinet agree the change in the target for NI 117.

5.0 Reasons for the Decision

- 5.1 The Cabinet's decision will enable the Council to satisfy the requirements of the Local Government and Involvement in Public Health Act in relation

to the Local Area Agreement by agreeing targets for the priority indicators included in the document agreed with Government in June 2008.

6.0 Alternative Options

6.1 The requirement to review and refresh the Local Area Agreement is a legislative obligation and there are no alternative options. The council is not obligated to renegotiate targets as proposed. However, the alternative of retaining the targets agreed in June 2009 may have an adverse impact on the council's reputation as measured through the Comprehensive Area Assessment and the level of Performance Reward Grant (PRG) generated.

7.0 Relevant Considerations or Consultations

(a) Financial Implications

Proposals to renegotiate targets in the LAA are intended to improve the prospect of maximising the PRG paid the council at the conclusion of the current Agreement.

(b) Legal Implications

The new and revised targets need to be approved by Cabinet to satisfy the requirements of government.

(c) Implications for Other Services.

A variety of council services are accountable for delivering the targets set out in the LAA. Those services have been responsible for setting the new and revised targets included in this report.

(d) Consultations

All relevant Directorates and partners have been consulted on the targets in the report.

(e) Crime and Disorder / Community Cohesion / Social Inclusion

The targets in the LAA will provide the basis on which performance in respect of key measures associated with Economic Prosperity, Community Cohesion and Social Inclusion issues can be measured.

Background papers

Sunderland Local Area Agreement 2008 – 2011.

Local Government and Involvement in Public Health Act

**Proportion of children in families in receipt of out of work benefits
(includes children where parent/guardian is claiming IS, JSA, IB, SDA or PC)**

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
England	21.0%	20.6%	20.0%	19.8%	19.2%
North East	27.1%	25.9%	24.7%	24.2%	23.7%
Darlington	22.8%	22.3%	21.8%	21.4%	20.8%
Gateshead	27.9%	26.2%	24.9%	24.0%	23.5%
Hartlepool	31.8%	31.3%	29.2%	29.0%	29.1%
Newcastle upon Tyne	32.8%	30.8%	29.7%	29.2%	29.4%
North Tyneside	23.9%	22.0%	20.7%	20.6%	19.4%
Redcar and Cleveland	28.3%	27.4%	26.0%	26.1%	24.8%
Sunderland	28.9%	27.4%	26.1%	25.5%	25.1%
Gap between Sunderland and England	7.90%	6.80%	6.10%	5.70%	5.90%

Notes:

(1.) Data for 2004-2007 are for April, data for 2008 are as at May.

(2.) Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.

(3.) Data are experimental. For further detail please refer to the guidance that accompanies the published data at:
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/ben_hholds/child_ben_hholds.asp

(3.) Includes children aged 0-15

MANAGEMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

REQUEST TO ATTEND SEMINAR – CENTRE FOR PUBLIC SCRUTINY 8TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

18 MARCH 2010

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 For the Committee to consider nominating delegates to the Centre for Public Scrutiny's 8th Annual Conference and Exhibition to be held on 30 June – 1 July 2010.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Council's Overview and Scrutiny Handbook contains a protocol for use of the Scrutiny Committees budget by members to attend training and conferences relevant to the remit of the Committee.

3. Conference Details

- 3.1 An invitation has been received from the Centre of Public Scrutiny with regard to its 8th Annual Conference and Exhibition to be held **30 June – 1 July 2010, at The Brewery, London.**

- 3.2 The theme for this two day conference will be future accountability and transparency in public services.

- 3.3 Day one will cover regaining public trust, tackling inequalities and addressing how to sustain outcomes from accountability in hard financial times. There will also be a debate on how accountability can create opportunities for the public to shape the delivery of local services, for example, through the Total Place initiative.

On day two, a member development programme will offer councillors and other non-executive members an opportunity to network and discuss current issues. Themes will include questioning and chairing skills, skills needed to evaluate evidence and the role of politics in the scrutiny process.

- 3.4 The Council is eligible for an early bird rate of £359 + VAT per delegate which includes attendance at both days, dinner and refreshment, if booked by 31 March 2010. After this date, the rate per delegate will increase to £399 + VAT.

- 3.5 It is suggested that the Committee nominate one or two Members to attend the Conference.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 The Committee is asked to consider the attendance of Members to the above conference, to be accompanied by the Head of Overview and Scrutiny, to be funded from the budget of the Scrutiny Committee.

5. Background Papers

None

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CfPS 8th annual conference & exhibition

Sustaining outcomes in changing times

30th June - 1st July 2010, The Brewery, London

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Scrutiny Exchange Live!

'Total Place, Total Accountability' debate

Accountability Works! Charter



In partnership with:





CfPS 2010: Accountability works! sustaining outcomes in changing times

The theme for our 8th annual conference will be future accountability and transparency in public services. We will cover the important issues of the day: regaining public trust, tackling inequalities and addressing how to sustain outcomes from accountability in hard financial times. We will also debate how accountability can create opportunities for the public to shape the delivery of local services, for example, through the Total Place initiative.



CfPS 2010 is ideally timed to provide the perfect platform for the Government of the day to share their vision for accountability and transparency in public services with our delegates.

Interactive sessions will examine how public accountability and transparency can bring added value to the delivery of local services at a time when public expectations of services are high, but trust in organisations and institutions is at an all time low and budgets are likely to be cut.

On Day 2, our officer development programme will explore issues around community engagement, as well as discuss the role of scrutiny in challenging organisational culture and the potential risks that scrutiny might be under from budget cuts. Our member development day will offer councillors and other non-executive members an opportunity to network and discuss current issues. Themes will include questioning and chairing skills, skills needed to evaluate evidence and the role of politics in the scrutiny process.



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Scrutiny Exchange Live!

For the first time, CfPS is bringing the online scrutiny exchange network to life at our 2010 conference. We will be asking our delegates to bring their knowledge and expertise into this forum to share and learn from each other.

Scrutiny Exchange Live provides the perfect opportunity for you to set the agenda. The Exchange will have 6 zones reflecting issues facing local communities - democracy, health and wellbeing, crime and disorder, children and young people, economy and community. Running throughout the day, delegates will be able to suggest any pressing issues they may have in relation to these themes. The most popular topics will be identified and delegates will be able to join in discussions in the relevant zones.



Good Scrutiny Awards - We want to hear how you have successfully influenced excellent public services

If you, or your organisation, have done something in the last year that you are proud of CfPS encourages you to submit an entry for the Good Scrutiny Awards 2010. We want to help you celebrate your success and help others to learn from what you've done.

Now in their 3rd year, the Awards celebrate accountability and transparency in public services, the work of non-executives in the public sector and also public sector organisations that respect the work of non-executives.

The new categories for 2010 are:

- Community influence
- Added value
- Innovation
- Team of the year
- Raising the profile
- Joint working
- Practitioner of the year
- Accountable organisation of the year

The shortlisted entries will have an opportunity to showcase their work in the Successful Scrutiny Zone at CfPS 2010 and will be offered a free delegate pass for the 30 June 2010. The Awards will be presented during the gala dinner.

All entries must be received by 1 March 2010 and the short-listed candidates will be announced in May.



To find out more and to submit your example of Good Scrutiny, please go to:

www.tcp-events.co.uk/cfps2010

Why should you attend?

CfPS 2010 is the largest conference dedicated to explore the latest developments in public scrutiny, accountability and transparency. You will be able to:

- Hear directly from the government of the day about their vision for accountability in public service delivery
- Explore how public empowerment is becoming central to scrutiny and accountability across local government, police and the health service

- Explore how scrutiny can tackle today's issues - ensuring the public receive value for money in critical economic times
- Learn about innovative techniques and best practice from experts across the public sector.



- Meet and share ideas and experiences with colleagues facing the same challenges
- Discover what is on the horizon from the CfPS.



Gala dinner

In addition to Scrutiny Exchange Live! CfPS 2010 offers networking opportunities in less formal surroundings with our drinks reception and gala dinner on the evening of 30 June. The dinner offers plenty of time to catch up with colleagues and enjoy the evening, culminating with the Good Scrutiny Awards 2010 ceremony.

Who should attend?

National government

- Parliamentary Select Committees
- House of Commons Clerks
- Backbench MPs

Crime and justice

- Police Authority members
- Probation Board members

Education

- School governors
- School governing bodies

Local government

- Overview and Scrutiny Committees (OSCs)
- Health OSCs and Joint OSCs
- OSC support officers
- Non-executive councillors

Health and social care

- NHS non-executive board members (primary care, acute care, mental health)
- Foundation Trust public governors and staff governors
- Local Involvement Networks (LINKs) and LINK Hosts



Conference exhibition

Be a part of Scrutiny Exchange Live! - CfPS' innovative and new approach to networking and exhibitions. Our exhibition area will be made up of carefully selected zones reflecting different issues facing local communities: democracy, health and wellbeing, crime and disorder, children and young people, economy and community.

Exhibitions can sometimes feel like a fringe event or a not well thought out add on to a conference. Be a part of the Scrutiny Exchange Live and you will be an exciting and fundamental part of CfPS 2010.

To discuss this new concept and find out details about the packages available, please contact the CfPS conference office. Tel: 01323 637707
email: cfps2010@confpeople.co.uk

The Brewery, Chiswell Street, London EC1Y 4SD

A Grade II listed building, set within its own private courtyard, the Brewery provides a unique setting for our conference. The Brewery is situated in the heart of the City within walking distance of several Underground and mainline train stations. There are several car parks within close proximity of the venue and the area has accommodation to suit all price-ranges. Please visit their website for accommodation listings: www.thebrewery.co.uk/contact/hotels



Fees	UP TO 31ST MARCH 2010	Full Rate £	Reduced Rate £	Supported Rate £
Early-bird registration fees apply to registrations received on or before 31 March 2010.	Day 1	269.00	179.00	143.00
	Day 2	252.00	162.00	126.00
	Day 1 & Day 2	476.00	314.00	269.00
	Day 1, 2 & Dinner	521.00	359.00	305.00
	Dinner only	60.00		
	FROM 1ST APRIL 2010	Full Rate £	Reduced Rate £	Supported Rate £
	Day 1	299.00	199.00	159.00
	Day 2	280.00	180.00	140.00
	Day 1 & Day 2	529.00	349.00	299.00
	Day 1, 2 & Dinner	579.00	399.00	349.00

Full rate Central Government departments & agencies, private sector

Reduced rate Local authorities, other public sector organisations

Supported rate Schools, voluntary organisations, trade unions, LINKs

Centre for Public Scrutiny Tel: 020 7296 6451 Email: info@cfps.org.uk

CfPS Conference Office Tel: 01323 637707 Email: cfps2010@confpeople.co.uk

MANAGEMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

FORWARD PLAN – KEY DECISIONS FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL 2010 TO 31 JULY 2010

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

18 MARCH 2010

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 April 2010 – 31 July 2010 which relate to the Management Scrutiny Committee.

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, it has been agreed that the most recent version of the Executive's Forward Plan should be included on the agenda of this Committee. The Forward Plan for the period 1 April 2010 – 31 July 2010 will be dispatched in advance of this meeting, due to its formal publication on 12 March 2010 which falls after the statutory requirements for the dispatch of the Committee's agenda and supporting papers.

3. Current Position

- 3.1 In considering the Forward Plan, Members are asked to consider only those issues which are under the remit of the Management Scrutiny Committee. These are as follows:-

Corporate Improvement Plan; Sunderland Strategy; Partnerships (including relations with external bodies); enhancing the role and reputation of Sunderland regionally, nationally and internationally; co-ordination and development of the Scrutiny Function; Asset Management, Property Services and Building Maintenance; Area Frameworks; Corporate Communications; External Assessments; Public Protection and Trading Standards; Governance; Emergency Planning (to refer to appropriate Scrutiny Committee); Budget, financial resources and value for money; and to review any matter not falling within the remit of the other Scrutiny Committees.

3.3 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. Recommendation

4.1 It is recommended that the Committee considers the Executive's Forward Plan for the period 1 April 2010 – 31 July 2010.

5. Background Papers

There were no background papers used in the preparation of this report.

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MANAGEMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

SCRUTINY COMMITTEES WORK PROGRAMMES FOR 2009-10

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

18 March 2010

Strategic Priority: ALL

Corporate Improvement Objective : ALL

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The report attaches, for Members' information, the variations to the Scrutiny Committees work programmes for 2009/10 and provides an opportunity to review the Committee's own work programme for the remainder of this Municipal Year.

2. Background

- 2.1 The role of the Management Scrutiny Committee is two-fold, firstly it has a role in co-ordinating efficient business across the seven Scrutiny Committees and manage the overall Scrutiny Work Programme and secondly to consider the Council's corporate policies, performance and financial issues.
- 2.2 The aim of its co-ordinating role is to avoid duplication, make best use of resources and to provide a corporate overview of the Overview and Scrutiny Function. As such the remainder of this report outlines the current work programmes of the Scrutiny Committees.

3. Scrutiny Committees Work Programmes

- 3.1 **Appendix 1** sets out the changes this month to the Scrutiny Committee work programmes from those endorsed at the start of the municipal year. Each Scrutiny Committee receives its own work programme in full each month in order to review progress.

4. Management Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme

- 4.1 **Appendix 2** outlines this Committee's full work programme for the year, updated to reflect new additions and amendments requested by Committee as the year has progressed.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 That the Committee notes the variations to the Scrutiny Committees Work Programmes for 2009-10 and to its own work programme.

6. Background Papers

Scrutiny Committee Agendas – March 2010 cycle of meetings.

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CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & LEARNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2009-10

	JUNE 18.6.09	JULY 9.7.09	SEPTEMBER 17.9.09	OCTOBER 15.10.09	NOVEMBER 12.11.09	DECEMBER 10.12.09	DECEMBER 18.12.09	JANUARY 14.1.10	FEBRUARY 11.2.10	MARCH 11.3.10	APRIL 22.4.10
	JUNE 18.6.09	JULY 9.7.09	SEPTEMBER 17.9.09	OCTOBER 15.10.09	NOVEMBER 12.11.09	DECEMBER 10.12.09	DECEMBER 18.12.09	JANUARY 14.1.10	FEBRUARY 11.2.10	MARCH 11.3.10	APRIL 22.4.10
Policy Review	Proposals for policy reviews (KB)	Scope of review – Commissioning 16-19 learning Looked After Children – Progress on recommendations			16-19 Learning – Setting the Scene (LB)	Achieving Educational Inclusion (MF)	Evidence Gathering Meeting – 16-19 Changes	Youth Work Commissioning (AN)	YOS Improvement Plan (JH)	Apprenticeships (SS)	Final Report – 16-19 changes
Scrutiny	Workforce Innovation & Reform Strategy consultation (PC/PT) Health Notice : Measles Outbreak (KM)	Laming Report Action Plan (KM) Health Notice : Swine Flu / Measles Outbreak (NC)	Library Plan (JH) HRH Primary – Improvement Plan (SM/MF)	Ofsted Inspection Framework / Schools Performance 2008/09 (LB)	Young Persons Supported Housing Project (PB)	Library Services Pricing Review (JH) Behaviour & Attendance Strategy (PH)		Schools Concerns Policy (LB)	Corporate Parenting Annual Report (MB) Library Services Pricing Review (JH) HRH Monitoring Visit	Social Worker Roles & Responsibilities (MB) BSF Wave 2 (BS)	Schools Performance (LB) Phoenix Project Tellus4survey (SM)
Scrutiny (Performance)	HRH Primary – Improvement Plan (SM/MF) Ofsted 12 months progress Plains Farm Primary	Castle View Monitoring Visit (MF)	Provisional KS Results (MF/AB) Performance & VfM Annual Report (SM)	Complaints Annual Report 08/09 (SM) LDD Strategy (SF)	Audit Commission School Survey 2009 (SM)	HRH Primary Improvement Plan (MF/SM)		Performance Q2 April – Sept 09	Attainment of C&YP inc Gender (LB)		Performance Framework Q3
Cabinet	Article 4: Youth Justice Plan 09/10 (JH/GK)							Strategic Planning Process	Article 4: CYPP 2009-11 LSP Delivery Report		
Committee Business	Work Programme 2009/10 (KB) Children’s Homes Inspections Parenting Strategy	Libraries Conference	Ofsted Safeguarding Inspections Final Draft Work Programme	Co-opted Review (KB)	Libraries Conference Feedback (GH/TM)			CCfA revisions			Annual Report (KB)

COMMUNITY AND SAFER CITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2009-10

	JUNE 15.6.09	JULY 7.7.09	SEPTEMBER 15.9.09	OCTOBER 13.10.09	NOVEMBER 10.11.09	DECEMBER 8.12.09	JANUARY 12.1.10	FEBRUARY 9.2.10	MARCH 9.3.10	APRIL 20.4.10
Policy Review	Proposals for policy review (Jim Diamond)	Scope of review – Anti Social Behaviour and Alcohol (Jim Diamond/Stuart Douglass)	Approach to review (JD) Impact of Deprivation – Visit)	Evidence Gathering	Evidence Gathering – Anti Social Behaviour and Housing (Stuart Douglass) Feedback from Conference (Members) Arrangements for Safer Sunderland Forum (J Diamond)	Evidence Gathering Tackling Deliberate Fires (John Allison) Neighbourhood Helpline (Liz St Louis) Safer Sunderland Forum – Feedback (Jim Diamond)	Evidence Gathering Nexus (Ken Wilson) Home Office Advice on Tackling Anti Social Behaviour (Bill Blackett) Environmental Enforcement Teams (Norma Johnson)	Evidence Gathering Not in my Neighbourhood Week – Feedback (Bill Blackett) Visit to City Police Teams (Jim Diamond) Visit to Youth Village (Andy Neal)	Evidence Gathering Tagging Visit (Claire Harrison) Victim Support (Gillian Thirlwell) LMAPS (Bill Blackett) Community Engagement and Progress on the Policing Pledge (Stuart Douglass)	Anti Social Behaviour - Final Report
Scrutiny		Polycarbonate Drinking Vessels – City Centre Pilot (Stuart Douglass)		National Drug Strategy (Stuart Douglass) Poverty of Place – Visit (Sal Buckler)		Violent Crime – Delivery Plan 2009/10 (Stuart Douglass)			Reducing Reoffending (Stuart Douglass)	Magistrates Court (Lisa Shotton) Powers of CSO's
Scrutiny (Performance)			Performance Q1 (Mike Lowe)				CAA Report and Performance (Gillian Robinson) Strategic Planning Process (John Beaney)	Annual Delivery Plan (Sal Buckler)		Performance Framework Q3 (Mike Lowe) Fear of Crime – Update report (Stuart Douglass)
Ref Cabinet				Gambling Act – Amendments to Statement of Principles (Norma Johnston)						
Committee Business	Work Programme 2008/09 (JD)			Request to Attend Conference (J Diamond)			Review of Councillor Call for Action (Jim Diamond)			

CCFA/Members items/Petitions										
Information										

ENVIRONMENT AND ATTRACTIVE CITY WORK PROGRAMME 2009 -10

	JUNE 18.6.09	JULY 13.7.09	SEPTEMBER 21.9.09	OCTOBER 19.10.09	NOVEMBER 16.11.09	DECEMBER 14.12.09	JANUARY 18.1.10	FEBRUARY 15.2.10	MARCH 15.3.10	APRIL 26.4.10
Policy Review	Proposals for policy review (JD)	Scope of review – Highways and Network Management (Jim Diamond)	Baseline Report (JD)	Evidence Gathering	Evidence Gathering	Evidence Gathering	Evidence Gathering	Evidence Gathering	Draft report (JD)	Final Report
Scrutiny		LisburnTerrace Triangle Development Framework – Cabinet Consultation(Keith Lowes) Highways Maintenance Contingency- Prioritisation (Burney Johnson)	Parking Enforcement (B Johnson)	Civil Parking Enforcement (B Johnson) Holmeside Triangle Development Framework (K Lowes) Sunniside Conservation Area (K Lowes)	Public Transport Issues/Bus Network Redesign (NEXUS)	Local Development Framework – Progress Report (Neil Cole) Flood Planning (Barry Frost) Local Development Framework – Annual Report (Neil Cole)	Waste Management and Recycling (Peter High) Seafront Masterplan (Keith Lowes) Flood Planning (Barry Frost) Silksworth Conservation Area (Mark Taylor)	Bus Network Redesign - Consultation (NEXUS) Stadium Development Village Development Framework (K Lowes)	Cemeteries (Les Clark) Fawcett Street Visit – Cllr Wood Item (Keith Lowes) LDF Core Strategy (Neil Cole) Allotments – Task and Finish Group (Helen Lancaster)	Streetlighting (Aurora) Legible City – Better Signposting of the Gateways (Graeme Farnworth) Public Toilets (Les Clark) Local Transport Plan – Progress on Action Plan (Stephen Pickering)
Scrutiny (Performance)			Performance Q1 (Mike Lowe)				CAA and Performance Update (Mike Lowe) Strategic Planning Process (Jon Beaney)	LAA Agreement Delivery Plan (Sal Buckler)		Performance Monitoring Report (Mike Lowe) Policy Review – Progress Report on Previous Study
Ref Cabinet										
Committee Business	Work Programme 2008/09 (JD)		Overview and Scrutiny Handbook (J Diamond)				Review of Councillor Call for Action Mechanism (J Diamond)		End of Year Report – Draft (Jim Diamond)	
CCFA/Members items/Petitions					Cllr P Wood – Condition of Fawcett Street		Cllr R Vardy – Gritting of Roads in Winter Weather			

Information										
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HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2009-10

	JUNE 17.06.09	JULY 08.07.09	SEPTEMBER 16.09.09	OCTOBER 14.10.09	NOVEMBER 11.11.09	DECEMBER 9.12.09	JANUARY 13.01.10	FEBRUARY 10.02.10	MARCH 10.03.10	APRIL 21.04.10
Policy Review	Proposals for policy review (Review Coord)	Scope of review (Review Coord)	Approach to Review (Review Coord)	Progress on Review (Review Coord)	Progress on Review (Review Coord)	Progress on Review (Review Coord)	Progress on Review (Review Coord)	Progress on Review (Review Coord)	Draft report (Review Coord)	Final Report
Scrutiny	Proposed Restructuring of Community Nurse Teams in Sunderland (TQ) Workforce Development in the Independent Care Sector (TWCA) Health and Wellbeing Inequalities (NCx) Food Law Enforcement Safety Plan. (NJ)	Position Statement on Autism (SL) Pandemic Influenza & Measles – Update (NCx)	Beacon Award – Reducing Health Inequalities	NTW Crisis Resolution Team (RP) Intensive Rehabilitation & Recovery Services for Men & Women (CW/MW) Washington MPC (GK) Integrated Care Pilot Scheme (SL)	Annual Home Care Report including Home Care Services Progress Report (SL) Shop Mobility Scheme (PB) Barmston Medical Practice (LA) Ocular Oncology	Quality Standards for Residential and Nursing Homes for Older People (GK) Total Place (LC) Redesign of Drug and Alcohol Programmes (BS) District Nursing Review (CB)	Electronic Prescriptions (LA) NHS Constitution (LA)	Provision of Public Services to People with Learning Disabilities (GK/JF) Response to Out of Hours Care Query (GK) WHO Healthy City (NM)		Annual Report (Review Coord) MH Reprivation (TR)
Scrutiny (Performance)			Performance & VfM Assessment (Paul Allen) Dementia Care in Sunderland Policy Review 08/09 – Progress (SL) Quality Commissioning Progress Monitor 07/08 Policy review SL		Day Opportunities Update		Dementia Care in Sunderland Policy Review 08/09 – Progress (SL) Performance Framework Q2 (GR) Strategic Planning Process 2010/11 (JB)	Annual Delivery Plan	Quality Commissioning Progress Monitor 07/08 Policy review SL Annual Health Check	Performance Framework Q3 (Paul Allen) Home Care Services Progress Report (SL)
Ref Cabinet	Work Programme 2009/10 (Review Coord)	Work Programme 2009/10 (Review Coord)	Work Programme 2009/10 (Review Coord)	Work Programme 2009/10 (Review Coord) Cooption Report	Work Programme 2009/10 (Review Coord)	Work Programme 2009/10 (Review Coord)	Work Programme 2009/10 (Review Coord)	Work Programme 2009/10 (Review Coord)	Work Programme 2009/10 (Review Coord)	Work Programme 2009/10 (Review Coord)
Committee business							Review of CCfA			

CCFA/ Members Items/Petitions			Conference Attendance CfPS Bid Forward Plan	Forward Plan	Forward Plan	Forward Plan Joint Scrutiny Proposals	Forward Plan	Forward Plan	Forward Plan	Forward Plan
Information	Work Programme 2009/10 (Review Coord)	Work Programme 2009/10 (Review Coord)	Work Programme 2009/10 (Review Coord)	Work Programme 2009/10 (Review Coord) Cooption Report	Work Programme 2009/10 (Review Coord)	Work Programme 2009/10 (Review Coord)	Work Programme 2009/10 (Review Coord)	Work Programme 2009/10 (Review Coord)	Work Programme 2009/10 (Review Coord)	Work Programme 2009/10 (Review Coord)

Scrutiny Items – Carried Forward

Crisis Resolution Team Update – A further update to come back to committee (Sept 10)

Intensive Rehabilitation & Recovery Services for Men & Women (Sept 10)

Futures Team & Supported Living Model – Report in next Municipal Year (GK)

Presentation on interventions and services available to those with alcohol dependency issues (PCT)

PROSPERITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2009-10

PROSPERITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2009-10										
REASON FOR INCLUSION	JUNE 17.6.09	JULY 15.7.09	SEPTEMBER 23.9.09	OCTOBER 21.10.09	NOVEMBER 18.11.09	DECEMBER 16.12.09	JANUARY 20.1.10	FEBRUARY 17.2.10	MARCH 17.3.10	APRIL 28.4.10
Policy Review	Proposals for reviews (KJB)	Scope review (Cabinet Member Attendance) (KJB)			Major Projects Overview (JJ) WNS Use of Budget			City Centre Developments (LH)		Final Report – WNS (KJB) Final Report - Tourism (CH)
Scrutiny	Overview of the Working Neighbourhood Strategy (Cllr BC/VT)	Overview of Tourism & Marketing (KM)	Economic Masterplan (VT/CR) Tourism Submission to Select Committee (KM)	Sunderland Retail Needs Assessment (NC/GC) Industrial Property Review (CC)	Connexions – NEETs (AC) Future Jobs Fund (GB)	Arc strategy (DW) Economic Masterplan Aims & Values (VT)	Seafront Regeneration Strategy & Marine Walk Masterplan (CJ) Sunnside Partnership (BH)	Lambton Cokeworks Development (HCA)	Destination Management Plan (KM) Port Development Progress Economic Masterplan inc University City (VT)	Future Jobs Fund (GB) Draft Final Economic Masterplan NECC SCVS Recession Survey (GM)
Scrutiny (Performance)			Performance Q1 & VfM (GR)				Performance Q2			Performance Q3
Ref Cabinet							Strategic Planning Process	Partnership Delivery Report		
Committee business	Draft Work Programme 09/10 (KJB)		Work Programme (KB)	Grand Committee Feedback (KR) High Streets Feedback (KR) Coopted Member Protocol (KB)	WNS – Use of Scrutiny Budget	Working Groups – Progress report	CCfA Guidance	WNS – Use of Scrutiny Budget		Annual Report
CCFA/Members items/Petitions										
Information		Forward Plan Pilot								

At every meeting Forward Plan items with the remit of this Scrutiny Committee and Work Programme Update

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2009-10

	JUNE 15.06.09	JULY 14.07.09	SEPTEMBER 22.09.09	OCTOBER 20.10.09	NOVEMBER 17.11.09	DECEMBER 15.12.09	JANUARY 19.01.10	FEBRUARY 16.02.10	MARCH 16.03.10	APRIL 27.04.10
Policy Review	Proposals for policy review (Review Coord)	Scope of review (Review Coord)	Approach to review (Review Coord)	Progress on Review (Review Coord)	Progress on Review (Review Coord)	Progress on Review (Review Coord)	Progress on Review (Review Coord)	Progress on Review (Review Coord)	Draft report (Review Coord)	Final Report
Scrutiny		Empire Theatre Annual Report Forward Plan	Forward Plan	Climate Change (JG) Homelessness Report (PB/DS) Young Persons Supported Housing Project (PB/DS) Forward Plan	Major Projects Report (JB) Football Investment Strategy (JR) Britain in Bloom(IC/NA) Forward Plan	Review of Local Studies in Sunderland (NC/HL) Forward Plan	Climate Change (JG) Sustainability Appraisals (NCo) Review of Local Studies – Setting the Scene (VM) Forward Plan Bowes Railway Report (VM)	Accommodation with Support Design Guide (AC) Annual Sport and Leisure Report (RL) Forward Plan	Forward Plan English Heritage – Christmas Workshop State of the Historic Environment Report (ML) Local Studies Review (HL)	Annual Report (Review Coord) Climate Change (JG) Forward Plan
Scrutiny (Performance)			Performance & VfM Assessment Progress on Policy Review 08/09 – A Place to Play		Heritage Update (JH)	Progress on Policy Review 08/09 – A Place to Play	Performance Framework Q2 Strategic Planning Process	Annual Delivery Plan		Performance Framework Q3 Progress on Policy Review 08/09 – A Place to Play
Ref Cabinet	Terms of Reference of the Review Committee	Cabinet Response to the Policy Review-A Place to Play								
Committee business	Work Programme 2009/10 (Review Coord)	Work Programme 2009/10 (Review Coord)	Work Programme 2009/10 (Review Coord) Conference Attendance	Work Programme 2009/10 (Review Coord) Cooption Report	Work Programme 2009/10 (Review Coord)	Work Programme 2009/10 (Review Coord)	Work Programme 2009/10 (Review Coord)	Work Programme 2009/10 (Review Coord)	Work Programme 2009/10 (Review Coord)	Work Programme 2009/10 (Review Coord)
CCFA/ Members items/Petitions							Review of CCfA Mechanism			
Information										

MANAGEMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2009/10

REASON FOR INCLUSION	JUNE 23.6.09	JULY 16.7.09	SEPTEMBER 24.9.09	OCTOBER 22.10.09	NOVEMBER 20.11.09	DECEMBER 17.12.09	JANUARY 21.1.10	FEBRUARY 18.2.10	MARCH 18.3.010	APRIL 29.4.10
Scrutiny		Absence Management (SS) Asset Management Review (CC)	Absence Management – Additional Information (SS)		Gentoo – Request to Extend Borrowing Powers (KB) Strategy for Surplus Assets (CC)	Health & Safety Annual Report (SS)				
Scrutiny (Performance)			Performance & VfM Assessment (SR)			Service Planning Arrangements for 2010/11	Performance Management Q2 (SR)		Annual Audit Letter (moved from February due to budget focus of meeting)	Performance Management (Q3) (SR)
Ref Cabinet			Proposal for Budget Consultation 2010/11 (KB) Budget Variations 1 st Q (KB)	Budget Variations 2 nd Q (KB) Budget Planning Framework (KB)			Council Tax 2010/11 (KB) Budget Variations 3 rd Q (KB) CAA Formal Feedback (SR)	Budget & Service Reports - RSG 09/10 - Council Tax - CIP	CAA – Use of Resources Action Plan LAA – Annual Review Process	
Committee business	Annual Work Programme & Policy Review 2009/10 (CB) Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2009/10 (CB)	Feedback from conference (CB) Refresh of Scrutiny Handbook (CB) Relationship Building / INLOGOV (CB) Forward Plan Pilot (CB)	Draft Protocol – Scrutiny and External Partners (CB) Draft Protocol – Appointment of Co-opted Members to the Council's Scrutiny Committees (CB)	Tony Bovaird Workshops (CB) Draft Role Descriptors for Scrutiny Chair, Vice Chair and Scrutiny Member (CB) Finalised Protocol – appointment of Co-opted Members to the Council's Scrutiny Committees (CB) Review of CCfA Mechanism & Proposal for Introduction of Selection Criteria for Dealing with issues of Local Concern (CB)	Chairs Six Month Progress Reports Pilot (CB) Forward Plan (CB) Work Programmes of all Scrutiny Committees (CB) Feedback from Seminar: NEREO Seminar on Performance Management (Cllrs Tate and Wright) (CB)	Future Monitoring of Scrutiny Recommendations Pilot (CB) Forward Plan (CB) Work Programmes of all Scrutiny Committees (CB) Feedback from Parliamentary Seminar of 1 Dec 09 from Cllr Wright (CB) Further Revisions to the CCfA Mechanism / Proposal for Introduction of Selection Criteria for Dealing with issues of Local Concern (CB)	Forward Plan (CB) Work Programmes of all Scrutiny Committees (CB) IDeA Peer Review of Scrutiny Health Check 15+16 February 2010 (CB) – Finalised Timetable.	Forward Plan (CB) Work Programmes of all Scrutiny Committees (CB)	Forward Plan (CB) Work Programmes of all Scrutiny Committees (CB)	Draft Scrutiny Annual Report (CB) Forward Plan (CB) Work Programmes of all Scrutiny Committees (CB) Annual Scrutiny Conference 2010 – Draft Programme Outline (CB)