

**At a meeting of the MANAGEMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE on THURSDAY, 17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2009 at 5.30 p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor Tate in the Chair

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

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted to be meeting on behalf of Councillors Barkess and Mordey.

**Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2009**

**(i) Attendance Management**

Ms. Charlotte Burnham, Head of Overview and Scrutiny, advised that it had been confirmed to her by colleagues in Personnel that in relation to the sickness procedures that they also applied to schools.

The Chairman added that the difference was that the Council did not have the influence and control and the ability to instruct Head Teachers in the same way as it could its Managers.

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2009, Part I (copy circulated), be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

**Declarations of Interest (including Whipping Declarations)**

There were no interests declared.

**Strategic Planning Process 2010/2011**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) apprising the Scrutiny Committee of the proposals for the Strategic Planning Process 2010/2011 and the role of all Scrutiny Committees in the Process.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Sarah Reed, Assistant Chief Executive, proceeded to brief the Committee on the report and drew Members' attention to paragraph 6 concerning the engagement of the Scrutiny Committees as part of the preparation of Service Improvement Plans during the Strategic Planning Process 2010/2011 and in their monitoring and review during the course of the year.

The Chairman welcomed the proposals in terms of earlier and regular involvement in the Strategic Planning Process for 2010/11. He asked if the Committee suggested alterations whether they would automatically be included or whether they would be submitted to the Cabinet to be approved, and how the Council would engage with the public.

Councillor L. Martin stated that he was not sure about getting the public's comments. He welcomed input into the Corporate Improvement Plan. With regards the Audit Commission's assessment, a few authorities were taking the view to save the money instead and he stated he would like to see Sunderland going down that route. It would be useful for Scrutiny to be involved in the process and looking at issues. With regards key priorities he would welcome the Council having a handful of priorities that it could deliver on. He commented that they would see how much listening the Cabinet did.

The Chairman reported that a workshop was being held for Councillors in January and February on performance management. Picking up on Councillor Martin's point, the Chairman enquired whether it would be beneficial to look at key priorities and focus on them.

Ms. Reed stated that the points made by the Scrutiny Committees would definitely be fed into the service plans. In relation to the point made by Councillor Martin, Ms. Reed stated that Heads of Service should have already consulted with their customers when drawing up their service plans. This provided reassurance around linking service planning with budget planning and the views of service users were tied in by using Community Spirit. Ms. Reed agreed that it would be better to get priorities down to a handful so that they could be measured and the plan was to look at killer priorities. It was part of the learning process to take comments and build them in. She confirmed that there was a move away from Audit Commission inspections to self assessments and quarterly reports, the relationship being more of a critical friend.

Councillor Mr. Forbes stated that she felt there were far too many targets set and this was not creating a sense with the public that anything was getting better. She advocated looking at the complaints received to see what sort of things people were wanting. She asked how the budgets were being constructed and what the overall budget for Scrutiny was, including the Partnership. She stated that she was not sure how much the Partnership contributed but it should be making a contribution to the cost, particularly if it was being scrutinised.

The Chairman added that consultation needed to take place with the public as to what they wanted and where this could not be provided then they would need to be told so and the reasons why. He was also of the opinion that it would be better to have less priorities that the Council could focus on rather than more and not achieve them.

2. RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted and the proposals in respect of the engagement of Scrutiny Committees in the Strategic Planning Process 2010/2011 be approved.

### **Review of Councillor Call for Action Mechanism and Introduction of a Selection Criteria for Dealing with Issues of Local Concern – Further Revisions to Initial Proposals**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to outline further revisions to the current Councillor Call for Action (CCfA) mechanism and proposed introduction of selection criteria for dealing with non-mandatory referrals for use by the Sunderland Partnership, Scrutiny Committees and Area Committees to address issues of local concern, as agreed at the meeting of this Committee held on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2009.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Charlotte Burnham, Head of Overview and Scrutiny, invited Members to consider the proposed new procedure for the consideration of non-mandatory Councillor Call for Action referrals to Overview and Scrutiny as detailed on Appendix B of the report. She advised that she proposed to refer the draft proposals to the six Scrutiny Committees, Area Committees and the Sunderland Partnership's Delivery and Improvement Board in January, prior to comments being fed back to this Committee for consideration and and Cabinet thereafter.

The Chairman stated that Members had the Service Directory which detailed the service contacts to help them resolve an issue or concern and he reminded Members that the proposed new CCfA procedure was intended to be used as a last resort after all other avenues had been exhausted.

In response to Councillor J. Scott, Ms. Burnham stated that the original procedure did not capture the criteria to determine how to deal with issues, did not have openness and transparency and there was no mechanism to escalate an issue.

Councillor Walker enquired who dictated whether an issue was submitted to the Scrutiny Committee, the Area Committee or the Strategic Partnership. The original procedure was that an issue was first submitted to the Area Committee to see if it could be resolved and, if not, it was passed up to Scrutiny.

In response to Members' comments, Ms. Burnham advised that reference to the Service Directory could be incorporated into the diagram and if at that point further action needed to be taken based on the advice received, the issue would be referred to the appropriate Committee.

Councillor L. Martin enquired who would be in charge and make the decision as to which was the appropriate Committee. He stated that he felt the Management Scrutiny Committee should have the power to make this decision.

Councillor P. Gibson suggested that training on the Councillor Call for Action and scenarios where the procedure would be used would be of benefit to Members.

Ms. Burnham stated this could be provided for Members if this was the route they wanted to go down.

Ms. Burnham stated in response to Councillor M. Forbes that the procedure was intended to add openness and transparency as at the moment issues were not dealt with in a timely manner. Changes to the procedure were intended to bring clarity to the process. There would be the opportunity to escalate an issue to the Area Committee, to the relevant Scrutiny Committee or the Strategic Partnership; however it was intended to be a last resort mechanism.

Ms. Burnham added that Members' comments would be taken on board and asked that the report be submitted to the other Scrutiny Committees for comment and that a report on their views on the revised process be brought back to this Committee for consideration in February 2010.

3. RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the introduction of the selection criteria for determining the appropriateness of undertaking an investigation triggered either by the non-mandatory referral/ Councillor Call For Action route be supported/subject to the comments detailed above;
- (b) the draft proposals be referred to the six Scrutiny Committees in the January cycle of meetings for comment with any comments being referred back to this Committee thereafter, in particular on whether it is appropriate for the two existing CCfAs to be subject to this revised procedure; and
- (c) subject to the comments received from the Scrutiny Committees (along with the Area Committees and Sunderland Partnership), the revised procedure be endorsed, implemented and included in the Scrutiny Handbook.

### **Centre for Public Scrutiny Parliamentary Seminar Feedback – 1 December 2009**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) providing details of the Parliamentary Seminar held on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2009 which was attended by the Vice Chairman of the Committee and also Members with the opportunity to receive verbal feedback on the Seminar from Councillor T. Wright.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Sarah Abernathy, Trainee Scrutiny Officer, introduced the report and invited Councillor T. Wright to feedback to the Committee on the Seminar he had attended.

Councillor T. Wright reported that the Seminar had been excellent training and he recommended that anyone able to attend in the future took up the invitation as it provided valuable experience and was very informative. He thanked the Committee for allowing him to go.

In response to Councillor M. Forbes, Councillor T. Wright advised that the Select Committees worked on similar lines as the Council's Scrutiny Committees however they had the benefit of vast resources, were on a bigger scale and were not lead by calendar years in that they were not time limited and undertook a thorough investigation and this was done until it was completed.

4. RESOLVED that the content of the report and the feedback provided from the conference delegate be noted.

### **Forward Plan – Key Decisions for the Period 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2010 to 30<sup>th</sup> April, 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 period 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2010 – 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2010 which relate to the Management Scrutiny Committee.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

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

5. RESOLVED that the Forward Plan for the above period be received and noted.

### **Scrutiny Committees' Work Programmes for 2009-10**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) attaching for information, the variations to the Scrutiny Committees' Work Programmes for 2009/10 and providing an opportunity to review the Committee's own Work Programme for the remainder of this municipal year.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Sarah Abernathy, Trainee Scrutiny Officer, briefed the Committee on the report.

Ms. Charlotte Burnham, Head of Overview and Scrutiny, advised the Committee that the Annual Audit Letter scheduled for April 2010 on the Committee's own Work Programme was not scheduled for the appropriate time and that this would be changed. It was a similar situation with the Health and Safety Annual Report which

had been scheduled for the December meeting and would now be submitted to the Committee in the new municipal year.

The Chairman advised that he was looking at the arrangements for the February meeting in order to manage the briefings from the Cabinet Portfolio holders on the Council's budget proposals.

Ms. Burnham advised that the programme for the Peer Review in January had been finalised and volunteers would be meeting with the Peer Review Team.

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

The Chairman having wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, closed the meeting.

(Signed) R.D. TATE,  
Chairman.

## Management Scrutiny Committee

21<sup>st</sup> January 2010

### COMPREHENSIVE AREA ASSESSMENT (CAA) REPORTS AND PERFORMANCE UPDATE (APRIL - SEPTEMBER)

#### Report of the Chief Executive

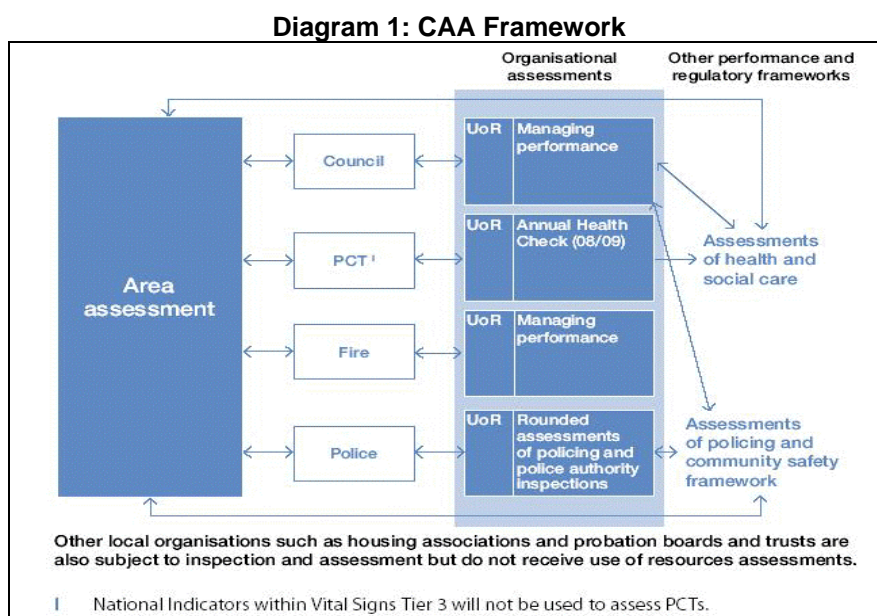
##### 1.0 Purpose of the report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Scrutiny Committee with the findings from the inaugural Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) and a performance update which includes those areas identified by the Audit Commission (AC) as being the focus of improvement during 2010.

##### 2.0 Background

2.1 CAA 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. The first results were reported on the new Oneplace website ([www.oneplace.direct.gov.uk](http://www.oneplace.direct.gov.uk)) on 9 December 2009.

2.2 CAA comprises two main elements namely, an area assessment and an organisational assessment for each of the four main public sector organisations (i.e. council, fire, health and police). This is demonstrated in the diagram below.



2.3 Members will recall that a new national performance framework was implemented during 2008/2009. This includes 198 new National Indicators which replaces previous national performance frameworks. As part of this new framework 49 national indicators have been identified as key priorities to be included in the Local Area Agreement (LAA). Performance against the priorities identified in the LAA and associated improvement targets have been reported to Scrutiny committee

throughout 2009 and are a key consideration in CAA in terms of the extent to which the partnership is improving outcomes for local people

### **3.0 AREA ASSESSMENT**

#### **3.1 Process and methodology**

The area assessment focuses on the prospects for better outcomes on local priorities and is an annual assessment of the work of the public services in the city by a range of inspectorates. It answers three key questions:

- How well do local priorities express community needs and aspirations?
- How well are the outcomes and improvements needed being delivered?
- What are the prospects for improvement?

Between April and September 2009 the CAA Lead (CAAL) assessed the work of the Sunderland Partnership (SP) as part of the inaugural CAA Area Assessment. This was achieved through a series of workshops, interviews and briefing notes and a review of evidence (e.g. key documents, performance indicators, consultation results, etc.). This was an iterative process and the CAAL shared the findings at regular intervals throughout.

#### **3.2 Findings – good practice and areas for improvement**

The area assessment is not scored and does not carry a star rating. It is a narrative report providing an overview of progress against key priorities for the area, overall successes and challenges.

Area assessments may award green or red flags. Red flags highlight those areas where there are significant concerns by the inspectorates about outcomes or future prospects, and where more or different actions are required. Green flags highlight exceptional performance or outstanding improvement in outcomes through an innovative approach, from which others nationally can learn. No red or green flags have been identified for Sunderland.

The fact that Sunderland has no red flags demonstrates that the inspectorates have no significant concerns and that the Council and its partners are clear about what needs to be done and has plans in place to secure the necessary impact on outcomes.

Although Sunderland was not awarded any green flags the report recognises the positive impact the SP is making on quality of life. For example:

- There is a good record of attracting new businesses and investment to the city and this is likely to continue helped by an Economic Masterplan.
- The Sunderland Learning Partnership is helping to improve skills in the city and clear plans are in place for it to continue to deliver improved outcomes.
- There is a good understanding of the health, social care and wellbeing needs of the population.



- Easier access to treatment is reducing some health inequalities and this is likely to continue.
- Access to primary health care at a local level is easier and care services for adults are good.
- Overall crime is lower in Sunderland than similar areas in England and Wales and continues to fall and fear of crime is reducing.
- There are positive outcomes from a range of targeted work including drug treatment programmes, a safer homes programme improving quality of life, youth engagement projects and parenting initiatives.
- Sunderland's local environment is currently ranked joint third best of the UK's 20 largest cities. Social housing and transport are good.

The report highlighted a small number of areas for improvement, which are already priorities for the city, namely:

- To reduce the number of young people in Sunderland that are not in employment, education or training (i.e. NEETs) from the current levels of one in young eight young people.
- To meet some key targets around health inequalities, which are not being met, such as reducing death rates for men to nearer the national average; reducing the teenage pregnancy rate; and smoking rates, particularly smoking during pregnancy.
- To continue to address child poverty, which is reducing faster than in other areas but remains high.
- To address the issue of affordable housing in Sunderland, through the implementation of developed plans.
- To ensure that City Region actions deliver improved actions in relation to transport and skills.
- To ensure the Alcohol Strategy delivers the planned outcomes, particularly in relation to alcohol related hospital admissions.

An overview of good practice across the Sunderland Partnership and our own analysis of where we are at in relation to these improvement areas is contained in section 5 and 6.

### **3.3 Improvement planning approach**

The Sunderland Partnership's Delivery and Improvement Board considered the draft area assessment report, and in particular those areas identified as being in need of improvement at its meeting on 11 November, as part of a wider discussion on improvement priorities for the next year. Delivery Plans are currently being refreshed to ensure that the work programme is targeting the right issues, and outcomes can be demonstrated, minimising the risk of areas for improvement becoming red flags in 2010. These Delivery Plans will be presented to Scrutiny committees in February 2010

### **3.4 2010 approach**

The CAA Lead has now shared his planned approach to undertaking the evidence gathering for area assessment in 2010, which will differ significantly to the approach

undertaken in 2009. There has been an acknowledgement within the inspectorates that the level of resources allocated to the assessment is not sustainable and so a more proportionate approach is now planned. In Sunderland (and the rest of Tyne and Wear) the CAA Lead plans to adopt an approach with two complementary elements, namely:

- A Risk Assessment Matrix
- A small number of themed probes across Tyne and Wear (the exact nature and subject of the probes have yet to be agreed).

The Risk Assessment Matrix will be the primary tool against which the Sunderland Partnership will be assessed and is designed to provide greater clarity and certainty around the final outcome of the area assessment (for example the number of green and red flags that will be awarded in the final report). The Matrix will incorporate those issues that were identified in the first year of the CAA area assessment as having the most potential to become red flags and green flags, as well as any themes that weren't considered in the first year of CAA that the CAA Lead wishes to explore in 2010 (e.g. mental health).

Once the Risk Assessment Matrix has been agreed, the CAA Lead will use it to monitor progress against the agreed performance trajectory (up until the end of September 2010) for each issue to arrive at his final area assessment judgement for 2010. Progress will be monitored through the Council and the Sunderland Partnership's performance management and reporting arrangements.

#### **4. Organisational Assessment (including Use Of Resources)**

##### **4.1 Process and methodology**

The organisational assessment covers the performance of the council and is intended to:

- Support and complement the area assessment's focus on priority outcomes
- Ensure accountability at an organisational level, including contributions to delivering LAAs and wider sub-regional or regional strategies, including multi-area agreements
- Bring together contributions from inspectors and auditors to provide a rounded assessment of organisational effectiveness
- Inform and focus improvement planning, including inspection programming
- Help the public hold their local public bodies to account

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 has scored 3 out of 4 for its organisational assessment and both of its component assessments i.e.

	<b>Score</b>	<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Score</b>
<b>Organisational assessment</b>	3	Managing performance	3
		Use of resources	3

## 4.2 Managing performance

The managing performance assessment is designed to determine:

- How well is the organisation delivering its priority services, outcomes and improvements that are important to local people?
- Does the organisation have the leadership, capacity and capability it needs to deliver future improvements?

The managing performance assessment is developed from the findings of the area assessment (particularly those outcomes that are relevant to the council) and use of resources, as well as the Care Quality Commission (CQC) Annual Performance Assessment of Adult Social care and Ofsted Annual Performance Assessment of Children's Services. This has been supplemented by a series of interviews with the Chief Executive, EMT, Leader and Resources Portfolio Holder to consider how the authority is managed and how it performs against its priorities

The overall score for managing performance is 3 out of 4. The inspectorates judged the council as follows:

- Council services are helping to improve the quality of life for people in Sunderland.
- There is positive achievement in a range of key performance indicators, including health inequalities and crime, increasing employment and education opportunities for young people and improving the environment.
- Ofsted has rated the council's children's services as performing well.
- CQC has rated the council's adult social care as excellent, because people have good access to services that enable them to live independently within their own homes for longer.
- There is a clear long-term vision for Sunderland in 2025, based on a good understanding of needs and priorities of residents.

A full list of the council's key performance information is available on the council's intranet and also in the Members Room. In addition performance in relation to those indicators specifically within Management Scrutiny committees remit is attached as ***appendix 1***

## 4.3 Use of resources

The use of resources assessment covers three themes:

- Managing finances
- Governing the business
- Managing resources

The use of resources assessment was a feature of CPA; however within CAA it has been expanded and focuses on different issues, for example there is a much stronger focus on partnerships and outcomes. The two processes (i.e. CPA and CAA) cannot therefore be compared.

The AC has assessed the council to be ‘performing well’ in its use of resources and has scored the council as 3 out of 4. The overall use of resources score is arrived at through a series of scored Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOEs). These are set out below:

Theme	Score	KLOE	Score
<b>Managing finances</b>	3	1.1 Financial planning	4
		1.2 Understanding costs & achieving efficiencies	3
		1.3 Financial reporting	3
<b>Governing the business</b>	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
<b>Managing resources</b>	2	3.1 Natural resources	2
		3.2 Strategic asset management	2
		3.3 Workforce	Not assessed

The council scored 4 out of 4 for financial planning and risk management and internal control, which means that it is classed as a national exemplar from which others can learn. Financial planning was identified as exemplary; the council manages its finances well and has shifted resources to ensure the achievement of priorities. The council is also successful at securing external sources of finance. The following examples of notable practice were cited:

- The review of adults social care provision this year has been identified as a notable practice example of how a local authority can challenge established patterns of resource use in consultation with partners. The review has led to a move away from residential provision, greater investment in preventative measures and more home based support.
- Developing the “Sunderland Model” for BSF schools has led to new schools and refurbishments being financed from DES grant rather than loans or PFI credits.
- The 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.

Risk management and internal control was identified as excellent and has been used to especially good effect on the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) project. Effective partnership governance has also enabled partners to improve outcomes and access additional sources of finance. The following examples of notable practice were cited:

- Risk management is fully integrated into all corporate processes and has been used to especially good effect on BSF delivery and formulating the medium term financial plan.
- Demonstrating effective risk management has enabled the council to reduce insurance premiums, increase insurance cover at no extra cost and extend self insurance schemes.
- Adopting the comprehensive code of practice for partnerships has enabled partnerships to improve outcomes and access additional sources of finance.

Although the council was able to demonstrate examples of best practice in relation to asset management and natural resources, the AC identified areas where the council still needed to improve, for example embedding sustainability into all of the council's activities and plans. These issues are identified in the council's use of resources improvement plan and we are already undertaking actions to secure the necessary outcomes. Progress in relation to the Use of Resources action plan will be provided to members as part of quarterly performance reporting.

## **5 Audit Commission Findings – Local Public Services**

The CAA report recognises public services performance in each of the Sunderland Partnership's priority areas as follows:

### **5.1 Prosperous City**

Sunderland has had one of the highest employment growth rates in the country. There is a good record of attracting new businesses and investment to the city. This is likely to continue, helped by an Economic Masterplan, providing a comprehensive and integrated regeneration strategy for the City, due for completion early 2010. Each year around 300 new businesses start in or move to the city, increasing the types of businesses and giving a wider range of jobs. However, Sunderland has the fifth lowest wage level of UK cities. The local response to the recession is sustaining and creating jobs. However, the recession presents a major risk to the pace of delivery of Sunderland's plans to provide more local homes.

### **5.2 Learning City**

The Sunderland Learning Partnership is helping to improve skills in the city. Clear plans are in place for it to continue to deliver improved outcomes. The shared sixth form model is an effective way of helping children and young people to take part in education and learning. Sunderland College's 'Business Solutions' helps employers by delivering training in the workplace to improve employee skills. The University works with businesses operating in the area, particularly to assist development of new business ideas. However, one in eight of young people in Sunderland are not in employment, education or training. This is well above national and local averages and a top priority for the area. Results at age 11 are now in line with the national figure and 43 per cent of young people are achieving five or more A\*C grades at GCSE including English and Maths. There are a good range of opportunities for adults to develop their literacy and numeracy skills.

### **5.3 Healthy City**

Health and deprivation in Sunderland are worse than national averages. There is, though, a good understanding of the health, social care and wellbeing needs of the population. Easier access to treatment is reducing some health inequalities and this is likely to continue. However, not all plans are completed, limiting the opportunity for partners to contribute to improvement. On average, Sunderland residents die younger than in the rest of the country. Deaths from smoking, and early deaths from

cancer, heart disease and stroke are all worse than national averages. Action to improve health has been underway for a number of years, and overall death rates in the last 10 years have reduced. However, some key targets are not being met, such as reducing death rates for men to nearer the national average; the teenage pregnancy rate; and smoking rates, particularly smoking during pregnancy. Access to primary health care at a local level is easier and care services for adults are good.

#### **5.4 Safe City**

Overall crime is lower in Sunderland than similar areas in England and Wales, continues to fall and fear of crime is reducing. There are positive outcomes from a range of targeted work including drug treatment programmes, a safer homes programme improving quality of life, youth engagement projects and parenting initiatives. Strong partnership working and good use of intelligence result in clear plans which should ensure that these improvements continue. In 2008/09 recorded crime was down three per cent from the previous year and there have been reductions in every main recorded crime activity.

#### **5.5 Attractive and Inclusive City**

Sunderland's local environment is currently ranked joint third best of the UK's 20 largest cities. Sunderland's streets and green space are well maintained. Improvement is likely to continue through plans to identify a network of green corridors to increase opportunities for sport and leisure activities and plans for a 'Legible City' to help people enjoy the City and find their way around. Social housing within the City is in a good condition. However, availability of affordable housing is a significant issue for Sunderland and reducing homelessness is a top priority for Sunderland. Transport links are good, both by public transport and by road. But the 2008 Place Survey identified a lack of cohesion across different communities.

### **6 Areas for Improvement**

- 6.1 The development of Sunderland's Local Area Agreement with Government Office North East (GONE) included a negotiated set of the national indicators which have been identified as key priorities. Performance against the priorities identified in the LAA and associated improvement targets have been reported to Scrutiny committee throughout 2009 and are a key consideration in CAA in terms of the extent to which the partnership is improving outcomes for local people. An overview of performance for the first six months of 2009/10 can be found in the following table.

NI Ref	Performance Indicator	2008/09 Outturn	Latest Update 2009/10	Trend	Target 2009/10	On target
<b>LAA theme - Prosperous and Learning City</b>						
NI 72	At least 78 points across Early Years Foundation Stage with at least 6 in each of the scales	44	53	▲	48.4	✓
NI 73	Achievement at level 4 or above in both English and Maths at Key Stage 2 (Threshold)	72	70	▼	73	✗
NI 75	Achievement of 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths	43	44.8	▲	51	✗
NI 87	Secondary school persistent absence rate	5.2	6	▼	6.4	✓
NI 92	Narrowing the gap - lowest achieving 20% the Early Yrs Foundation Stage Profile vs the rest	42	37.2	▲	36.7	✗
NI 93	Progression by 2 levels in English between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2	83	83	◀▶	87	✗
NI 94	Progression by 2 levels in Maths between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2	80	82	▲	80	✓
NI 99	Children in care reaching level 4 in English at Key Stage 2	80	42.1	▼	50	✗
NI 100	Looked after children reaching level 4 in mathematics at Key Stage 2	93	47.4	▼	55	✗
NI 101	Looked after children achieving 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent) at KS 4 (with English and Maths)	6	10	▲	20	✗
NI 117	16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)	13.2	10.7 (Nov 2009)	▼	9.5	✗
NI 163	NI 163 Proportion aged 19-64 for males and 19-59 for females qualified to at least Level 2	68.6%	65.4%	▼	66%	✗
NI 171	VAT registration rate	33.2 per 10,000 pop	n/a	▼	36.1 per 10,000 pop	n/a
NI 152	Working age people on out of work benefits	17.5%	18.8% (May 09)	▼	20.5%	✓
NI 153	Working age people claiming out of work benefits in the worst performing neighbourhoods	30.2%	30.6% (Feb 09)	▼	31.8%	✓
NI 162	Learners achieving an Entry Level 3 qualification in Numeracy	204	n/a	n/a	114	n/a
NI 161	Learners achieving a Level 1 qualification in Literacy	1661	n/a	n/a	973	n/a
NI 163	Working age population qualified to at least level 2 or higher	68.6%	65.4%	▼	66%	✗
NI 117	16-18 year olds not in employment, education or training	13.2%	10.7%(Nov 09)	▼	9.6%	✗
<b>LAA theme - Healthy City</b>						
NI 120	All – age mortality rates	579 (females) 878(males)	n/a	▼	546 (females) 748 (males)	n/a
NI 136	People supported to live independently through social services (all ages)	3124.19	2876.49	▼	3415	✗
NI 130	Social care clients receiving Self Directed support (per 100,000 population)	0.06%	7.04%	▲	8.5%	✓
NI 112	Under 18 conception rate (per 1000 females)	-6%	-7.6%	▲	-46.4	✗
NI 56	Obesity among primary school age children in year 6	21%	n/a	◀▶	22%	n/a
NI 39	Alcohol-harm related hospital admission rates	2378 per 100,000	2315.7 per 100,000	▼	2207 per 100,000	✗
NI 123	16+ current smoking rate prevalence	1100 per 100,000	282.6 per 100,000	▼	1,437 per 100,000	✗

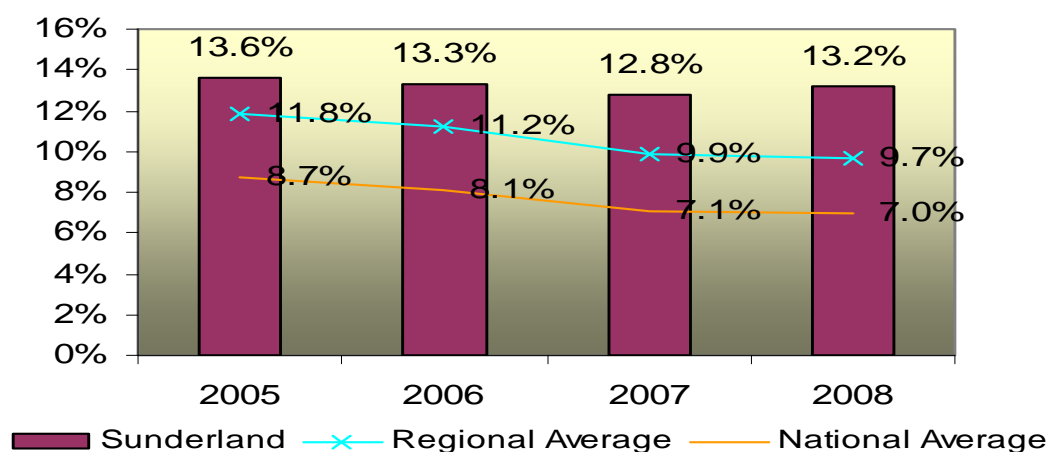
LAA theme – developing high quality places to live						
NI Ref	Performance Indicator	2008/09 Outturn	Latest Update 2009/10	Trend	Target 2009/10	On target
NI 154	Net additional homes provided	299	185	▲	90	✓
NI 159	Supply of land ready to develop housing sites	145%	n/a	▲	100%	n/a
NI 195	Improved street and environmental cleanliness					
	a) litter	4%	4%	◀▶	9%	✓
	b) detritus	5%	5%	◀▶	7%	✓
	c) graffiti	4%	4%	◀▶	3%	✗
	d) fly posting	0%	0%	◀▶	1%	✓
NI 192	Household waste Recycled and composted	25.59%	30.8%	▲	30%	✓
NI 175	Access to services and facilities by public transport, walking and cycling					
	(i) % of households within 20 minutes of closest secondary school	100%	n/a	n/a	100%	n/a
	(ii) % of households within 20 minutes of closest primary school	100%	n/a	n/a	100%	n/a
	(iii) % of households within 30 minutes of closest (A&E) hospital	88.5%	n/a	n/a	88.20%	n/a
	(iv) % of households within 20 minutes of closest GP surgery	99.7%	n/a	n/a	99.80%	n/a
	(v) % of households within 40 minutes of specific employment sites					
	(a) Doxford	86.6%	n/a	n/a	86.90%	n/a
	(b) Nissan	78.3%	n/a	n/a	70.80%	n/a
	(c) Pattinson	74.3%	n/a	n/a	83.70%	n/a
	(d) City Centre	85.8%	n/a	n/a	89.70%	n/a
NI 30	Reoffending rate of prolific and priority offenders (reduction in convictions)	1.10	16 (offences) Apr to Jun 09	◀▶	17% reduction in convictions (127 proven offences)	✓
NI 19	Rate of proven reoffending by young people	0.96	0.27 (June 09)	▲	1.1	✓
NI 20	Assault with injury crime rate (per 1000 population)	8.84	3.92 (14% reduction)	▲	-5 reduction	✓

6.2 The following issues have been identified in the first year of the CAA area assessment as having the **most** potential to become red flags.

**6.2.1 To reduce the number of young people in Sunderland that are not in employment, education or training (i.e. NEETs) from the current levels of one in eight young people**

**NI117 16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training NEET**





Year	Sunderland	LAA Target	Regional Average	Gap	National Average	Gap
2005	13.6%	n/a	11.8%	1.8%	8.7%	4.9%
2006	13.3%	n/a	11.2%	2.1%	8.1%	5.2%
2007	12.8%	n/a	9.9%	2.9%	7.1%	5.7%
2008	13.2%	10.8%	9.7%	3.5%	7.0%	6.2%
2009	10.7% (Nov 09)	9.5%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

As at end of November 2009, 10.7% of the 16-18 cohort were not in education, employment or training (NEET). The number of young people NEET in Sunderland is considerably higher than both regional (9.7%) and national (7%) averages. Performance is currently not on schedule to meet the 2009/10 target of 9.5%, however revision of working practices within Connexions Sunderland has resulted in a 2.7 percentage point reduction on same time last year.

### Improvement Activity

- Young people have access to the fullest range of learning and support. Through the Youth Offending Service the Resettlement and Aftercare Programme will engage young people into substance misuse services, the New Direction Scheme will engage long-term unemployed in training and work with custodial settings ensures employment and training programmes are in place.
- Concentrate on NEET programmes with high drop out rates/low rates of progression
- The NEET action plan is currently being refreshed as a consequence of the recent Turning the Curve event and embedded into the 14-19 Strategy and the LAA delivery plan to ensure a consistent approach across the relevant partnership groups.
- Implement multi agency packages to support 'at risk' young people.
- Improve transition from pre to post 16 provision.
- Implement full data sharing/tracking system for all partners.
- Develop Intermediate Labour Market Programme
- Identify skill shortages/gaps in provision.

- Implement a 'clearing house' system where providers get together to coordinate placements for those young people currently NEET
- Develop personalised programmes
- Increase take up of apprenticeships with partners

**6.2.2 To meet some key targets around health inequalities, which are not being met, such as reducing death rates for men to nearer the national average; reducing the teenage pregnancy rate; and smoking rates, particularly smoking during pregnancy**

The Health Inequalities National Support Team (HINST) have been tasked to focus a range of support activity on a smaller number of Spearhead communities who were together responsible for a disproportionate percentage of the gap between the Spearhead group as a whole, and the national average. A group of 13 communities, of which Sunderland is one, has now been arrived at, subsequently known as the 'Baker's Dozen', which together make up nearly 40% of the mortality gaps, for men and for women. It should be stressed that the selection has been made purely on the basis of size of contribution to the national gap, and is not a statement of 'poor performance' in any way. At the centre of the Enhanced Support Programme to these communities will be a Priority Action List which will drive forward the Enhanced Support Programme based upon it will take a number of forms:

- **A Stocktake process** will be developed, which will be used to carry out a risk assessment, initially for the Baker's Dozen, of where they stand in relation to each of the Priority Actions.
- **Masterclasses.** From the Priority Action List, a range of common 'barrier' issues have been established. These will involve activities where many Communities are struggling to make progress, but where there are examples of good and successful solutions. For each of these areas of work HINST, in conjunction with other National Support Teams and Policy colleagues will pull together a Masterclass. A small team from each of the Baker's Dozen has been invited to each of these events, which will allow detailed and informal dialogue with those who have been practically involved in successful delivery.
- **Toolkits.** From the Priority Action List, a range of topics have been identified where a toolkit would potentially enable Spearhead communities to move forward further, faster. Some of these exist already, and will be 'kite-marked' as suitable. Others will be rapidly drawn together, and piloted initially with the Baker's Dozen.
- **Handbook.** The Priority Action List will be used as a framework on which to hang examples of illustrative good practice, where this already exists.
- **Dissemination Events.** Although focus of direct support will be the Baker's Dozen, the products of the Enhanced Support Programme will be disseminated to all Spearheads. A series of 5 dissemination events will be set up across the country in the New Year, with representative teams invited from all Spearhead communities. These will provide exposure and training in relation to:
  - The Stock take process
  - The products of Masterclasses
  - The range of toolkits
  - The illustrative handbook

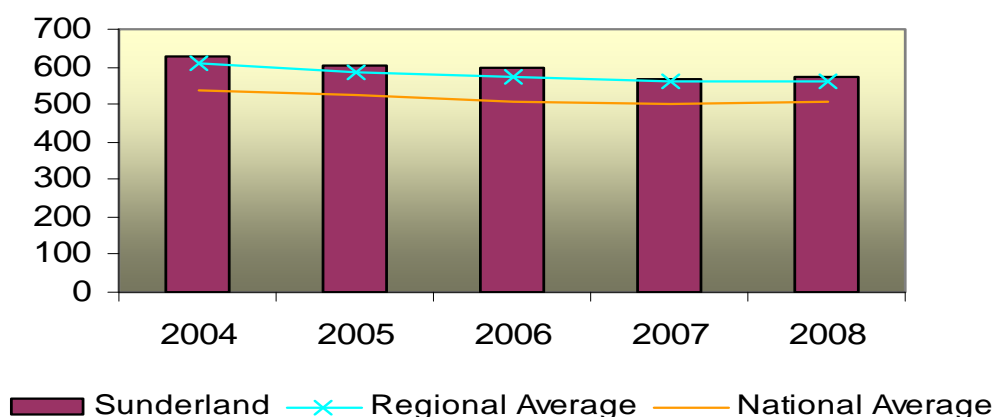
- **Tailored Support:** HINST will arrange a series of formalised visits to each of the Baker's Dozen to fit with the cycle of development planning for 2010/11. This will provide an opportunity to discuss the Stocktake findings, and consider what components of an enhanced support programme would be appropriate in order to address any gaps in delivery.

In addition to national support the members of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee are also undertaking a Policy Review during 2009/10 around tackling health inequalities with particular focus on the variances between wards in Sunderland. Ongoing progress reports are provided to Scrutiny Committee and the recommendations arising from the review will support improvement at a local level and embed national good practice in communities.

A consultation exercise has also been undertaken with the Council citizen panel, Community Spirit to establish members views on a range of health issues including; how informed they feel in relation to availability of health related services, what hinders them in terms of eating healthily, being physically active, drinking in moderation and giving up smoking and what would encourage them to increase health related activity and get more involved in shaping and developing health related services in their local area. An action plan is currently being developed that will also inform the Scrutiny Committee Policy Review.

In relation to health outcomes progress in relation to key performance targets is as follows:

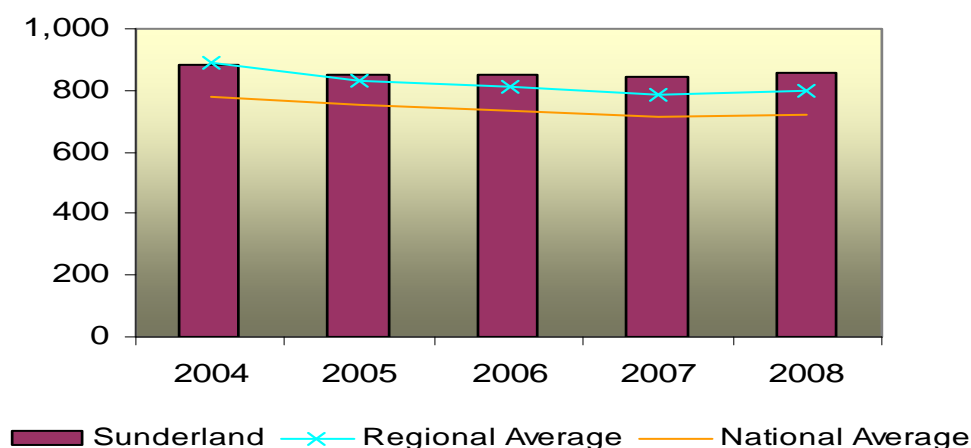
#### NI120a All-age all cause mortality rate (females) per 100,000 population



Year	Sunderland	LAA Target	Regional Average	Gap	National Average	Gap
2004	626	n/a	610	16	539	87
2005	605	n/a	588	17	524	81
2006	598	n/a	575	23	508	90
2007	566	n/a	561	5	500	66
2008	573	562	563	10	509	64
2009	n/a	546	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

As at end of 2008, the mortality rate for females was 573 per 100,000 population considerably higher than both regional (563) and national (509) averages. Performance is currently not on schedule to meet the 2009/10 target of 546 per 100,000, however the gap between Sunderland and the national rate is reducing.

### NI120b All-age all cause mortality rate (males) per 100,000 population



Year	Sunderland	LAA Target	Regional Average	Gap	National Average	Gap
2004	885	n/a	888	-3	778	107
2005	850	n/a	832	18	756	94
2006	853	n/a	809	44	736	117
2007	842	n/a	786	56	713	129
2008	858	777	798	60	722	136
2009	n/a	748	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

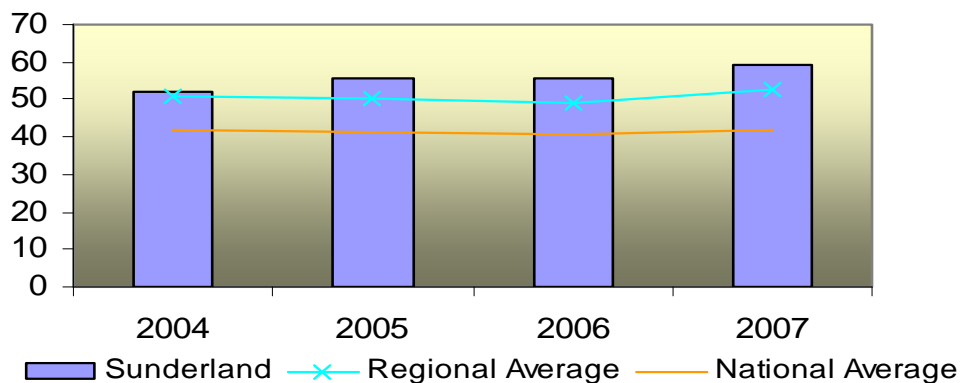
As at end of 2008, the mortality rate for males was 858 per 100,000 population considerably higher than both regional (798) and national (722) averages. Performance is currently not on schedule to meet the 2009/10 target of 748 per 100,000, and the gap between Sunderland and the national rate is increasing.

### Improvement Activity

Progress has been made in commissioning of a comprehensive range of services to increase the life expectancy across Sunderland. These include a vascular checks programme ahead of the national programme (74% of Sunderland GP Practices signed up to the delivery of vascular checks for patients in their practices), stop smoking services, weight management services and alcohol services. Good progress has been made in 2008/2009. The challenge has been the scale and number of services requiring new commissioning arrangements e.g. 45 contracts for weight management services. In addition comprehensive qualitative research has been carried out with local people to understand what they want from the vascular checks service and how they want it delivered. This included focus groups with men and members of the BME community who are least likely to access GP services. A pilot is being set up with Sunderland City Council Occupational Health Department to offer vascular checks to staff commencing in 2009. A comprehensive

pathway for weight management has also been developed with substantial investment. This includes community level interventions up to bariatric surgery.

### NI112 Under 18 conception rate per 1000 females



Year	Sunderland	LAA target	Regional Average	Gap	National Average	Gap
2004	51.9	n/a	50.8	1.1	41.6	10.3
2005	55.9	n/a	50.0	5.9	41.3	14.6
2006	55.5	n/a	48.8	6.7	40.6	14.9
2007	59.3	n/a	52.9	6.4	41.7	17.6
2008	n/a	38.81	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

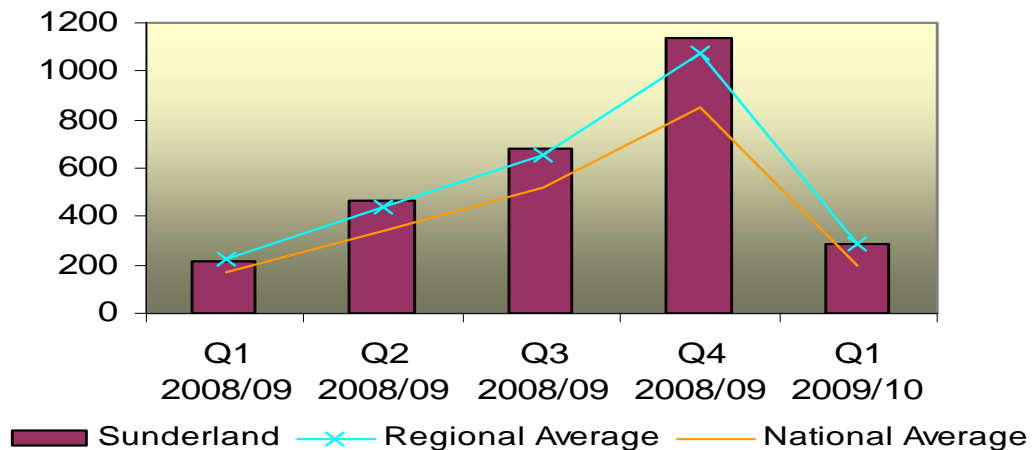
Under 18 conception data is released quarterly and the latest data available is based on a rolling 12 month period to June 2008. Over the previous 12 months the rate has continued to decrease. At the end of 2007, the rate in Sunderland was 59.3 per 1000 females, decreasing to 54.5 for the latest 12 months to June 2008. March and June 2008 quarterly figures are the lowest since 2006. Although Sunderland remains above both north east and national averages, the rate of improvement is stronger in Sunderland over the last 12 months, reducing from 59.3 to 54.5, compared to 41.8 to 41.4 nationally and 53 to 50.6 in the north east. The actual numbers of under 18 conceptions for the latest 12 months are 303 (July 07 to June 08) compared to 321 for July 06 to June 07. The LAA indicator is based on the rate of reduction from the 1998 baseline; in Sunderland the rate has reduced by 13.6% since 1998 compared to 11.2% nationally (at June 2008), although this is considerably short of the challenging LAA target of 46% reduction by 2010.

## Improvement activity

In addition to a minimum core offer available to all children, young people and families in the strategy delivered within each locality area there will be specific targeted support in relation to both geographic communities and specific groups of children young people and their families including:

- those from marginalised and disadvantaged communities including some black and minority ethnic groups
- those who have ever been looked after by the local authority, fostered or homeless or have moved frequently (LAC and care leavers)
- those with low educational achievement
- those who disengage with education
- those not in education employment or training
- those from disadvantaged areas
- those with emotional and mental health needs
- targeting of teenage pregnancy “hotspot” wards

## NI123 Smoking quitters per 100,000 population



Year	Sunderland	LAA target	Regional Average	Gap	National Average	Gap
Q1 2008/09	217	n/a	223	-6	167	50
Q2 2008/09	466	n/a	435	31	340	126
Q3 2008/09	685	n/a	652	33	521	164
Q4 2008/09	1134	1337	1077	57	853	281
Q1 2009/10	283	1437	284	-1	201	82

As at end of June 2009, the rate of smoking quitters per 100,000 population was 283 improving from 217 in relation to the same period 2008/09. Rates are considerably higher than the national averages which is 201 per 100,000 population and in line with the regional average of 284. Although performance is improving it is currently not on schedule to meet the challenging target of 1437 for 2009/10.

## **Improvement activity**

The TPCT has increased level of investment into Stop Smoking Services also increasing the number of intermediate advisers across Sunderland who can deliver NHS Stop Smoking Services. The local tobacco alliance has re-formed and is identifying how partners can contribute to the number of quitters e.g. Wellness, University, Back on the Map. A major marketing and media campaign was launched in November 2008 and third sector organisations are being commissioned to deliver brief intervention training. An approach is currently being developed in relation to embedding stop smoking services and initiatives into area level arrangements. In addition trading standards are very proactive with regard to illicit regulatory activity

### **6.2.3 To continue to address child poverty, which is reducing faster than in other areas but remains high**

In relation to child poverty 51% of children live in low income families compared to 44% in the North East and 42% nationally. Out of a total of 25,074 households with children:

- 36% live in relative poverty (below 60% of median income before housing costs) and of these 60% are lone parent families,
- 19% live in absolute poverty (income less than £867 per month) and of these 70% are lone parent families

## **Improvement activity**

There are four key objectives linked to improving outcomes to reduce child poverty in Sunderland which focus on:

- A. Targeting education, health and family support services
  - reducing the attainment gap
  - targeting child and family service to families most in need
  - improving parenting and life skills across the city
  - reducing health inequalities
  - reducing teenage conceptions
  
- B. Removing the barriers to employment and increasing the numbers in work
  - Identifying the particular needs of lone parents to offer additional support
  - Putting in place a targeted approach to reduce the number of young people not in education employment or training (NEET)
  - Engaging the hardest to reach young people
  - Increasing the number of jobs in the public sector / key partners targeting families in poverty
  
- C. Improving financial inclusion in the city and maximise family income
  - Developing a Financial Inclusion Strategy for the city
  - Maximising the take up of benefits
  - Increasing the take up of free school meals
  - Improving debt management skills

- Supporting the newly unemployed
  - Support the development of credit unions
- D. Raising aspirations and tackling poverty of place in order to break the cycle of poverty
- Raising awareness and actively engaging communities in child poverty through social marketing
  - Improving community capacity in targeted communities
  - Improving the environment in our most deprived areas

A Child Poverty Strategy has been developed to establish these objectives and an action plan is being developed to establish key milestones and accountability

#### **6.2.4 To address the issue of affordable housing in Sunderland, through the implementation of developed plans**

##### **NI 154 Net additional homes provided**

The number of net additional homes provided is as follows:

	<b>2007/08</b>	<b>2008/09</b>	<b>2009/10</b>
Net additional homes	186	299	185 (April to Sept)
Target	n/a	260	90

The LAA target has been met and performance has exceeded the 2009/10 target at the six month stage of the year.

##### **NI 155 Affordable homes**

The number of affordable homes built in the city is as follows:

- 2004/05 120
- 2005/06 90
- 2006/07 210
- 2007/08 70

In relation to 2007/08 benchmarks the:

- Average = 110 homes built
- Highest 25% performing partnerships = 222 homes built
- Lowest 25% performing partnerships = 50 homes built



## Improvement activity

In line with the Government's Housing Pledge, (which aims to assist developers develop), we have increased activities to ensure that funding from the Government's housing pledge is secured for developments in Sunderland, and that affordable housing is developed in the City. So far we have:

- Increased liaison with Housing Associations, regards the housing that are wished to develop,
- Increased dialogue with the HCA, and outlined what our housing priorities are via a strategic process,
- Stepped up the development of the affordable housing policy, which we hope to have drafted by March 2010.
- Considered options for the development of a Local Housing Company, which will facilitate the development of much affordable housing.

Current developments include:

- Gentoo bid to the Homes and Communities Agency for kick start funding was successful. This will result in the erection of 422 dwellings across 5 schemes: Racecourse Estate Houghton, Southwick Phase 4, Doxford Park 3a &3b, Castletown and Chilton Moor). All sites have already been cleared. The schemes must be on site by March 2010 and completed by March 2011.
- Extra Care Housing development at the Racecourse Estate in Houghton will be developed in partnership with Gentoo and includes extra care accommodation providing 47 two bedroom mixed tenure properties (40 apartments and 7 bungalows), for independent living with access to tailored care and support if required, and communal facilities.
- Implementation of the Easington Lane Development Framework
- Extra Care Housing development at Silksworth developed in partnership with Housing 21 providing 40 two bedroom mixed tenure apartments for independent living, with access to tailored care and support, if required.
- Extra Care Housing development at Columbia, Washington, providing 39 two bedroom mixed tenure apartments for independent living
- Developed in partnership with Housing 21, Extra Care Housing development at Hetton, providing 48 two bedroom mixed tenure apartments for independent living
- Central area developments include:
  - Stadium Village Masterplan
  - St Peters Riverside Masterplan
  - Farringdon Row Interim Masterplan
  - Holmeside Triangle

To supplement current activity in terms of building affordable homes the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee is undertaking a Policy Review to investigate current practices and policies across the city in relation to the way in which people access housing in Sunderland and suggest ways in which improvements could be made. The key driver for the review is looking at how people access the housing that we already have, focussing mainly on social

housing, and ensuring that access to it is as clear and equitable as it can be so that the best outcomes for customers are achieved. The key terms of reference are:

- To provide a national and local context to the availability of housing in the City;
- To consider the current ways by which people access social housing in the City;
- To identify and highlight the issues relating to how people access housing in the City;
- To look at what services are available to support people to access housing;
- To investigate how the Council and its partners work together;
- To look at the potential impact of Choice Based Lettings on how people access housing;
- To ensure that a single route in to housing is attained so that improved customer outcomes are achieved;
- To consider examples of best practice and innovative provision from local authorities and other key stakeholders across the country in relation to access to housing.

Progress will be reported to Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee throughout the course of the review and Policy Review recommendations will strengthen shorter term support mechanisms to improve access to housing.

#### **6.2.6 To ensure that City Region actions deliver improved actions in relation to transport and skills.**

An Economic Review of the Tyne and Wear City Region is currently underway, due for completion in June 2010, and will provide the evidence base for the development of a City Region Strategy. The on-going evaluation of the Multi Area Agreement will inform discussions on how to deliver the strategy.

The Tyne and Wear employer led Employment and Skills Board (ESB) has commissioned the preparation of an Employment and Skills Action Plan, which will align with the City Region Economic Review.

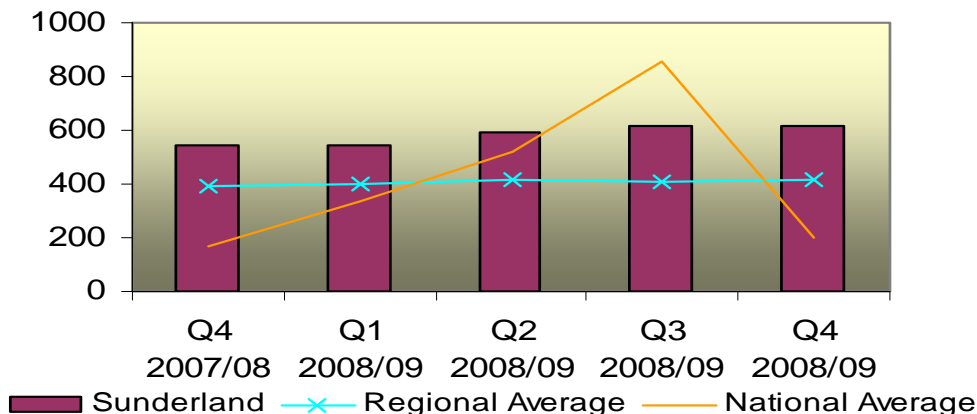
The City Region is preparing the ESB to be assessed by UKCES in June 2010 to become a statutory ESB with Section 4 powers.

Discussions on proposals for City Region transport governance are reaching conclusion and will be discussed by the City Region Executive Board on 22 January 2010.

Under 'Delivering a Sustainable Transport System' (DaSTS: DfT, November 2008) a study brief has been prepared - Tyne and Wear City Region: Connectivity and Accessibility - and will be assessed by DfT in early 2010.

**6.2.7 To ensure the Alcohol Strategy delivers the planned outcomes, particularly in relation to alcohol related hospital admissions**

**NI39 Hospital admissions for alcohol related harm per 100,000 population**



Year	Sunderland	LAA target	Regional Average	Gap	National Average	Gap
Q4 2007/08	545	533	545	0	394	151
Q1 2008/09	544	533	557	13	403	141
Q2 2008/09	596	533	576	20	413	183
Q3 2008/09	616	533	568	48	408	208
Q4 2008/09	618	551.75	580	38	416	202

In relation to quarter 4 2008/2009, the rate of alcohol admissions per 100,000 population was 618 increasing considerably from 545 in relation to the same period 2007/08 due to increased investment in alcohol treatment services. Rates are considerably higher than both regional (580) and national (416) averages

**Improvement activity**

Increased investment has resulted in expansion (currently underway) at all tiers of the treatment system (both specialist and non-specialist). Implementation of the Cardiff Model is underway following the regional conference in September (supporting the reduction of alcohol-related violence). Alcohol hospital liaison project to be enhanced via the provision of specialist nurse and further Brief Intervention workers within the hospital.

Implementation of Local and Directed Enhanced Services for GPs currently underway which is provision of brief interventions and further specialised treatment), though delayed for further consultation with clinicians and potential alignment with others. New alcohol services that are being commissioned include: Enhancement of Tier 1 and 2 provision. Widen the scope of delivery of screening and brief interventions to ensure that interventions can be offered to 20% of the estimated Hazardous drinking population annually (approx. 4930) Enhancement of Tier 3 and 4 provision. Expand tier 3 services to provide treatment for 20% of the estimated Harmful drinking population annually (approx. 1242)

Expansion of tier 3 and 4 services to provide treatment for 205 of the estimated Moderate and Severe Dependent Drinking populations annually (approx. 150)  
Reduction of alcohol use in young people

Total Place is a new initiative that looks at how a 'whole area' approach to public services can lead to better services at less cost. It seeks to identify and avoid overlap and duplication between organisations – delivering a step change in both service improvement and efficiency at the local level, as well as across Whitehall. There are 13 pilot areas participating in the scheme, each area ensuring a diverse mix of economic, geographical and demographic profiles. The South of Tyne area, comprising Sunderland, Gateshead and South Tyneside local authority areas, is one of two pilots in the North East region, the other being Durham.

As a starting point all pilots have conducted a "Total Count" of the area covered in their pilot. This process mapped the central and local public sector spending, identifying where and on what services the money was being spent. The outcome of the exercise was submitted to government in September and reported to Cabinet in December 2009.

Following a series of workshop events partners agreed that the work to consider potential service improvements should focus on alcohol and drug misuse related service provision. It was generally agreed that alcohol and drug related problems are a key issue for local communities and that most partners were involved in activities to reduce the scale of the problem. Over the past two months partners have worked together to identify the key challenges and opportunities for improvement. Following this work partners have agreed to work up proposals that will improve the effectiveness of how we:

- Implement the Integrated Offender Management Service
- Respond in areas where there are disproportionately high levels of alcohol related crime and anti social behaviour
- Use social marketing activities to encourage people to take a more informed approach to alcohol consumption
- Work more effectively across partnership and local authority boundaries.

The proposals will be worked up over the next month so that a clear way forward can be submitted to government in the New Year.

## **7 Recommendation**

- 7.1 That the committee gives advice and consideration on the continued good progress made by the council and the Sunderland Partnership, as described in the CAA reports, and those areas requiring further development to ensure that performance is actively managed.

## **8 Background papers**

Area assessment report – Sunderland  
Organisational assessment report – Sunderland City Council  
Use of resources report – Sunderland City Council

Management Scrutiny Committee							
Ref	Description	2008/2009 Outturn	Latest Update	Trend	2009/2010 Target	On Target	Comments
<b>Corporate Improvement Objectives</b>							
<b>Delivering customer focused services</b>							
<b>National Indicators</b>							
NI 14	Avoidable contact: the proportion of customer contact that is of low/no value to the customer	26.6%	annual collection	n/a	baseline year	n/a	
<b>Efficient and Effective Council</b>							
<b>National Indicators</b>							
NI 179	Value for money- total net value of on-going cash-releasing gains since start of 2008-9	£13,196,050	annual collection	n/a	£21,171,018 forecast	n/a	
<b>Local Indicators</b>							
BVPI 2a	The level (if any) of the Equality Standard for Local Government to which the authority conforms.	Level 3	Level 3	◀▶	Level 3	✓	
BVPI 8	The percentage of undisputed invoices paid on time	97.19%	96.95%	▼	97.20%	✓	
BVPI 9	Percentage of Council Tax collected by the Authority in the year.	96.54%	54.28%	▲	97%	✓	
BVPI 10	The percentage of non-domestic rates due for the financial year which were received by the authority.	98.7%	59.14%	▲	99.55%	✓	
BVPI 11a	The percentage of top 5% of earners that are women.	39.41%	41.71%	▲	42.50%	✗	
BVPI 11b	The percentage of top 5% of earners from black and minority ethnic communities.	1.6%	2.40%	▲	1.90%	✓	
BVPI 11c	% of the top paid 5% of staff who have a disability. (excluding those in maintained schools.)	1.87%	2.01%	▲	3%	✗	
BVPI 12	The number of working days/shifts lost due to sickness absence.	11.31	5.22	▲	10.2	✗	
BVPI 14	The percentage of employees retiring early (excluding ill-health retirements) as a percentage of the total work force.	0.49%	0.32%	▼	0.10%	✗	
BVPI 15	The percentage of employees retiring on grounds of ill health as a percentage of the total workforce.	0.18%	0.06%	▲	0.14%	✓	
BVPI 16a	The percentage of local authority employees declaring that they meet the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 disability definition	2.46%	2.31%	▲	3.20%	✓	
BVPI 17a	The percentage of local authority employees from minority ethnic communities.	1.16%	1.24%	▼	1.80%	✓	
<b>Improving partnership working to deliver one city</b>							
<b>National Indicators</b>							
NI 5	Overall/general satisfaction with local area	76.8	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
<b>Creating Inclusive Communities</b>							
<b>We will address the barriers to creating active citizenship and increase the number of people formally volunteering to five percentage points above the national average by 2025</b>							
<b>National Indicators</b>							
NI 7	Environment for a thriving third sector	13.7	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
<b>Prosperous City</b>							
<b>By 2021 we aim to provide 15000 new homes in the right place at the right price that people can afford through an affordable housing policy enabling everyone to access the housing market</b>							
<b>National Indicators</b>							
NI 180	The number of changes of circumstances affecting HB/CTB entitlement processed within the year	713.4	1201.2	▲	945.2	✓	
NI 181	Time taken to process Housing Benefit/Council Tax Benefit new claims and change events	6.5	8.52	▼	10	✓	performance is on schedule to meet the 2009/10 target
<b>Local Indicators</b>							
BVPI 76b	Number of fraud investigators	0.25	0.24	◀▶	0.24	✓	
BVPI 76c	Number of fraud investigations	22.15	17.65	▲	32.5	✓	
BVPI 76d	Number prosecutions & sanctions	4.43	3.09	▲	4.43	✓	
BVPI 78a	Average time for new claims	18.31	20.29	▼	20.5	✓	
BVPI 78b	Average time for changes	6.06	6.64	▼	8.5	✓	
BVPI 79a	Accuracy of processing Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit claims	99.8	99.6	▼	99.8	✓	performance is on schedule to meet the 2009/10 target
BVPI 79b(i)	Percentage of recoverable overpayments recovered (deemed recoverable) (HB)	99.78%	84%	▼	90%	✓	
BVPI 79b(ii)	Percentage of recoverable overpayments recovered (debt outstanding) (HB)	44.92%	28.70%	▲	40%	✓	
BVPI 79b(iii)	Percentage of recoverable overpayments recovered (overpayment debt) (HB)	6.14%	2.33%	▲	6%	✓	

**STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: ALL  
CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES: ALL**

**1.0 WHY HAS THIS REPORT COME TO COMMITTEE**

- 1.1 To apprise Committee of the key issues identified by the self-assessments undertaken in respect of services of relevance to the committee.

**2.0 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 At its meeting in December 2009 Committee received a report outlining the details of the Strategic Planning Process 2010/2011 and the role of all Scrutiny Committees in the Process.

**3.0 SELF ASSESSMENTS**

- 3.1 As the first stage of the Strategic Planning Process 2010/2011, all Heads of Service have undertaken a self assessment of their service to determine the key issues affecting service improvement and the issues for service redesign.
- 3.2 Details of the key issues arising from the self assessments of relevance to the Committee will be reported to the meeting.

**4.0 CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 The new approach in respect of the council's improvement planning process will be adopted for the 2010/2011 Strategic Planning Process, with the view to its refinement and adaptation in due course.

**5.0 RECOMMENDATION**

- 5.1 Committee is recommended to note the key issues identified by the self-assessments undertaken in respect of services of relevance to the committee and give additional consideration to the matter.

**REFERENCE FROM CABINET – 13<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2010**

**REVENUE BUDGET 2010/2011**

**Report of the Chief Solicitor**

**1. Why has this report come to the Committee?**

- 1.1 To set out for advice and consideration of this Committee a report considered by Cabinet on the 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2010 on the provisional budget proposals, as the basis for consultation, prior to the receipt of the final Local Government Finance Settlement.
- 1.2 Members' views are requested in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules.

**2. Background and Current Position**

- 2.1 The Cabinet, at its meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2010, gave consideration to a joint report of the Chief Executive and Director of Financial Resources on the Revenue Budget for 2010/2011 (Appendix A).
- 2.2 The report contains a number of issues for Cabinet to consider and approve and it is passed to this Committee in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules.
- 2.3 Attached, for information to assist this Committee in providing advice and consideration to Cabinet on the provisional budget proposals are the following reports:
  - Calculation of the Council Tax Base in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (Appendix B) as reported to Cabinet on 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2010; and
  - Provisional Revenue Support Grant Settlement for 2010/2011 (Appendix C) as reported to Cabinet on 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2010.
- 2.4 Copies of 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2010 Cabinet agenda have been circulated to all Members of the Council. The decisions and recommendations of the Cabinet will be reported orally to the Scrutiny Committee.

### **3. Conclusion**

- 3.1 The report is referred to this Committee for advice and consideration. The comments of this Committee will be reported to the Council meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2010.

### **4. Recommendation**

- 4.1 The Scrutiny Committee is invited to give advice and consideration on the attached joint report of the Chief Executive and the Director of Financial Resources.

### **5. Background Papers**

- 5.1 Cabinet Agenda, 13<sup>th</sup> January, 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/committees/CMISWebPublic/Meeting.aspx?meetingID=1602>

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<p><b>CABINET MEETING – 13<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2010</b></p> <p><b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I</b></p>	
<p><b>Title of Report:</b> Revenue Budget 2010/2011</p>	
<p><b>Author(s):</b> Chief Executive and Director of Financial Resources</p>	
<p><b>Purpose of Report:</b> To report the provisional budget proposals for 2010/2011, as a basis for the continuation of budget consultation, prior to the receipt of the final Local Government Finance Settlement 2010/2011.</p>	
<p><b>Description of Decision:</b> Cabinet is requested to approve the provisional budget proposals, as a basis for the continuation of budget consultation, prior to the receipt of the final Local Government Finance Settlement 2010/2011.</p>	
<p><b>Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework?</b> Yes – it is seeking to inform a future decision to change the Budget and Policy Framework for 2010/2011.</p>	
<p><b>If not, Council approval is required to change the Budget/Policy Framework</b></p>	
<p><b>Suggested reason(s) for Decision:</b> To enable constitutional requirements relating to the development of the Revenue Budget to be met.</p>	
<p><b>Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected:</b> There are no alternative options recommended for approval.</p>	
<p><b>Is this a “Key Decision” as defined in the Constitution?</b> No</p> <p><b>Is it included in the Forward Plan?</b> No</p>	<p><b>Relevant Scrutiny Committee:</b> Management</p>

**REVENUE BUDGET 2010/2011****Report of the Chief Executive and Director of Financial Resources****1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 Following the receipt of the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2009, attention has been given to the impact of the settlement on the Budget Planning Framework for 2010/2011 established and approved by Cabinet at its October 2009 meeting.
- 1.2 This report sets out the provisional budget proposals for 2010/2011, as a basis for the continuation of budget consultation, prior to the receipt of the final Local Government Finance Settlement 2010/2011.

**2. Description of Decision**

- 2.1 Members are requested to approve the provisional budget proposals, as a basis for the continuation of budget consultation, prior to the receipt of the final Local Government Finance Settlement 2010/2011.

**3. Impact of the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement on the Budget Planning Framework for 2010/2011**

- 3.1 The outcome of the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement for 2010/2011 was announced on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2009 and is the subject of a separate report on this Cabinet agenda. The provisional settlement for 2010/2011 is the final year of the three year settlement announced in December 2007.

A brief summary of the main features of the settlement is set out below:

**General Formula Grant System**

- 3.2 The Provisional 2010/2011 Settlement continues to be based on the four block system for the allocation of general formula grant, comprising:
  - Relative Needs Block - designed to measure the relative resource needs of each local authority
  - Relative Resource Amount - to take account of the relative resources available to each local authority through council tax - this is a negative amount within the formula
  - Central Allocation - a fixed amount per head of population
  - Floor Damping Block - this block ensures that all Authorities receive a minimum grant increase in line with the Government's proposals by type of Authority. Different increases for each type of Authority have

been announced in the settlement. The table below sets out the level of the floor for each type of local authority:

	<b>2010/2011</b>
Education and Social Services Authorities	1.5%
District Councils	0.5%
Police Authorities	2.5%
Fire Authorities	0.5%

Whilst it is difficult to argue against the use of floor increases, particularly as the Council has benefited from this measure in the past, it would be fairer and more beneficial to the Council if government funded the floor element in future settlements so that each authority receives the full benefit from grant formula allocations. The effect of scaling back the Council's settlement is a reduction in grant of £1.344 million in 2010/2011.

### **Provisional Settlement for 2010/2011**

- 3.3 The provisional settlement for 2010/2011 of £157.462 million remains unchanged from the indicative figures announced in late January 2009 and is welcomed. It is hoped and expected that the settlement will remain unchanged once it is approved by Parliament.
- 3.4 The Council's grant increase of 1.84%, although below the national average increase of 2.65%, is still above the minimum (floor) increases for Education and Social Services Authorities, of 1.5%.

### **Formula Review**

- 3.5 The government has not made any changes to the formula grant system, consequently the Authority's formula grant increase for 2010/2011 has not been affected by the settlement and the increase set out in the consultation paper, remains unchanged at 1.84%. However, the Council expressed concerns in December 2007 when the original three year settlement was announced about the use of the population figures released by the Office for National Statistics. Following representations from this and other Councils, the Minister subsequently commissioned a national review of the methodology used to determine the population figures and the results of the review are now being consulted upon to inform the inclusion of population figures in future Comprehensive Spending Reviews. The initial proposals, would, if adopted, benefit the Council. It is proposed that representations be made to give general support to the government's proposals.

### **Dedicated Schools Grant Position**

- 3.6 Schools funding is separate from the General Formula Grant system and is instead funded through the ring fenced Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). However, Non Schools Education Services (Local Authority

central education functions) are still financed through the General Formula Grant system.

- 3.6.1 The headline national increases announced as part of the 3 year settlement were for 2010/2011:

	<b>2010/2011</b>
DSG	4.3%
Per Pupil Increase	4.3%

- 3.6.2 To protect Authorities with sharply falling school rolls a minimum cash increase in DSG of 2.0% was established. The DSG for Sunderland is forecast to increase in cash terms by 2.0% in 2010/2011, although the precise increases will be determined by the final pupil numbers submitted to the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) in February. The DSG cash increases locally reflect the falling school rolls experienced in Sunderland Schools. The per pupil increases are, however, much nearer to the national average increases, with a per pupil increase for 2010/2011 of 4.2%.

- 3.6.3 The strong focus on personalising teaching and learning to meet the needs of every child continues over the three year period, with £912 million in 2010/2011 earmarked within the DSG. This additional funding is to support the universal roll out of a personalised offer to all pupils – including those with special educational needs. To complement this increased funding through DSG, the DCSF are continuing to roll out specific grant funding of £315 million in 2010/2011, to help improve the rate at which children progress, ensuring all children can meet their potential, and those who are behind expectations, or are falling behind, get back on track.

- 3.6.4 The increased funding for progression will continue to be delivered through the Standards Fund for next year, as will increases in funding to extend the entitlement to free nursery education from 12.5 to 15 hours.

- 3.6.5 In addition, the government has prescribed a Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) at school level based on a percentage uplift per pupil. The MFG reflects the average cost pressures and an assumed efficiency gain of 1.0%. The MFG for all schools was set at 2.1% for all 3 years of the 3 year settlement period.

The application of the MFG of 2.1% has also been applied to the majority of School Based Grants.

- 3.6.6 The level of funding to be received from the Skills Funding Agency (previously the Learning and Skills Council) in 2010/2011 is awaited. At this stage it has been assumed that the level of funding will be at 2009/2010 levels.

3.6.7 The table below details the potential call on the total indicative funding available:

	£m
<b>Total Indicative Funding Available</b>	<b>175.521</b>
MFG Requirement (2.1%)	159.818
Rates	2.338
Needs Led Formula Requirement	1.719
<b>Total ISB Budget</b>	<b>163.875</b>
School Contingency	0.644
School Block - Other Expenditure	10.370
Total Indicative Call on Funding	174.889
Indicative Available Headroom	0.632
<b>Total Indicative Funding Available</b>	<b>175.521</b>

3.6.8 The Schools Forum will consider the allocation of the indicative Dedicated Schools Grant at its January 2010 meeting. The outcome of that consideration will be reported to Cabinet in February 2010.

### **Specific and Special Grants**

3.7 Notwithstanding the flexibilities that the Council enjoys as a top rated Council, specific and special grants continue to be allocated for specific purposes, with the final determination for use to be agreed as part of the overall budget by Cabinet, or otherwise where Cabinet deems appropriate, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Portfolio holder.

3.7.1 Specific and special grants included within the AEF will increase by 4.7% for 2010/2011 as compared to the 2009/2010 adjusted figures. Grants were expected to increase in overall terms by 5.2% in January 2009 but these have decreased mainly because of changes to grant funding particularly in Education and Children's services in respect of reduced DSG, due to the inclusion of revised pupil numbers, and various other grant changes announced by the government.

3.7.2 The government has announced a consultation paper in respect of a new initiative to provide free personal care at home to people with high personal needs. The scheme is expected to come into force on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2010 and will cost an estimated £670m in a full year. The government is proposing that they will route funding for this through the Area Based Grant (the grant amounts to £210m in the first year 2010/2011 and £420m for a full year). The remainder is to be funded by local government efficiencies (amounting to £125m in 2010/2011 and

£250m in each full year thereafter). The consultation formally ends on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2010 and comments are required preferably by 26<sup>th</sup> January 2010 to the Department of Health.

The Council welcomes the initiative to help fund free personal care for those with high personal needs and will respond fully to the consultation paper issued in due course. However, the Council would have preferred it if the government was to meet the full costs of this initiative, rather than leaving just over a third of the costs to be met by further Council efficiencies.

### **Area Based Grant**

3.8 There are a number of external funding streams supporting programmes, projects and initiatives, which are allied to Council mainstream funding and address the strategic priorities set out in the Sunderland Strategy.

3.8.1 As part of the first 3 year Local Government Finance Settlement (for the period 2008/2009 to 2010/2011) the Government introduced an Area Based Grant (ABG) allocation for each council which relaxed the controls over a number of its previous specific grants so that councils have more freedom and flexibility to use this funding as they deem appropriate.

3.8.2 The provisional ABG allocation for 2010/2011 is £39.0 million but at this stage the government has not yet confirmed the final allocation for 2010/2011. Major previous specific grants included are Supporting People (£11.3m) and Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF) (£11.0m). The Council has largely adopted an approach of allocating the Area Based Grant to those areas of the Council which were previously in receipt of the specific grants allocated. In this way, the performance and service expectations that accompanied the previous specific grants can continue to be delivered. Where it is has been possible to identify efficiency savings through the use of the grant these have been realised and used to meet the efficiency targets associated with the budget planning framework.

### **Capping Powers and Reserve Powers**

3.9 The Government has retained capping and reserve powers. The government has re-emphasised that it will use capping powers if necessary and that it expects to see Council Tax increases fall further from this years (2009/2010) average Council Tax increase of 3%.

Barbara Follett MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State wrote to all local authorities on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2009 stating that capping principles have always been determined on a year by year basis to take account of the current economic and social circumstances and this will again be the case in 2010/2011. It would therefore be a mistake for any authority to assume that previous years' capping principles will apply to 2010/2011.

#### 4. Directorate Cash Limits

4.1 When the Budget Planning Framework was approved in October 2009 it was agreed that Directorate cash limits would take the following factors into account:

- provision for pay and price increases to be included on the basis of prudent assumptions given the economic outlook;
- the next actuarial review for pensions is planned for 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010, the results of which will be implemented in 2011/2012. At this stage it is difficult to determine with any certainty whether further increases in pension costs may occur. Issues to take into account are the phased financial impact of the introduction of the new pension arrangements, increasing mortality age and the current volatility of investment performance in financial markets;
- the current inflation levels, although rising, are still comparatively low by historical measures. In light of this, provision for contracts has been made as follows:
  - o Independent Care Providers - provision has been included for fees which were agreed as part of a two year settlement in 2009/2010;
  - o Energy costs remain volatile; prudent provision has been earmarked at this stage and will be updated as necessary;
  - o Other Contracts – provision made to reflect contractual obligations.
- provision for increased fees and charges – the policy of assuming an increase of fees and charges in cash limits to provide an incentive to maximise resources has resulted in a significant increase in income in recent years; however, where it has been demonstrated that this is no longer possible due to market conditions, exemptions have been agreed. For all other areas an assumption of 2% has been made and where this has proven to be unachievable efficiency reductions are to be generated to compensate;
- provision to be made for spending commitments in respect of:
  - o ITA levy;
  - o debt charges and interest receipts;
  - o landfill tax and waste disposal;
- Economic downturn: additional provision to be made after taking into consideration measures to mitigate costs;
- that the commitments against balances be noted and the scope to utilise resources temporarily from this source be explored;
- that the identified spending pressures be noted and that all spending pressures not specifically identified within the budget planning framework be accommodated within Directorate cash limits;
- that a review of Area Based Grants and Specific Grants be undertaken with the objective of identifying 4% efficiency savings;
- that, taking into account the Sunderland Way of Working and

existing modernisation strategies and efficiency initiatives, Directors be requested to bring forward options for efficiency savings wherever possible without service or policy implications amounting to 4% of their net delegated budgets; and

- that Directors be requested to commence preparation of longer term efficiency plans to identify efficiency savings, wherever possible without service or policy implications, covering a further three year period based on targets of 5% for 2011/2012 and 6% for both 2012/2013 and 2013/2014, such targets to be kept under review in light of the extent and period of the constraints applied to public sector spending.

4.2 Since the Budget Planning Framework 2010/2011 report was approved by Cabinet in October 2009, and in light of the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement, draft budgets have been amended to reflect:

- Pay – Teachers pay award (part of two year settlement); and prudent provision for outstanding awards;
- Single Status Phase 2 – prudent provision;
- Energy prices – latest contractual arrangements with a contingency for distribution charge increases;
- ITA – an increase of 1.5% has been notified;
- Fees and charges increased where possible, having regard to impact;
- a re-assessment of the provision for waste disposal to reflect latest projections of waste collection, increased landfill tax and the impact of recycling initiatives;
- reduced level of interest on deposits from investments;
- additional impact of the economic downturn e.g. Leisure income, building control income, planning application fees, legal fees.

4.3 Directors have reviewed their budgets after consultation with relevant Cabinet Portfolio Holders. All Directorates returned their budgets within the cash limit.

## **5. Budget Consultation**

5.1 The Budget and Policy Framework procedure rules contained within the Constitution of the Council requires consultation on budget proposals to take place. In September 2009 Cabinet approved proposals regarding the consultation strategy and framework for the budget for 2010/2011 and proposed briefings to the following stakeholders:

- Trade Unions;
- North East Chamber of Commerce;
- Independent Advisory Groups (IAGs);
- Youth Parliament;
- Local partners through the Sunderland Partnership;
- Schools Forum, Head Teachers and Governors.



To date, presentations have been made to the first three stakeholder categories. Events are planned to be held with the Schools Forum, Headteachers and the Youth Parliament in January, 2010.

At each stage in the budget preparation process reports are referred to the Management Scrutiny Committee for review.

5.2 In addition to the above stakeholder consultation, a survey was undertaken with the citizen's panel - Community Spirit - on seven priorities for further investment:

1. Creating Safer Communities;
2. Clean Streets;
3. City Centre;
4. Customer Service;
5. Getting Along with Each Other (community cohesion);
6. Activities and Facilities for Young People;
7. Roads and Footways.

5.3 To supplement the survey, focus groups were held, with Community Spirit panel members and representatives from the voluntary and community sector, in different locations throughout the city. An eighth priority of "Helping people to live independently in their own home" was added to the seven priorities in the survey as this area had previously been identified as a high priority. Attendees were asked to work in small groups to prioritise 16 interventions to addressing the eight budget priorities.

The six highest ranking interventions were:

1. Extend the range of support services (for example, advice and advocacy services) to enable more people to direct their own social care budgets.
2. Youth Crime Family Intervention Programme – Project Workers to work with young people at high risk of offending who come from a small number of families with a history of offending.
3. Investing additional funds in our footways to help reduce trip hazards and the potential for pedestrians to suffer slips, trips or falls.
4. Continue to extend the availability and range of services that can be provided through the evening and overnight e.g. the Sunderland Telecare Service.
5. Staffing and running costs of the new 'state of the art' mobile youth buses to bring provision and services into areas where there are no suitable venues.
6. Review the way in which we identify people who are highly vulnerable due to their personal, social or economic circumstances and are at high risk of becoming victims of crime and anti-social behaviour.

5.4 In addition to the above budget consultation, other consultation has been conducted on the following, which will also be taken into account in the budget proposals:

- Sea Front;
- Waste Disposal and Recycling.

5.5 Detailed analysis of the feedback undertaken is still being finalised but the provisional budget proposals in this report are consistent with the summary findings to date. This report will become the basis for second stage consultation. Elements of the consultation undertaken to date, which has not yet been fully analysed, together with the results of the second stage of consultation will be considered in framing the final budget proposals to be submitted to Cabinet in February, 2010.

## **6. Spending Pressures and Priorities**

6.1 At this point in the preparation of the Revenue Budget for 2010/2011, provision has been made to address a number of spending pressures and priorities. This provision is recognition of the need to invest additional resources to high priority areas and takes account of the consultation undertaken to date. The paragraphs below include details of the proposed additional provisions in each strategic and corporate improvement priority area:

### **6.2 Healthy City**

The following proposals are made:

In October 2008, the Vision for 2025 was launched which sets out the clear vision for transforming adult social care. The first 3 year Delivery Plan to start the journey to achieve the vision was also launched. Additional provision of £2.636 million has been earmarked for Adult Services, some as a contingency provision, in recognition of the need to address the second year of a two year agreement on fees with independent providers of care, to fund the investment in Telecare, and to provide a contingency for additional costs that may arise through the recent announcement to provide free personal care to those with assessed high needs.

In addition, the Social Care Reform Grant amounting to £1.580 million in 2010/2011 continues to be allocated to Adult Social Care, as intended by the government, to support the modernisation of Adult Social Care services.

Further details are set out below:

#### **Independent Care Providers**

A two year agreement was negotiated with independent care providers in 2009/2010 for a new scale of fees based on gold, silver, and bronze standard quality ratings, as recommended by the Care Quality

Commission, for residential and nursing accommodation. Budget provision is proposed to meet the cost increases arising from the second year of the negotiated agreement and also other social care services contracts during 2010/2011. Notwithstanding the modernisation of Adult Services underway, it is important that capacity is retained in the independent care market.

#### Telecare

The steps taken to increase the level of independence of clients across the city has required an expansion of the Council's Telecare service. This has created a financial pressure which needs to be addressed in the 2010/2011 budget if the required levels of service is to be delivered. Additional provision is therefore proposed of £343,000. This will enable the continued employment of additional staff and the provision of a range of equipment for installation in customers' homes which can be attached to an alarm system that can activate an alarm to a control room in an emergency, resulting in a response to the alarm call. The fundamental objective of the Telecare Service enables people to live in their own home for longer, with increased safety, confidence and independence.

#### Free Personal Care - October 2010

The government is consulting on options for the allocation of grant to support the provision of free personal care for people with assessed high care needs from October, 2010. The government's assumption is that the government grant will cover two thirds of the cost and that the remaining one third will need to be met from efficiencies generated by local government. The financial implications of this change are still being assessed and will continue to be reviewed as the new measure may result in clients, currently unknown to the local authority, becoming its responsibility, and the prospective gradual increase in liability due to demographics over time. Accordingly, at this stage it is proposed to create an earmarked contingency provision of £1 million to cater for any unforeseen increased costs.

#### Commissioning Strategy - Three Year Delivery Plan

The Social Care Reform Grant was introduced in 2008/2009 to help Councils modernise Adult Social Services and thereby deliver more cost efficient and effective care packages for all client groups. A sum of £1.580 million was allocated for 2010/2011 as part of the 3 year grant settlement announced on introduction of the grant.

The grant is earmarked to assist in funding the three year delivery plan, to support new methods of care which seek to maximise independence and enable more people to live in their own homes independently for longer

### 6.3 Children and Learning City

The following proposals are made:

#### Fostering and Adoption Services

The Foster Care Recruitment and Retention Strategy is designed to deliver better outcomes for vulnerable children in a cost effective way. The Strategy was allocated additional resources of £475,000 in 2009/2010, and it is proposed that a further sum of £140,000 be provided for 2010/2011. It is proposed that the additional funding will be used to further build capacity in terms of the number of foster carers but also aim to enable children with more complex needs to be safely cared for within the community. This Strategy will also result in a reduced reliance on relatively costly external placements.

#### Youth Initiatives

Cabinet approved a report in September 2009 regarding the Sunderland XL Youth Village Programme and the utilisation of funding of £300,000 included in the Provision for Strategic Priorities agreed as part of the Council's Revenue Budget for 2009/2010.

A sum of £200,000 is proposed to be included in the Revenue Budget for 2010/2011 which will be used to support an expansion of youth initiatives, details of which will be considered and confirmed over the coming months.

#### Fees for Independent Care Providers

An additional £119,000 is proposed to be provided to assist in funding fees for independent care providers for children's social care in 2010/2011.

#### Safeguarding

A sum of £636,000 is proposed to fund the following:

- As a result of the increase in contacts following the Baby Peter case and the subsequent Lord Laming review, an interim increase of 6 staff into the Initial Referral Team (IRT) was implemented in 2009/2010. This is a pressure, not just in Sunderland but nationally, and the Council is working with partners, particularly in health and police, to manage contacts. In order to maintain the necessary response to the levels of contact being experienced within the IRT a sum of £250,000 is proposed to be allocated to continue to fund the additional staffing beyond March 2010.
- Historically, the safeguarding employees budget has included an allowance for the delay in filling of vacant posts. However, in recent months, to meet the demands upon the service and to address the Laming recommendations, the Service has needed to staff to full capacity. This requires the allocation of an additional sum of £236,000.

- The new Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) was set up in October 2009 to run the new national Vetting and Barring Scheme which aims to further protect children and vulnerable adults from those who may do them harm. Many council staff and volunteers will need to be registered with the ISA, a process which begins in July 2010. ISA registration is a statutory requirement but doesn't replace the CRB (Criminal Records Bureau) check but rather adds further safeguards. The Government has given organisations 5 years to register all current staff and volunteers who fall under the remit of the ISA and this will be done on a 'rolling programme' basis. Whilst the financial implications associated with these new responsibilities are still being assessed, it is proposed to allocate a contingency sum of £150,000 to support this scheme at this stage.

#### 6.4 Safer City

The following proposals are made:

##### Citywide Events Programme

Provision of £250,000 is proposed to enable the enhanced and developing City Wide Festivals and Events Programme to continue to be funded. This funding will support the leverage, in the longer term, of other external funding.

##### Family Intervention Project

A sum of £98,000 is proposed to replace grant funding for the Family Intervention Project, which is subject to grant tapering arrangements. The gross cost of the project is £145,000 per annum.

The main objective of the Family Intervention Project is to stop the anti-social behaviour of families and restore safety to their homes and to the wider community, through a dual approach which includes help for families to address the causes of the behavioural problems being experienced, alongside supervision and enforcement to provide the incentives to change.

##### Identification of Vulnerable People at Risk of Anti Social Behaviour and Crime

Additional funding from the Home Office of £79,000 is earmarked to provide training for staff across partner agencies in the identification of those at risk of or vulnerable to anti social behaviour and crime and also enable a review of processes and procedures, and implementation of infrastructure and IT improvements. It will also provide support to witnesses and victims of anti social behaviour.

## 6.5 Sustainable Communities

The following proposals are made:

### Empty Properties

A sum of £90,000 is proposed for Empty Properties to encourage, advise and support landlords, and encouraging owners to care about the condition of their properties and find alternative approaches to bring properties back into use. This will result in a greater reduction in the number of empty properties, fewer anti-social behaviour complaints, and more homeless people being able to be housed into empty properties.

### Waste Disposal

In accordance with the policy of gradually building up provision within the Council's base budget to fund the eventual affordability gap associated with the Waste Disposal Solution, it is proposed to make provision of £1 million for 2010/2011, taking into account the landfill tax that will be saved when the Waste Disposal Strategic Solution comes on stream.

The overriding intention of the strategic solution is to minimise the use of landfill as a means of waste disposal in the future. Whilst the Outline Business Case contains affordability gaps at this stage based on a wide range of assumptions, it is clear that the annual affordability gap will be significant for all three partners within the partnership (Gateshead MBC, South Tyneside MBC and this Council).

Whilst the final annual affordability gap is not yet known, the proposal is to increase provision by a further £1,000,000. This represents a prudent approach given the timescales which are being worked to. The strategic waste disposal solution is not planned to become operational until September 2013 at the earliest.

### Community Cohesion

The government has allocated a grant of £164,000 to support the Preventing Violent Extremism (Prevent) Strategy as part of the Government's response to the severe and enduring threat from international terrorism. Prevent has five key elements:

- Challenge violent extremist ideology and support mainstream voices;
- Disrupt the ideologies who promote violent extremism and protect the vulnerable institutions where they work;
- Support vulnerable individuals who are being targeted and recruited to the violent extremism cause;
- Increase the resilience of communities to violent extremism; and
- Address the grievances which ideologies are exploiting.

Funding to support this provision is being allocated through the Area Based Grant.

## 6.6 **Attractive and Inclusive City**

The following proposals are made:

### Transport and Engineering

A sum of £300,000 is proposed to fund support to the development and improvement of the Transport and Engineering Service within the Council. In addition, it is proposed to allocate a one off sum of £300,000 to enable the pump priming of the initial improvement and development work.

### Swimming – Silksworth Pool / Free Swimming Initiative

An additional sum of £100,000 is proposed in respect of the new Silksworth Pool to reflect the full year running costs of the pool which is due to open early 2010.

An amount of £116,000 is also proposed to supplement the specific government grant available, to support the free swimming initiative for the over 60's and under 16's for the remaining year of a two year time limited period.

### Play Parks Maintenance

An additional sum of £85,000 is proposed to fund the revenue implications of implementing the Play Parks Strategy. The programme to implement the strategy was accelerated as a result of the receipt of external funding from the Big Lottery Fund and securing Pathfinder funding.

### 'Kerb It' Replacement Scheme

A sum of £159,000 is proposed to meet the additional costs of leasing vehicles to support the new 'blue bin' scheme which will replace the existing 'kerb it' scheme. This will allow for the provision of rear end loading vehicles to accommodate the new bin which will replace the black box from April 2010.

This change accords with wishes expressed by residents through a range of consultation feedback over recent years. The distribution of the new wheeled bins to all conventional domestic properties will commence in late 2009/2010 and continue into 2010/2011 on a phased basis.

## 6.7 **Resources Portfolio**

The following proposals are made:

### Occupational Health Unit

Provision of £150,000 was included in the Revenue Budget for 2009/2010, which facilitated the reduction in waiting times for physician appointments from 6 weeks to just under 2 weeks. Early intervention by

HR teams and referral to Occupational Health is the key to preventing and resolving absence attributed to sickness. The intervention of the occupational health physician has helped achieve successful resolution of long term cases of absence over the last 18 months, resulting in a significant reduction in the number of current long term sickness cases.

A sum of £150,000 is proposed for 2010/2011 to enable the budget to be mainstreamed and included in the Council's Base Budget on an ongoing basis.

## **6.8 Responsive Services and Customer Care**

### **Community Leadership Programme**

Provision of £50,000 is proposed to provide further support for the Community Leadership Programme to seek to ensure its timely implementation. The Community Leadership Programme is one of three strategic improvement programmes promoted by the Council with its key partners and is an integral part of the Improvement Agenda and the move towards the Sunderland Way of Working operating model.

## **6.9 Revenue Contributions to Capital Programme**

A sum to be finalised is proposed to fund new starts for the Other Services Block for capital expenditure and other 'one off' revenue budget pressures and priorities arising from the budget consultation undertaken. Further details will be reported to Cabinet in February once proposals have been finalised.

## **7. Other Priorities**

### **7.1 Equal Pay and Single Status**

Funds have previously been agreed to meet compensation payments necessary to settle equal pay claims or the outcome of Employment Tribunal proceedings. It is possible that further sums will be required and the position will be kept under review and additional funding earmarked as appropriate.

With regard to Single Status, prudent provision has been included for the further impact of implementing Single Status generally.

## **8. Efficiency Savings**

8.1 Cabinet agreed the Efficiency Strategy 2009/2010 to 2013/2014 in October 2009. This set out the strategy by which the Council aims to satisfy the Government's latest expectations for achieving efficiency within the public sector and recognised the need for longer term planning for efficiency savings. It also reinforced the direction that the Council is taking through the Sunderland Way of Working.



8.2 Given the anticipated significant long term pressure on public finances and the fact that resources available for local government over the medium to long term, the Budget Planning Framework recognised the need to plan for savings over a longer period. Directorates were therefore asked to consider options to cover a four-year period in order to ensure timely action can be taken to maximise efficiency savings. The following targets were set:

<b>Year</b>	<b>%</b>
2010/2011	4
2011/2012	5
2012/2013	6
2013/2014	6

Whilst a longer-term approach to planning to generate efficiency has been adopted, only the first year's efficiency savings are to be determined at this stage. It is clear that the position in relation to the severity and length of the economic downturn remains uncertain, as does the extent and period of the constraints applied to public sector spending. The above targets will therefore be subject to review as future government spending plans are announced. The Council's Improvement Programme will play a key role in contributing efficiency savings to meet these targets.

8.3 The identification of efficiency savings for inclusion in the 2010/2011 Budget have been generated through:

- specific efficiency savings from Corporate / Cross Cutting Efficiency Projects;
- efficiency savings arising from modernisation strategies, and policy and service reviews;
- realising emerging efficiency savings from the new Sunderland Way of Working;

8.4 The efficiency savings submitted by Directorates in response to the Budget Planning Framework guidelines were assessed against the following criteria:

- that the efficiency savings should have no material effect on policy or front line services except where already approved by Cabinet and/or Council;
- that they should minimise the effect on job losses and seek to ensure so far as possible no compulsory redundancies.

8.5 The following table shows the financial impact of draft efficiency savings proposed to be taken into account in the budget for 2010/2011:

<b>Service</b>	<b>£000</b>
Back Office / Support Services / Corporate Services /	1,007
Additional or Alternative Sources of Income	1,432
Overheads/General Efficiencies	1,074
Procurement	2,768
Service Review and Modernisation	1,437
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,718</b>

The focus of the above proposed efficiency savings is on back office / support services, income generation, reducing overheads and procurement arrangements.

At this stage, whilst there is confidence that the total level of efficiency savings detailed above can be achieved, necessary due diligence is being undertaken to scrutinise each proposal in detail to validate the precise sums, and where appropriate the consequential actions necessary. The efficiency savings will be reflected in the Revenue Budget 2010/2011 in due course.

## 9. Draft Budget 2010/2011

- 9.1 The position in relation to the preparation of the draft budget for next year is set out in the table below taking account of the financial impact of both the funding for the proposed investments to address the Spending Commitments and Pressures and the proposed Efficiency Savings.

	£000	£000
<b>Spending Commitments</b>		
- Pay Awards, Price Increases and Service Pressures taking into account the effects of the economic downturn	3,558	
- Energy Price Increases	1,459	
- Passenger Transport Levy	278	
- Interest on Balances	1,000	
- Waste Disposal/Recycling	1,344	
		7,639
<b>Spending Priorities (by Strategic Priority area)</b>		
- Healthy City	2,636	
- Children and Learning City	1,095	
- Safer City	348	
- Sustainable Communities	1,254	
- Attractive and Inclusive City	760	
- Resources	150	
- Responsive Services and Customer Care	50	6,293
<b>Efficiency Savings</b>		
- Back Office / Support Services / Corporate Services	(1,007)	
- Additional or Alternative Sources of Income	(1,432)	
- Overheads / General Efficiencies	(1,074)	
- Procurement	(2,768)	
- Service Modernisation	(1,437)	(7,718)

### Outstanding Uncertainties

- 9.2 There are a number of uncertainties still to be resolved in relation to next year's budget, including:
- the impact of introduction from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2010 of Free Personal Care for those with high needs, for which the grant methodology is not yet finalised;
  - the outcome of negotiations on the pay round for 2010/2011, which is unlikely to be known before the Budget is considered by Cabinet in February and Council in March;
  - the outcome of the Final Local Government Revenue Support Grant Settlement for 2010/2011;
  - any amount which may be made available from balances principally to fund one off items of expenditure;

- the final Collection Fund position;
- the outcome of the continuing assessment of the impact of the economic downturn on Council services;
- the outcome of the final review of the council's contingency provision;
- the outcome of the latest review of energy prices and the impact on the council's contingency provision;
- the final decisions arising from the continued review of energy prices;
- the impact of final estimates of returns on deposits on Interest on Balances;
- any impact on the Council's budget of initiatives recently announced in the Pre Budget Report e.g. energy efficiency initiatives, extension of free school meals in primary schools.

In addition, it will be necessary to consider the outcome of further consultation to take place on the budget.

### **General Balances**

9.3 A Statement of General Balances is attached at Appendix A.

Whilst some savings are being generated in 2009/2010 from Interest on Balances and Debt Charges, and unutilised contingency provisions, the savings generated from Interest on Balances in particular will be significantly affected by the current historically low bank base rate determined by the Bank of England in response to the recession. However, any savings generated will be required to fund the following significant one off spending pressures:

- Investment to improve and develop the Transport and Engineering Service;
- Continued investment in Highway and Footway Maintenance and Highways Drainage;
- Invest to save costs associated with the Improvement Programme;
- Seafront Improvements.
- The development of Single Status Phase 2 proposals and enabling progress of the Service Transformation Project;
- Other Services Capital Programme developments including Economic Development.

The balances position will be updated / reviewed as the budget is progressed. A full risk analysis will be presented with the final budget proposals to the February meeting of Cabinet.

### **Council Tax**

9.4 At this stage it is proposed to consult on the basis of a Council Tax increase within government guidelines. Clearly, the increase will be finalised in light of the next stage of the budget consultation and further clarification in relation to the uncertainties outlined above.

**10. Suggested Reason for Decision**

10.1 To enable constitutional requirements relating to the development of the revenue budget to be met.

**11. Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected:**

11.1 There are no alternative options recommended for approval.

**12. Background Papers**

Local Authority Finance (England) Revenue Support Grant 2010/2011  
and related Matters  
Budget and Planning Framework 2010/2011

## Appendix A

### Statement of General Balances

	£000	£000
<b>Balances as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009</b>		<b>11,553</b>
<b>Use of Balances 2009/2010</b>		
- Contribution to Revenue Budget	(431)	
- Contribution to fund the Capital Programme	(3,065)	
- Contribution to Economic Development Grants	(488)	(3,984)
<b>Estimated Balances 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010</b>		<b>7,569</b>

The above position will be reviewed and updated and reported to Cabinet as part of the final budget proposals in February, 2010.

<p><b>CABINET MEETING – 13 January 2010</b></p> <p><b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I</b></p>	
<p><b>Title of Report:</b> Calculation of Council Tax Base.</p>	
<p><b>Author(s):</b> Director of Financial Resources</p>	
<p><b>Purpose of Report:</b> To detail the calculation of the Council Tax Base for 2010/2011 and to seek approval to recommend to Council the Council Tax Base for 2010/2011 in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992.</p>	
<p><b>Description of Decision:</b> Cabinet is recommended to recommend to Council:</p> <p>That the report for the calculation of the Tax Bases for the City Council and Hetton Town Council for 2010/2011 be approved.</p> <p>That pursuant to the report, and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as amended by Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2003, the amount calculated by Sunderland City Council as its Council Tax Base for the year 2010/2011, shall be £80,260, and for the area of Hetton Town Council shall be £4,043.</p>	
<p><b>Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework?</b> Yes</p>	
<p><b>If not, Council approval is required to change the Budget/Policy Framework</b></p>	
<p><b>Suggested reason(s) for Decision:</b> To comply with statutory requirements.</p>	
<p><b>Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected:</b> None.</p>	
<p><b>Is this a “Key Decision” as defined in the Constitution?</b> Yes</p>	<p><b>Relevant Scrutiny Committee:</b> Management</p>
<p><b>Is it included in the Forward Plan?</b> Yes</p>	





## **Cabinet – 13 January 2010**

### **Calculation of Council Tax Base**

#### **Report of the Director of Financial Resources**

##### **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1. To detail the calculation of the Council Tax Base for 2010/2011 and to seek approval to recommend to Council the Council Tax Base for 2010/2011 in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

##### **2. Description of Decision**

Cabinet is recommended to recommend to Council:

- 2.1 That the report for the calculation of the Tax Bases for the City Council and Hetton Town Council for 2010/2011 be approved.
- 2.2 That pursuant to the report, and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992, and the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2003, the amount calculated by Sunderland City Council as its Council Tax Base for the year 2010/2011, shall be £80,260, and for the area of Hetton Town Council shall be £4,043.

##### **3. Background to the Calculation of the Council Tax Base**

- 3.1 The Council Tax Base is the estimated number of properties in each valuation band adjusted to take account of the estimated number of discounts, disregards and exemptions. The Council levies a Council Tax on the basis of properties in band D and thus the numbers for each valuation band are adjusted to the proportion which their number is to band D. The Council must then estimate its level of collection for the year and apply this figure to arrive at the Council Tax Base figure.
- 3.2 The Council Tax Base must be calculated for both the Billing Authority and for the Hetton Town Council (a local parish precept). The Billing Authority Tax Base will be used to calculate the Council Tax for the City Council and as the basis for the major precepting authorities (Northumbria Police Authority and Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority) to determine their precept requirements.
- 3.3 Under the Council Tax (Reductions for Disabilities) Regulations 1992 properties adapted to meet the needs of a disabled person are charged at a rate equal to the next lowest valuation band. For instance a qualifying band C property would be charged at the band B rate. This lower band is described as the 'alternative valuation band'. Prior to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2000 properties already in band A could not qualify for any disabled reduction as there was not a lower band to be charged at. From the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2000, however, the regulations were amended to introduce an additional 'alternative valuation band' (below band A) to allow band A properties to qualify for a disabled reduction. Instead of paying the normal band A charge (six-

ninths of the band D charge) a qualifying band A property is now charged at five-ninths of the band D charge. For the purpose of the Council Tax Base calculation it is necessary to show Band A properties which qualify for a disabled reduction as if it was an additional valuation band. In this report the 'additional' valuation band is shown as either (A) or Disabled (A).

#### 4. Calculations of the Billing Authority's Council Tax Base

- 4.1 This calculation is in two parts – 'A' - the calculation of the estimated adjusted band D properties and 'B' - the estimated level of collection.
- 4.2 The calculation of 'A' - the relevant amounts for each band is complex and includes a number of calculations which are shown at Appendix 1.
- 4.3 The relevant amounts 'A' as calculated in Appendix 1 are shown below:

<b>BAND</b>	<b>RELEVANT AMOUNT 'A'</b>
	<b>£      p</b>
Disabled (A)	113.75
A	44,579.67
B	11,500.61
C	12,742.67
D	7,431.25
E	3,261.19
F	1,338.28
G	901.25
H	<u>29.00</u>
	<u>81,897.67</u>

#### 4.4 Calculation of Item 'B' - Estimate of Collection Rate

This element of the formula is to reflect the level of collection anticipated. Last year an anticipated collection rate of 98% was assumed. On the basis of current collection levels it is suggested that the collection rate should remain at 98% for 2010/2011. The position will be kept under review in light of the length and severity of the economic downturn and any associated impact on future collection. It is proposed, as part of the budget for 2009/2010, to utilise 'one-off' insurance savings and specific grants to increase resources for Council Tax collection to seek to ensure at least the current levels are maintained.

#### 4.5 Calculation of Council Tax Base

The Council's Tax Base is therefore:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{'A' x 'B'} \\ & \text{£81,897.67 x 98\% = £80,259.72} \end{aligned}$$

(for comparison, the tax base for the current financial year is £80,088.68).

Appendix 2 shows, for Members information, the Tax Base for each property band.

#### 4.6 Reason for the variation in the Tax Base

The main reason for the increase in the Tax Base from 2009/2010 to 2010/2011 of £171.04 (0.21%) is that the Council has carried out a full review of its application of the single persons household discount of 25% in order to ensure that those in receipt of the discount are in fact entitled to receive it.

### 5. Calculation of Council Tax Base for Hetton Town Council - Local Precept

5.1 The rules for calculating the Council Tax Base for the area covered by Hetton Town Council are similar to those used in calculating the Billing Authority's Tax Base. These detailed calculations are shown in Appendix 3.

5.2 The amounts calculated for each band are shown below:

<b>BAND</b>	<b>RELEVANT AMOUNT 'A'</b>
	<b>£    p</b>
Disabled (A)	7.50
A	2,775.83
B	648.28
C	330.44
D	200.00
E	94.72
F	49.83
G	17.50
H	<u>1.00</u>
	<u>4,125.10</u>

5.3 The same collection rate is required to be used for Parish precepts as for the Billing Authority. The Tax Base for Hetton Town Council is therefore:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{'A' x 'B' (where 'B' is the estimated collection rate)} \\ & \text{£4,125.10 x 98\% = £4,042.60.} \end{aligned}$$

(for comparison, the tax base for the current financial year is £4,031.53)

Appendix 2 shows, for Members information, the Tax Base for each property band.

### 6. Background Papers

6.1 Working papers on individual Tax Band calculations.

6.2 Statutory Instrument 2003 No. 3012

6.3 Council Tax Base Report 2009/2010

## Calculation of the Billing Authority's Council Tax Base

- 1.1 Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 (S.I. 1992 No. 612), and amended by (S.I. 2003 No. 3012), states that a Billing Authority's Council Tax Base for a financial year shall be calculated by applying the formula -

$$'A' \times 'B'$$

Where 'A' is the total of the relevant amounts for each of the Valuation Bands which are shown or likely to be shown in the Authority's Valuation List as at 30 November in the year prior to the year in question and where 'B' is the Authority's estimate of its collection rate for that year.

- 1.2 As stated above, the Council is required to approve the calculation of both items 'A' and 'B' in arriving at its Tax Base.

Calculation of Item 'A' - relevant amounts for each Valuation Band:

- a) Regulation 5 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as amended, states that item 'A' should be calculated by applying the following formula:

$$(H - Q + J) \times (F/G)$$

where H = number of chargeable dwellings  
 Q = is a factor to take account of discounts of Council Tax payable. It is calculated as  $Q = (R \times S)$   
 R = number of discounts estimated to be payable in respect of these dwellings  
 S = the percentage relating to discounts  
 J = adjustment (whether positive or negative) in the numbers of dwellings or discounts during the period  
 F = the relevant prescribed proportions for each Band  
 G = the relevant prescribed proportion for Band D

- b) The calculation of each of the above items is, where appropriate, to be made in accordance with paragraph 2-11 of Regulation 5 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 2003. The different items are to be calculated as follows:

Item H - the number of chargeable dwellings is the sum of:

The number of dwellings listed in each Band in the copy of the Valuation List on the relevant day less an estimate of the number of such dwellings which were exempt on that day.

Item Q – a factor to take account of the discounts to which the amount of Council Tax payable was subject to on the relevant day. It is calculated by taking the aggregate of amounts found by multiplying, for each different relevant percentage, R by S, where:

Item R – the number of dwellings for which the amount of Council Tax payable for the relevant day was reduced by that relevant percentage. For 2010/2011 the number of discounts is calculated according to the following rules:

- a) Where the discount applicable is equal to the appropriate percentage (25%) this shall count as one discount.
- b) Where the discount applicable is equal to twice the appropriate percentage this shall count as two discounts.

Item S - the relevant percentage. For 2010/2011 the relevant percentage is 25% (Section 11 Local Government Finance Act 1992 refers).

Item J - the amount of any adjustment in respect of this item is equal to an estimate of dwellings not listed in H above but which will be listed during part or all of the year less an estimate of the number of dwellings listed in H above but which will not be listed for all or part of the year.

Item F - the relevant prescribed proportions for each band are set out in Section 5 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as follows:

Band	(A)	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Proportion	5	6	7	8	9	11	13	15	18

Item G - the relevant prescribed proportion for Band D is 9 (as above).

- c) The calculation  $(H - Q + J) \times (F/G)$

The results of these calculations are shown below.

### 1.3 Tax Base Calculation $(H - Q + J) \times (F/G)$

	Disabled Band	Band	Band	Band	Band	Band	Band	Band	Band
	Band (A)	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Item H	219	76,561	15,898	15,354	7,848	2,799	971	587	21
Item R	57	38,982	5,330	4,362	1,719	559	230	189	30
Item S	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25
Item J	0	54	221	72	13	9	13	1	1
Item F	5	6	7	8	9	11	13	15	18
Item G	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9

1.4 Applying the figure on the previous page to the calculation  $(H - Q + J) \times (F/G)$  produces a relevant amount for each Valuation Band - Item A in Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 2003 as follows:

<b>BAND</b>	<b>RELEVANT AMOUNT</b>
	<b>'A'</b>
	<b>£      p</b>
Disabled (A)	113.75
A	44,579.67
B	11,500.61
C	12,742.67
D	7,431.25
E	3,261.19
F	1,338.28
G	901.25
H	<u>29.00</u>
	<u>81,897.67</u>

## Council Tax Base - City of Sunderland

Band	Item 'A'		Item 'B'	Tax Base 'A' x 'B'	
	£	p		%	£
(A)		113.75	98		111.47
A	44,579.67		98	43,688.08	
B	11,500.61		98	11,270.60	
C	12,742.67		98	12,487.82	
D	7,431.25		98	7,282.63	
E	3,261.19		98	3,195.97	
F	1,338.28		98	1,311.51	
G	901.25		98	883.22	
H	29.00		98	28.42	
	<b><u>81,897.67</u></b>			<b><u>80,259.72</u></b>	

## Council Tax Base - Hetton Town Council

Band	Item 'A'		Item 'B'	Tax Base 'A' x 'B'	
	£	p		%	£
(A)		7.50	98		7.35
A	2,775.83		98	2,720.31	
B	648.28		98	635.32	
C	330.44		98	323.83	
D	200.00		98	196.00	
E	94.72		98	92.83	
F	49.83		98	48.83	
G	17.50		98	17.15	
H	1.00		98	0.98	
	<b><u>4,125.10</u></b>			<b><u>4,042.60</u></b>	

**Calculation of Council Tax Base For Hetton Town Council - Local Precept**

1.1. The rules for calculating the Council Tax Base for any part of a Billing Authority's area (e.g. Local Parish) are the same as the rules contained in Appendix 1 except that chargeable dwellings and discounts are to be taken for only those dwellings and discounts relating to the area for which the Council Tax Base is to be calculated.

1.2. As in Appendix 1 the rules require the calculations of items 'A' and 'B'.

Item A is calculated by the formula:

$$(H - Q + J) \times (F/G)$$

1.3. The calculations detailed above have been carried out in respect of the Hetton Town Council for each relevant band and the result of the calculations is shown below:

1.4. Tax Base Calculation - Hetton  $(H - Q + J) \times (F/G)$

	Disabled Band	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
Item H	14	4,799	874	399	208	79	37	12	1
Item R	2	2,505	250	113	40	22	10	6	2
Item S	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25
Item J	0	-9	22	1	2	4	0	0	0
Item F	5	6	7	8	9	11	13	15	18
Item G	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9

**BAND RELEVANT AMOUNT**

	'A'
	£ p
Disabled (A)	7.50
A	2,775.83
B	648.28
C	330.44
D	200.00
E	94.72
F	49.83
G	17.50
H	1.00
	<u>4,125.10</u>



<b>CABINET MEETING – 13th January 2010</b> <b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET- PART 1</b>	
<b>Title of Report:</b> Provisional Revenue Support Grant Settlement for 2010/2011	
<b>Author(s):</b> Director of Financial Resources	
<b>Purpose of Report:</b> This report advises Cabinet of the Provisional Revenue Support Grant Settlement for 2010/2011.	
<b>Description of Decision:</b> Members are requested to note the report.	
<b>Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework?</b> Yes	
<b>If not, Council approval is required to change the Budget/Policy Framework</b>	
<b>Suggested reason(s) for Decision:</b> The Settlement forms part of the annual budget preparation process of the Council.	
<b>Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected:</b> Not applicable as report is for information only.	
<b>Is this a “Key Decision” as defined in the Constitution?</b> No	<b>Relevant Scrutiny Committee:</b> Management
<b>Is it included in the Forward Plan?</b> No	



## **Cabinet Meeting – 13th January 2010**

### **Provisional Revenue Support Grant Settlement for 2010/2011**

#### **Report of the Director of Financial Resources**

##### **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1. This report advises Cabinet of the Provisional Revenue Support Grant Settlement for 2010/2011.

##### **2. Description of Decision**

- 2.1. Cabinet is requested to note the report.

##### **3. Background**

- 3.1 On 26th November 2009 the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Local Government issued the provisional report for the 2010/2011 Revenue Support Grant Settlement.
- 3.2 This follows on from the Minister's first three year Local Government Finance Settlement covering the period 2008/2009 to 2010/2011 which was issued on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2007, and after a period of consultation, the amended three year settlement was released on 24th January 2008 with some further amendments having been made on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2009.
- 3.3 The main points of the Settlement are outlined in paragraph 4 with the effects on the Council outlined at paragraph 5.

##### **4. National Settlement**

The main features of the provisional and indicative settlements are as follows:

###### **Aggregate External Finance**

Aggregate External Finance (AEF) includes Formula Grant (Revenue Support Grant and Non Domestic Rates) and all Government Special and Specific grants. The table overleaf provides an analysis of central government funding for revenue expenditure, in cash terms, for 2010/2011 compared with the 2009/2010 allocation adjusted for changes made since last year's settlement.

	Adjusted 2009/10 £m	Provisional 2010/11 £m	Change %
Non-Domestic Rates	19,500	21,500	10.3
Revenue Support Grant (RSG)	4,541	3,167	(30.5)
<b>Net AEF Total</b>	<b>24,041</b>	<b>24,667</b>	<b>2.6</b>
PFI Grant	853	1,069	25.3
Special / Specific Grants	48,438	50,520	4.3
<b>Total Grants</b>	<b>49,291</b>	<b>51,589</b>	<b>4.7</b>
<b>Total AEF</b>	<b>73,332</b>	<b>76,256</b>	<b>4.0</b>

- Total Aggregate External Finance (AEF) has seen a reduction in the current Settlement (2010/2011) as compared to the previously announced figures released in January 2009. In the main the reduction relates to the reduction in the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) announced at the time of the 2009/2010 settlement because of the need to reflect the latest pupil numbers and transfers for new academies that have been agreed. There have also been numerous changes to the specific and special grant funding allocated in both 2009/2010 (an increase of £178.9m) and 2010/2011 (a reduction of £85.7m) to those allocations announced in the previous year's settlement.
- The Government has stated that the difference in Dedicated Schools Grant funding allocations between the financial years 2008/2009 (adjusted) through to 2010/2011 will be used in supporting schools and other children's services initiatives;
- Specific and special grants included within the AEF will increase by 4.7% for 2010/2011 as compared to the 2009/2010 adjusted figures. Grants were expected to increase in overall terms by 5.2% in January 2009 but these have decreased mainly because of changes to grant funding principally in Education and Children's Services in respect of reduced DSG;
- Overall the allocation of Specific and Special grants covering the adjusted 2009/2010 and the amended 2010/2011 years has seen a net increase of £92.3m in the Settlement. Details are still being analysed and further reports on any implications arising will be made as appropriate;
- There have been no changes to the overall formula grant allocation, for 2010/2011, to those already published and released in January 2009;
- Business Rates shows an overall increase of 10.3% due to a surplus on the Business Rate Pool Account. The government has reduced its contribution from Revenue Support Grant to take this factor into account which explains the 30.5% reduction in the grant compared year on year;
- The Business Rate multipliers for 2010/2011 have been announced as 41.4p and for small businesses 40.7p which reflects the fall of 1.4% in the Retail Price Index for September 2009 on which the multipliers are based. The decrease in the multiplier needs to be considered alongside the revaluation which is to take effect from 1st April, 2010.

## 4.2 Other Announcements

- The government has re-emphasised that it will use capping powers if necessary and that it expects to see Council Tax increases to be below this years (2009/2010) average Council Tax increase of 3%;
- The government announced a consultation paper in respect of a new initiative to provide free personal care at home to people with high personal needs. The scheme is expected to come into force on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2010 and will cost an estimated £670m in a full year. The government is proposing that they will route funding for this through the Area Based Grant (amounting to £210m in the first year 2010/2011 and £420m for a full year). The remainder is to be funded by local government efficiencies (amounting to £125m in 2010/2011 and £250m in each full year thereafter). The consultation formally ends on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2010 and comments are required preferably by 26<sup>th</sup> January 2010 to the Department of Health. The detailed implications are still being analysed as referred to in the Revenue Budget 2010/2011 Report elsewhere on today's agenda.

## 5. Effects on Sunderland

- 5.1 As set out in paragraph 4 above, the Council's grant entitlement for 2010/2011 of £157.462 million has remained unchanged from the indicative figures announced in late January 2009 and is welcomed. It is hoped (and expected) that the settlement will remain unchanged once it is approved by Parliament and it would help the Council to financially plan with more confidence if all political parties could give this assurance ahead of the next General Election.
- 5.2 The government has not made any changes to the formula grant system, consequently the Authority's formula grant increase for 2010/2011 has not been affected and the increase set out in the consultation paper, remains unchanged at 1.84%. The Council's grant increases, although below the national average increase of 2.65%, is still above the minimum (floor) increases for Education and Social Services Authorities, of 1.5%. Appendix 1 shows the detailed comparisons for information.
- 5.3 The Council's grant allocation for 2010/2011 has been reduced in order to help fund the 'floor' i.e. to contribute some of its grant to enable all authorities which provide Education and Social Services to receive at least the minimum grant increase for 2010/2011 of 1.5%. The table overleaf shows the impact on the Council's allocation of grant in 2010/2011 for information:

<b>Settlement</b>	<b>Adjusted Grant 2009/10</b>	<b>Provisional Grant 2010/11</b>	<b>£ Change</b>	<b>% Change</b>
	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>%</b>
Allocation before 'floor' adjustment	156.318	158.806	4.193	2.71
<b>Actual Allocations</b>	<b>154.643</b>	<b>157.462</b>	<b>2.849</b>	<b>1.84</b>
Cost of Floor – grant reduction			1.344	

- 5.4 Whilst the use of the 'floor' mechanism is supported, and the Council has benefited from this measure in the past, the Council would prefer to see the government fund the 'floor' element of the grant outside of future settlements so that authorities receive the full benefit from the grant formula allocations to which they are entitled.
- 5.5 The Council's specific and special grant allocations for 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 have both seen changes, however, not all grant allocations and supporting information are available at the time of writing this report. The changes in grant will however be reported to Cabinet, when available, and will also be taken into account during the budget process.
- 5.6 The Council welcomes the initiative to help fund free personal care for those with high personal needs and will respond fully to the consultation paper issued in due course, however, the Council would have preferred it if the government was to fully meet the full costs of this initiative, rather than rely on funding of just over a third of the costs through further Council efficiencies.

## **6. Reason for Decision**

- 6.1 Consideration of the 2010/2011 Settlement forms part of the budget preparation process of the Council.

## **7. Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected**

- 7.1 There are no alternative options recommended for approval.

## **Background Papers**

Local Authority Finance (England) – Revenue Support Grant for 2009/2010 and related matters - (Source: DCLG).

Local Authority Finance (England) – Revenue Support Grant for 2010/2011 and related matters - (Source: DCLG).

LGA Briefing – Local Government Finance Settlement 2010-11

## Comparison of Grant Allocations 2009/2010 (adjusted) to 2010/2011

<b>Totals</b>	<b>Adjusted Grant 2009/10 £m</b>	<b>Provisional Grant 2010/11 £m</b>	<b>% Change</b>
England	28,248.0	28,995.5	2.65
Shire Areas	13,904.6	14,321.3	3.00
Metropolitan Areas	7,991.8	8,196.6	2.56
London Authorities	6,349.4	6,475.4	1.98
East Midlands	2,106.4	2,181.2	3.55
Yorkshire / Humberside	3,011.7	3,100.4	2.95
North East Region	1,772.3	1,813.3	2.32
All Education Authorities	17,919.0	18,417.6	2.78
Metropolitan Districts	5,658.0	5,797.3	2.46
Tyne and Wear	598.9	608.4	1.59
Gateshead	104.3	105.8	1.50
Newcastle	164.5	167.0	1.50
North Tyneside	86.6	87.9	1.50
South Tyneside	89.0	90.3	1.50
<b>Sunderland</b>	<b>154.6</b>	<b>157.5</b>	<b>1.84</b>





REFERENCE FROM CABINET – 13<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2010

**CAPITAL PROGRAMME – THIRD REVIEW 2009/2010, PROVISIONAL RESOURCES 2010/2011 AND TREASURY MANAGEMENT REVIEW 2009/2010**

**Report of the Chief Solicitor**

**1. Why has this report come to this Committee?**

- 1.1 To set out for advice and consideration of the Committee a report detailing the outcome of the Third Review of the Capital Programme for 2009/2010 which sets out changes to the Capital Programme since the Second Capital Review 2009/2010, shows provisional capital resource allocation for 2010/2011 and provides an update on progress in implementing the Treasury Management Borrowing and Investment Strategy for 2009/2010.
- 1.2 Members' views will contribute to the consultation process.

**2. Background and Current Position**

- 2.1 The Cabinet, at its meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2010, gave consideration to a report of the Director of Financial Resources. The report advised of the:-
  - reprofiling of projects since the Second Capital Programme Review was reported;
  - inclusion of additional schemes and revisions to costs and resourcing for 2009/2010 since the Second Capital Programme Review was reported;
  - overall updated Capital Programme following the Third Review;
  - latest notifications of supported capital allocations for 2010/2011;
  - progress in implementing the Treasury Management Strategy for 2009/2010;
  - updated Council lending criteria and list of authorised institutions.
- 2.2 Copies of the 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2010 Cabinet agenda were circulated to all Members of the Council. Recommendations from the meeting will be reported orally to the meeting.
- 2.3 The matter is referred to the Management Scrutiny Committee, for advice and consideration in the context of inclusion of additional schemes for 2009/2010 which are set out in the attached extract. Comments from the Scrutiny Committee will be reported to Council on 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2010.

### 3. Conclusion

- 3.1 The report is referred to this Committee for advice and consideration. The comments of this Committee will be reported to the Council meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2010.

### 4. Recommendation

- 4.1 The Scrutiny Committee is invited to give advice and consideration in relation to the proposed additional schemes for 2009/2010 as set out in the attached extract.

### 5. Background Papers

- 5.1 Cabinet Agenda, 13<sup>th</sup> January, 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=1602>

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## Scheme Variations since the Second Capital Review 2009/2010

	£000	£000
<b>Additional Schemes since the Second Review 2009/2010</b>		
<b>Children and Learning City</b>		
<p>BSF Wave 2 Project Resource Plan                      As reported to Cabinet on the 4 November 2009 Sunderland's Readiness to Deliver submission for the next Wave of BSF has been approved by Partnerships for Schools. This approval allows Sunderland's second wave project to progress to the 'operational phase'. A number of tasks are scheduled to be completed by the end of the financial year including the recruitment of external support (as approved by Cabinet in November 2009), school surveys, school building plan drawings and scheme scoping. The capital programme has been increased by £0.300 million in 2009/2010 to reflect this expenditure, which it is proposed will be funded from the Council's Strategic Investment Reserve on a temporary basis until the resourcing of this phase of the BSF programme is finalised. A detailed project resource plan containing future year's expenditure and funding is being developed and will be agreed as part of the Outline Business Case to be submitted to Partnerships for Schools and approved by Cabinet in September / October 2010.</p>		300
<b>Attractive and Inclusive City</b>		
<p>Smart Ticketing                      The City Council has received a share of additional Regional Funding Allocation from the Department for Transport in respect of Integrated Transport. The grant of £0.928 million will be passported to Nexus to enable the implementation of Smart Ticketing. Smart Ticketing will make public transport easier to use and link up transport and wider public services making them more accessible to customers. The intention is for customer to be able to load their regular travel products onto smartcards and a 'pay as you go' system to be accepted by transport operators across the North East. Card readers are to be installed at stations and on buses which will check passenger's entitlement to travel.</p>		928

# SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

## IDEA SCRUTINY FITNESS HEALTH CHECK – 15 AND 16 FEBRUARY 2010

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

21 January 2010

### 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To update Members of the arrangements for the IDeA Scrutiny Fitness Health Check to be undertaken on 15 and 16 February 2010.

### 2. Background Information

- 2.1 Members will recall that the Improvement and Development Agency for Local Government (IDeA), undertook a Peer Review into the Council's Scrutiny arrangements back in September 2008 which identified key area for development and fundamental to the effective and future operation of Overview and Scrutiny in Sunderland.
- 2.2 There is currently two days paid support outstanding from the in-depth review, therefore it is proposed that the IDeA undertake a follow-up fitness check on the tentative dates of 15 and 16 February 2010 with particular emphasis on partnership scrutiny.
- 2.3 Preparations are currently underway to produce a short self-assessment outlining the changes made since the Peer Review along with an assessment of where the City Council's scrutiny arrangements are in respect of partnership scrutiny against the criteria identified in the Centre for Public Scrutiny's Principles of Good Scrutiny (to also include roles and relationships, process and practice, skills and support).
- 2.4 The IDeA on-site Team will consist of David Armin, IDeA Improvement Manager and Robin Stonebridge, Ex-Member and IDeA freelance consultant.
- 2.5 The IDeA will spend a day and a half on-site, observing the meeting of the Environment and Attractive City Scrutiny Committee, meet with a range of stakeholders as outlined below, provide feedback to a roundtable meeting at the end of their visit, followed up by a written summary of key messages:-
- (i) Group discussion with partners;
  - (ii) Group discussion with Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs;
  - (iii) Interview with the Chief Executive;
  - (iv) Interview with Leader;

- (v) Group discussion with officers supporting Scrutiny across service departments; and
- (vi) Group discussion with Scrutiny Team.

**3. Finalised Timetable for IDeA Scrutiny Fitness Health Check – 15 and 16 February 2010**

3.1 Outlined below is the finalised timetable for the IDeA Scrutiny Fitness Health Check to be held on 15 and 16 February 2010:-

<b>Monday 15 February 2010</b>	
12 noon to 1.00 pm	Welcome Lunch
1.00 pm to 2.00 pm	Group Discussion with Scrutiny Team
3.00 pm to 4.00 pm	Group discussion with Officers supporting Scrutiny across Service Directorates
6.00 pm to 7.30 pm	Observe meeting of the Environment and Attractive City Scrutiny Committee
<b>Tuesday 16 February 2010</b>	
9.30 am to 10.30 am	Group Discussion with Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs
11.00 am to 12 noon	Group Discussion with External Partners
1.30 pm to 2.00 pm	1:1 Discussion with the Assistant Chief Executive and David Armin of the IDeA
	1:1 Discussion with Sunderland Partnership Manager and Robin Stonebridge of the IDeA
2.30 pm to 3.30 pm	1:1 Discussion with the Chief Executive and David Armin of the IDeA
	1:1 Discussion with the Leader and Robin Stonebridge of the IDeA
4.30 pm to 5.30 pm	End of Day Feedback Session

**4. Recommendation**

4.1 Members are requested to receive the report and ask any questions felt to be appropriate.

## 5. Background Papers

None

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# MANAGEMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

## FORWARD PLAN – KEY DECISIONS FOR THE PERIOD 1 FEBRUARY 2010 TO 30 APRIL 2010

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

21 JANUARY 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 February 2010 – 30 April 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 February 2010 – 30 April 2010 will be despatched in advance of this meeting, due to its formal publication on 14 January 2010 which falls after the statutory requirements for the despatch 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 February 2010 – 30 April 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**

**21 January 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 – January 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
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	Youth Work Commissioning (AN)	Gender & Attainment – Progress on recommendations  YOS Improvement Plan (JH)		Final Report
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  Library Services Pricing Review	Initial Response Team Annual Report (MB)  Social Worker Roles & Responsibilities (MB)	Annual Report (KB)  Schools Performance (LB)
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 (LB)  Tellus4survey (SM)	LDD Improvement Plan (SF)	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			
CCFA/Members items/Petitions											

To be scheduled: Academy Schools Vision & Future  
Children’s Trust Annual Report  
Teaching & Take up of MFL  
Children’s Centres / Sure Start

At every meeting: Forward Plan items within the remit of this committee  
Work Programme update

**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
<b>Policy Review</b>	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)  Feedback from Safer Sunderland Forum (J Diamond)	Evidence Gathering  Tackling Deliberate Fires (John Allison)  Neighbourhood Helpline (Liz St Louis)  Safer Sunderland Forum – Feedback	Evidence Gathering  Nexus (Ken Wilson)  Home Office Advice on Tackling Anti Social Behaviour (Bill Blackett)  Youth Villages  Environmental Enforcement Teams (Norma Johnson)	Evidence Gathering  Magistrates Court  Not in my Neighbourhood Week – Feedback (Bill Blackett)  Visit to City Police Teams (Jim Diamond)	Draft report (JD)	Final Report
<b>Scrutiny</b>		Polycarbonate Drinking Vessels – City Centre Pilot (Stuart Douglass)		National Drug Strategy (Stuart Douglass)  Poverty of Place – Visit (Sal Buckler)		Tackling Violent Crime (Stuart Douglass)		Reducing Reoffending (Stuart Douglass)	Scrutinising the Policing Pledge (Stuart Douglass)  Powers of CSO's (Stuart Douglass)	Fear of Crime – Update report (Stuart Douglass)
<b>Scrutiny (Performance)</b>			Performance Q1 (Mike Lowe)				Performance Q2 (Mike Lowe)  Fear of Crime Study – Update report (Stuart Douglass)	Annual Delivery Plan (Andy Neal)		Performance Framework Q3 (Mike Lowe)
<b>Ref Cabinet</b>				Gambling Act – Amendments to Statement of Principles (Norma Johnston)						

Committee Business	Work Programme 2008/09 (JD)			Request to Attend Conference (J Diamond)						
CCFA/Members items/Petitions										
Information										

**ENVIRONMENT AND ATTRACTIVE CITY WORK PROGRAMME 2009 -10**

	<b>JUNE 18.6.09</b>	<b>JULY 13.7.09</b>	<b>SEPTEMBER 21.9.09</b>	<b>OCTOBER 19.10.09</b>	<b>NOVEMBER 16.11.09</b>	<b>DECEMBER 14.12.09</b>	<b>JANUARY 18.1.10</b>	<b>FEBRUARY 15.2.10</b>	<b>MARCH 15.3.10</b>	<b>APRIL 26.4.10</b>
<b>Policy Review</b>	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
<b>Scrutiny</b>		LisburnTerrace Triangle Development Framework – Cabinet Consultation(Keith Lowes)  Highways Maintenance Contingency- Prioritisation- (Burney Johnson)	Parking Enforcement (B Johnson)  Stadium Village Development Framework – Cabinet Consultation (Keith Lowes)	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 Defence(Andy Hindhaugh)	Local Transport Plan – Progress on Action Plan (Stephen Pickering)  Waste Management and Recycling (Peter High)  Seafront Masterplan (Keith Lowes)	Public Realm and Streetscene – Feedback from Review)  Public Toilets (Les Clark)  Bus Network Redesign (NEXUS)	Cemeteries (Peter High)  Cycling – Feedback from Review (Clive Greenwood)  Fawcett Street – Cllr Wood Item (Keith Lowes)	Streetlighting (Aurora)  Legible City – Better Signposting of the Gateways (Graeme Farnworth)  Stadium Development Village Development Framework (K Lowes)
<b>Scrutiny (Performance)</b>			Performance Q1 (Mike Lowe)				Performance Q2 (Mike Lowe)	Environment and Attractive City Annual Delivery Plan		Performance Framework Q3 (Mike Lowe)
<b>Ref Cabinet</b>										
<b>Committee Business</b>	Work Programme 2008/09 (JD)									
<b>CCFA/Members items/Petitions</b>										
<b>Information</b>										

## 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
<b>Policy Review</b>	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
<b>Scrutiny</b>	Proposed Restructuring of Community Nurse Teams in Sunderland (TO)  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)		Annual Report (Review Coord)
<b>Scrutiny (Performance)</b>			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)	Home Care Services Progress Report (SL)  Annual Delivery Plan	Quality Commissioning Progress Monitor 07/08 Policy review SL  Annual Health Check	Performance Framework Q3 (Paul Allen)
<b>Ref Cabinet</b>	Cabinet Response to the Policy Review- Dementia Care in Sunderland	Acute MH care – bed numbers		Acute MH care – bed numbers			Acute MH care – bed numbers		Acute MH care – bed numbers	

Committee business	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)
CCFA/ Members items/Petitions							Review of CCfA			
Information		Forward Plan	Conference Attendance CfPS Bid Forward Plan	Forward Plan	Forward Plan	Forward Plan Joint Scrutiny Proposals	Forward Plan	Forward Plan	Forward Plan	Forward Plan

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)



**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)	Major Projects Overview (JJ)	Draft Final Report (KJB)  Major Projects Overview	Final Report (KJB)
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)	<b>Delivering and Resourcing Projects and Programmes</b>  <b>Port Development</b>  <b>Job Centre Plus (DP)</b>  SCVS Survey Results (GM)	<b>Destination Management Plan (KM)</b>  <b>Lambton Cokeworks Development (HCA)</b>	<b>Future Jobs Fund (GB)</b>  <b>Draft Final Economic Masterplan</b>
Scrutiny (Performance)			Performance Q1 & VFM (GR)				Performance Q2			Performance Q3
Ref Cabinet							Strategic Planning Process	LSP 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			
CCfA/Members items/Petitions										
Information		Forward Plan Pilot						LSP Delivery Group Report (JS)		

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
<b>Policy Review</b>	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
<b>Scrutiny</b>	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
<b>Scrutiny (Performance)</b>		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) Forward Plan	Forward Plan	Annual Report (Review Coord) Climate Change (JG) Forward Plan
<b>Ref Cabinet</b>			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
<b>Committee business</b>	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)
<b>CCFA/ Members items/Petitions</b>							Review of CCFA Mechanism			

Information										
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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)			Performance Management (Q3) (SR)  Annual Audit Letter
Ref Cabinet			Proposal for Budget Consultation 2010/11 (KB)  Budget Variations 1 <sup>st</sup> Q (KB)	Budget Variations 2 <sup>nd</sup> Q (KB)  Budget Planning Framework (KB)			Council Tax 2010/11 (KB)  Budget Variations 3 <sup>rd</sup> Q (KB)  CAA Formal Feedback (SR)	Budget & Service Reports - RSG 09/10 - Council Tax - CIP  Ongoing CAA	Article 4: Sunderland Strategy  LAA	Ongoing CAA
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)  Future Monitoring of Scrutiny Recommendations Pilot (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)  Annual Scrutiny Conference 2010 – Draft Programme Outline (CB)	Forward Plan (CB)  Work Programmes of all Scrutiny Committees (CB)	Draft Annual Report (CB)  Forward Plan (CB)  Work Programmes of all Scrutiny Committees (CB)