

**At a meeting of the NORTH SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held at the BUNNY HILL CENTRE, NORTH HYLTON ROAD, SUNDERLAND on MONDAY, 9<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER, 2009 at 5.30 p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor Bell in the Chair

Councillors Charlton, Copeland, Foster, Francis, G. Hall, Howe, Shattock, Stewart, J. Walton, L. Walton, D. Wilson and N. Wright

**Also in Attendance:-**

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Ms. Estelle Brown    | - Youth and Community Lead, SNCBC   |
| Ms. Lynda Brown      | - Head of Standards, Sunderland City Council                                      |
| Ms. Amanda Cantle    | - Centre Manager, Bunny Hill, Sunderland City Council                             |
| Ms. Verity Dodd      | - Senior Corporate Communications Officer, Sunderland City Council                |
| Ms. Colleen Doneathy | - Corporate Communications Team, Sunderland City Council                          |
| Ms. Helen Ford       | - Extended Services Coordinator, Sunderland City Council                          |
| Mr. Bill Forster     | - Manager, Sunderland North, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service                |
| Ms. Vicky Happer     | - Corporate Communications Officer, Sunderland City Council                       |
| Ms. Pauline Hopper   | - Area Officer, Sunderland City Council   |
| Mr. Dave Leonard     | - Area Co-ordinator, Sunderland City Council                                      |
| Ms. Elizabeth McEvoy | - Area Renewal Co-ordinator, Sunderland City Council                              |
| Insp. Lisa Musgrove  | - Northumbria Police  |
| Mr. Andy Neal        | - Youth Development Group Manager, Sunderland Council                             |
| Mr. Ron Odunaiya     | - Executive Director City Services, (Area Lead Executive) Sunderland City Council |
| Ms. Julie Raine      | - Director, City of Sunderland Colleges   |
| Ms. Joanne Stewart   | - Senior Democratic Services Officer, Sunderland City Council                     |
| Mr. Mike Poulter     | - Head of Project and Service Development, Sunderland City Council                |
| Mr. Richard Reading  | - Principal Trading Standards Officer, Sunderland City Council                    |
| Ms. Dawn Rugman      | - Policy Officer (Diversity), Sunderland City Council                             |
| Ms. Patricia Stoker  | - Headteacher, Southwick Primary School   |
| Ms. Pauline Walmsley | - Extended Services, Southwick Primary School                                     |

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Bell, Leadbitter and N. Wright.

## **Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2009**

Councillor Walton referred to the pilot for the Questions to Area Committees, and asked fellow Members if any of them had been approached for a form, which they informed him they had not. Ms. Hopper advised that the scheme had been ran as a pilot and Members had been sent forms to distribute to any of their constituents who may wish to ask a question at the Area Committee. She explained that they had not wanted to openly advertise the scheme as they did not want to be inundated with responses whilst the scheme was in its early stages.

With regard to page 4 of the minutes and Southwick Sports Hall, Mr. Odunaiya advised that he was aware that their had been concerns raised over losing the facilities at Southwick Sports Hall and on further investigation it had been found that the cost of running the centre for 12 months was not huge. He explained that he had spoken with the Portfolio Holder Councillor Gofton who had asked that the issue be looked at in greater detail to find a solution to maintaining the facility long term.

A lot of good work was being undertaken at the Hall and City Services would look to fund the next 12 months, then giving Officers time to look at alternative ways to be support the operation and delivery of the services provided at the Hall over a longer term.

Members asked if they would receive regular updates and were advised that regular progress reports would be submitted to future meetings of the Committee.

1. RESOLVED that
  - (i) the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2009 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to the inclusion of Inspector Lisa Musgrove in the attendance; and
  - (ii) that regular progress reports on Southwick Sports Hall be submitted to future meetings of the Committee.

### **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **Questions to Area Committee**

There were no questions to the Area Committee received.

## **Priority Theme: North Sunderland a Learning Area Summary**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which asked Members to consider and identify their main proposals for further development and action in relation to their Learning Area priority theme.

(for copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Pauline Hopper, Area Officer, reminded Members that the Committee had agreed its work programme for the year at its meeting held in June and that the Learning priority was the third to come to the committee for discussion and consideration.

Ms. Lynda Brown, Head of Standards, took Members through each of the four priority issues, as detailed below. Each priority was considered in turn and Members were given an update with regard to current activity and actions taken for each.

- i) Provide non-academic support and advice for children and young people;
- ii) Specialist and generalist youth provision to be available in all wards in the North area;
- iii) Raise aspirations of children/young people and their families; and
- iv) Raise attainment levels and skills of young people.

With regard to the anti-bullying programmes, Ms. Stoker of Southwick Primary School commented that she would welcome the extending of programmes to primary schools and that it would be interesting to see how the programme was implemented in schools in the North Area to ensure there was some consistency in their approach.

Ms. Brown advised that the Children's Services were currently carrying out a review of the anti-bullying programme across the city and that it would be an ideal opportunity for examples of good practice to be shared and replicated. She referred to a successful project in the Coalfields area whereby a student who had previously been bullied was used in a video to promote anti-bullying.

Councillor Shattock asked if there was evidence to support whether bullying affected boys or girls more, and if there were more incidents at primary or secondary levels. She also asked if there had been an increase in children using mobile phones and the internet to bully, i.e. 'cyber bullying'. Ms. Brown explained that it affected both boys and girls at all ages and that bullying techniques were far more sophisticated and complicated than they used to be with the introduction of social network sites and young people having mobiles phones, which was of a concern.

With regard to a query from Councillor Stewart around the option to expand the role of the Council's Anti-Bullying Co-ordinator, Ms. Brown advised that through the Children's Fund they had developed a lot of anti-bullying work and the aim was to improve on this and make it more strategic before rolling it out

across the city. At present the work of anti-bullying currently sat in the remit of the Safeguarding strand, within the Children's Services Directorate.

Ms. Stoker also commented that there was a need to work with local community's and parents to help them get a level of understanding of the ongoing work around bullying and how it was in everyone's best interests to help in identifying and reporting any incidents they came across.

She advised that the authority had a lot of experience and some good anti-bullying packages which it would be invaluable to build upon but the biggest current issue around bullying was the use of technology as it was such a massive unknown area which needed to be explored.

In response to a question from Councillor Howe regarding the complaints procedure around a school's bullying policy, Ms. Brown advised that every school in the city has an anti-bullying policy which is agreed by the Governing Body. Within it it sets out the route a parent needs to take if they have not been satisfied, which currently means writing to the Secretary of State. On the occasions letters of complaint have been received by the Director of Children's Services, she has responded to parents advising them of the correct procedure and approached the school to make them aware of the complaint.

Ms. Stoker also advised Councillor Howe that every reported incident of bullying was recorded, regardless of the level of severity.

Mr. Andy Neal, Interim Youth Development Group Manager, updated the Committee on the commissioning of the youth services process and advised that contracts would be ward based in the future so that all areas of the city had some access to youth provision. Members were informed that regular updates would be provided to future meetings of the Committee as the commissioning process developed.

In response to a query from Councillor Hall regarding the tender process, Mr. Neal advised that the tender goes out through the tender portal and is advertised in the press. A lot of local organisations know the standard process and would be made aware when the tender was due to start. Officers also keep a log of any interested parties to advise them of the tender dates but once the tender process has actually begun no further communications are made.

Councillor Hall continued to ask when Councillors had their input to the process and was advised that Councillors had been invited to consultation events, some in their area, and that they would also be able to give their views in a further consultation process over the next 3 weeks.

Councillor Wilson referred to the list of youth provision for the North area that Mr. Neal had provided and asked why certain activities finished at 8:00pm as he felt this was too early. Mr. Neal informed him that they were looking to increase the facilities provided on a Friday and Saturday, explaining that there was a greater need on the Friday night. Start and finish times would be

negotiated with the organisation providing the service but overall they tried to fit the service around the needs and wants of the young people involved.

With regards to the third priority, to raise aspirations of young people and their families, Julie Raine commented that the college worked closely with partners to support young people between the ages of 14-19 and that boundaries needed to be stretched in areas to ensure support for a child did not stop at the school leaving age of 16. Councillor Shattock agreed with the Officer and stressed that there needed to be stronger links between schools and the University and from an early age.

Ms. Raine advised the Members of the Aim Higher Project which has undertaken a lot of work to help the transition between school moves and it has built into the programme the ethos of how University can be an obvious next step in education. Councillor Shattock suggested that a ex-students of the university could come back and speak in schools to help give their views over attending which could be use to encourage and influence young people's decisions.

Ms. Stoker, Head teacher Southwick Primary School, advised that she dealt with both Connexions and the Aim Higher Project to help her aspire her young pupils. The School currently worked with the University by having visits around their sites and having a mentor system in place. She felt that these and other examples were already signs of good partner working practices that could be built upon.

Ms. Brown suggested that an action be included for the Committee to receive a further report on the priority of raising aspirations across the city, presenting suggestions to help address the issues.

Ms. Brown whilst discussing the actions taken with regard to raising attainment levels and skills advised that new programmes were being brought in to ensure that large employment providers in the city were offering positions to their fair share of apprentices. She explained that in order to get young people off the NEET register they were asking employers to employ young people for a 6 month period.

In response to a query from the Chairman regarding young people being put off accepting a 6 month post as they may lose any benefits they received, Ms. Brown commented that for the older ones that may be a problem but that at 16 years old that wouldn't be an issue to consider. The first 6 months after leaving school was the most difficult to keep an eye on young people as quite often they were in and out of different categories of learning or working and then leaving.

The Chairman having thanked the Officers for the report, it was:-

2. RESOLVED that:-
  - i) the report and actions within it be received and noted; and
  - ii) the following proposals be developed:-

- Review of the anti-bullying provision in schools and explore extending anti-bullying programmes in primary schools in the North;
- Review current policy for community use of school facilities outside of school hours;
- Review the use of underutilised youth and sports facilities, e.g. North Community Sports Centre;
- Review current FACL provision including contracting arrangement, learning providers, types of courses available, times and venues;
- Escalate to the LSP a review of apprenticeship opportunities and greater public sector commitment to the creation of more full apprenticeships being required.

### **Thematic Feedback Report**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with feedback from the established working groups for each of the five thematic priorities the Area Committee had agreed and considered as set out in the work plan for 2009/2010.

(for copy report – see original minutes).

In July and September 2009 the Area Committee had agreed a number of actions and proposals relating to the Attractive and Inclusive and Safe priorities, respectively, which had both been formulated into action plans for Members to monitor.

Ms. Hopper took Members through the report highlighting any progress against the actions and identifying proposals which had come from them for Members consideration.

Councillor Hall referred to the £100,000 awarded for sea front improvements and advised that Fulwell and St Peter's wards were proposing to offer another £8,000 each towards the maintenance of speeding signs, etc at the seafront. Ms. Hopper advised that costs had been presented to the last meeting of the Committee and an application for funding would be submitted to a future meeting.

In response to comments from Councillor Copeland regarding the potential of having organised bonfire celebrations at Hylton Castle, Ms. Estelle Brown updated Members that they had met with the events teams at Newcastle and had visited a similar kind of event. A meeting was being held on 11 November to start planning for an event for 2010 and Hylton Castle had been the best site located. The event had the backing and support of the Councillors, Northumbria Police and Tyne and Wear Fire Rescue Services.

Councillor Hall referred to an illegal bonfire that had been planned and arranged using the Facebook website and asked that thanks be passed to

Northumbria Police who had managed to step in and stop the event going ahead.

In response to a question from Councillor Wilson regarding the Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Officers, Ms. McEvoy confirmed that the service was reactionary at the moment and that a further post had been recruited, totalling four officers across the city.

Councillor Copeland referred to the Area Officer developing a Community Payback Scheme and was keen to see it being put in place and used well. Ms. Hopper advised that she had a meeting that week to see what more could be done with regards to the scheme and she would feed back to the Committee what came from it.

The Chairman having thanked Ms. Hopper for her report, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that:-

i) the attached Annex 1 and 2 of the report be agreed; and

ii) the following proposal be agreed:-

- To receive a SIP/SIB funding application to improve access to Thompson Park.

### **Financial Statements and Funding Requests**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) providing Members with the current expenditure from the SIB, SIP and Community Chest and applications for funding from these budgets in order to support new initiatives.

(for copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Hopper presented the report, advising Members that there were 16 proposals for support from the 2009/2010 Community Chest budget and four proposals for support from the 2009/2010 SIB budget. Members were also advised of the financial statement for 2009/2010 and the SIB project update report.

Ms. Hopper took the Committee through each of the applications for funding as set out in the report. Mr. Odunaiya, referred to the application from City Services for the Provision of Seafront Toilets over the Winter Months. It had become apparent to him how important an issue it was to Councillors, and how they had been waiting to have the provision for some time. As Director of the Service he advised Members he would go away and look at reprioritising provisions to deliver the service from the mainstream budget and asked that the application be withdrawn.

Members having thanked Mr. Odunaiya for his suggestion, it was:-

5. RESOLVED that:-

- i) approval be given to the 16 projects recommended for support from the 2009/2010 Community Chest budget with a total value of £7,757 as detailed in Annex 1 to the report;
- ii) the financial statement for 2009/2010 as detailed in Annex 2 to the report be noted;
- iii) approval be given to the Castletown Gating Order Project recommended for support from the 2009/2010 SIB budget with a total value of £3,500;
- iv) approval be given to the Community Neighbourhood Support Initiative recommended for support, subject to the conditions as set out in the report, from the 2009/2010 SIB budget with a total value of £46,320;
- v) approval be given to the Sunderland Phoenix Project recommended for support with a total value of £15,274 (£7,637 from the 2009/2010 SIB budget and £7,637 from the 2010/2011 SIB budget subject to budget approval);
- vi) the Seafront Toilet Provision Winter Months application be withdrew, subject to alternative mainstream funding being identified; and
- vii) the North Live Project Update be noted as detailed in Annex 7 to the report.

### **Responsive Local Services**

The Executive Director City Services and Chief Executive submitted a joint report (copy circulated) which advised Member of the commencement of the Responsive Local Services (RLS) Project which forms part of the Council's Community Leadership Programme.

(for copy report – see original minutes).

Mr. Mike Poulter, Head of Project and Service Development presented the report advising that from the January cycle of meetings they would be bringing a report to the Committee indicating how neighbourhood services were performing and being delivered with regard to litter, refuse collection, grass cutting, graffiti and dog fouling.

Members raised areas of concern around the issues identified and Mr. Poulter advised that as concerns came forward the report back to the Area Committee would be able to focus on addressing those issues. It was planned to identify service issues before receiving customer feedback from them and services out in the city, such as bin men, road sweepers, etc were asked to report in any areas of concern so the Council were self generating issues.

Councillor Hall commented that it was imperative that Ward Councillors were consulted and involved in discussions as many times they were the best way for information to be passed to and from local residents. Mr. Poulter agreed



and explained that that was exactly what the initiative was based around, local Members, influencing local issues.

The Chairman having thanked Mr. Poulter for his report, it was:-

6. RESOLVED that the report be noted for information.

### **Review of Local Area Plans**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with the details of the review of the Local Area Plan.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Hopper presented the report advising that Members would be receiving a survey and self assessment form to complete, to ensure that all Councillors would have an opportunity to influence and shape the Sunderland Way of Working.

The Chairman having thanked Ms. Hopper for her report, it was:-

7. RESOLVED that the report be noted and Members take part in the self assessments and Members' surveys.

### **Area Committee Handbook**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which sought the Members approval and adoption of the Area Committee Handbook 2009/2010 which had been developed by the Area Arrangements Project Board.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Hopper presented the report advising that the handbook had been developed to provide guidance for everyone involved in the Area Committee. The guidance in the handbook should be read alongside the Council's constitution.

8. RESOLVED that the Area Committee Handbook for 2009/10 be adopted.

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

(Signed) R. COPELAND,  
Chairman.

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE****Questions to Area Committee – Review of Pilot Scheme****1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To inform the Area Committee of the Questions to Area Committees received to date.
- 1.2 To seek the Area Committee's agreement to extend the pilot and for a review to be undertaken and reported to the March meeting of the Area Committee.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 At its meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2009 the Area Committee approved the protocol to the Questions to Area Committees Scheme and that a pilot be undertaken for the next two Area Committee meetings in September and November 2009, with Councillors being encouraged to invite local people along to these meetings to ask strategic questions affecting the North Sunderland Area as a whole.
- 2.2 The Area Committee also agreed that after the pilot a review on how it was managed in terms of process and practicalities would be held, with the possibility of it being rolled out across the City in 2010.

**3. Questions to Area Committee**

- 3.1 Questions to the Area Committees have been received for the September and November 2009 meetings as follows:-

Coalfield Area Committee	-	0
East Area Committee	-	0
North Area Committee	-	0
Washington Area Committee	-	1
West Area Committee	-	1

- 3.2 At the time of writing this report questions have been raised in respect of the Area Committees for the January meeting as follows:-

East Area Committee	-	3
Washington Area Committee	-	6

- 3.3 In view of the relatively low number of questions received during the initial period and the fact that three of the five Area Committees have

not received any questions prior to the January meeting, it is proposed to extend the pilot and undertake a review with a report to be submitted to the March meeting of the Area Committee for Members' consideration.

**4. Recommendation**

To approve a review of the pilot to the Questions to Area Committees to be submitted to the March meeting of the Area Committee.

**5. Background Papers**

Minutes of the meeting and report of the July meeting of the Area Committee.

- 6. Contact officer** Joanne Stewart  
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# North Sunderland Area Committee

4 January 2009

## Report of the Chief Executive

### North Sunderland a Prosperous Area Summary

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

1.1 At its June meeting, the committee agreed its work plan for the 2009/10 municipal year and the Prosperous priority is the fourth to come to committee for discussion and consideration.

#### 2. Description of Decision

2.1 Area Committee is asked to note the reports and the following **actions** identified in Annex 1a and 1b:

- Sunderland arc to provide progress reports/further information to Area Committee regarding current and future activities when available.
- Results from the 'Visible Workspace' project to be provided, once available.

#### 3. Background

3.1 Across Sunderland North unemployment levels are lowest in Fulwell ward 2.9% and highest in Redhill ward 10.4%. The City average is 6.4%. Castle 7% and Southwick 9.8% are also higher than the City average. The level for St Peters ward 5.5% is lower.

There are a number of factors that impact on residents' ability to work; More residents are economically inactive (which means they aren't looking to work e.g. residents looking after a home, retired, students etc.) and levels are higher in Castle 44.67%, Redhill 44.84%, Southwick 46.46% than the City average of 39.36%. Contributory factors are the higher rates of permanently sick and disabled residents in these three wards. The percentage of benefit claimants in North Sunderland is 22.2%, which is slightly higher than the City average of 20.2%. All wards are above the City average with the exception of Fulwell 10.2% and St Peters 17.2% wards. The percentage of incapacity benefit claimants is higher than the City average of 10.9% across the same 3 wards Castle 12.5%, Redhill 15.1%, Southwick 15.6%

In North Sunderland job prospects are identified by residents as the eighth most important thing in making somewhere a place to live (from a range of 20 options). This is slightly lower than the City average.

3.2 Following the extensive programme of consultation with members, partners, community stakeholders and the wider community, the agreed priorities for this theme are:

- Build on strengths of the area and attract business investment
- Provide co-ordinated advice and support to businesses
- Co-ordinate work of advice and business support agencies
- Work with employers to develop relevant training packages to meet skills shortages
- Provide in-work support to those gaining new jobs
- Provide access to educational activities for all adults and raise aspirations and skills in relation to employability
- Co-ordinate approach to enterprise support and development

2.2 Who has been involved?

- Business Investment Team
- Strategic Economic Development Team
- Corporate Policy Team

2.3 Key Dates

- Aug 09: Initial meeting held with key partners to discuss priorities, what services are being currently delivered, any gaps, and general comments
- 30.11.09: Working Group to determine key priorities to be presented to January 2010 Area Committee
- 07.12.09: Pre meeting for Area Committee
- 18.12.09 : Report deadline for Area Committee
- **04.01.10 : Area Committee, discuss and agreed recommendations**
- 20.02.10 : Feedback deadline
- 01.03.10 : Area Committee: Feedback presented
- 03.04.10 : Deadline for End of year report for Area Committee
- 09.04.10 : Area Committee End of Year report presented

### **3. Prosperous Theme Area Summary**

3.1 Attached as Annex 1 is the area summary for the Learning theme. The annex covers:

- Priorities agreed at Area Committee
- Background/Key Issues
- Current activity
- Any gaps, identified needs or general comments
- Actions and Proposals with lead organisations identified

#### **4. Recommendation**

4.1 Area Committee is asked to note all of the **actions** identified in Annex 1a and 1b:

- Sunderland arc to provide progress reports/further information to Area Committee regarding current and future activities when available.
- Results from the 'Visible Workspace' project to be provided, once available.

#### **5. Background papers**

- Sunderland Strategy Delivery Plans
- Local Area Agreements Delivery Plans
- Sunderland North Local Area Plan
- Information provided by partners and officers at a Prosperous workshop event August 2009 and one to one meetings

**6. Contact Officer:** Dave Leonard, Area Co-ordinator  
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**Annex 1a:** Sunderland North Prosperous Area Summary

**Annex 1b:** Developing an Economic Masterplan for Sunderland

# Sunderland North PROSPEROUS Theme

## Priority 1

### Build on strengths of the area and attract business investment

#### Background/Key Issues

The North of the City has many assets such as Enterprise Park, Hylton Castle, the Sea Front, Fulwell Mill and Stadium Village. The assets should be promoted in a positive way to improve the image of the area and help to promote and attract investment.

Attracting employers to locate within the City has helped to create employment for local people. Improved partnership working around the promotion and development of commercial and industrial sites could encourage more investment into the North of Sunderland.

#### Current Activity

The 'Visible Workspace' project, through Working Neighbourhoods Funding (WNF) is a demand survey being carried out to look at all opportunities to develop workspace across the City. Results will inform further work to match up the supply and demand for premises/workspace at specific locations.

The Sunderland arc are preparing a Development Framework for Stadium Village, setting vision for the area and identifying broad principles of redevelopment.

The feasibility and financial viability of an indoor snow and ice facility is underway.

A Development Framework for Bonnersfield St Peters is being prepared by Sunderland arc.

Corporate Communications have developed an Area Plan and Ward Newsletter for the North Area.

Sunderland Football Club are being supported by partners to stage events at the Stadium. Regular liaison between Sunderland arc and Sunderland Football Club monitors their development aspirations in and around the Stadium.

Sunderland Enterprise Park is a growth area and is seen in the North East as a successful business area.

£1m has been secured from the Sea Change fund to improve Marine Walk at Roker, this will be matched by £500,000 from Sunderland City Council.

The 2018 successful World Cup bid will further promote the Stadium of Light and Sunderland as a host city and will raise the profile of the City of Sunderland .

Junction improvements to the A19/A1231 will improve access to and from the North area, making it more attractive and accessible to potential employers.

**Quay West Riverside Business Village** provides 10,000 sq.metres of office space in 48 individual units on a former shipyard site adjacent to the River Wear and Queen Alexandra Bridge. The development offers a range of offices catering for the needs of small, medium and larger sized businesses.

Sunderland International Air Show is a major event for the North area and attracts visitors from across the country.

A Communications Plan and a dedicated Communications Officer for the North area will enable focused marketing and promotion of the area.

The Working Neighbourhood Fund (WNF) programme will launch a promotion campaign early in 2010, this will evaluate and promote success of the WNF funded projects and focus on raising aspirations and opportunities across the City.

The Business Investment Team are promoting and attracting automotive industries into the area to build on the success of existing businesses. There are opportunities for future development such as the development of the Nissan battery plant to support the electric vehicle programme.

### **Action**

- Sunderland arc to provide progress reports/further information to Area Committee regarding current and future activities when available.
- Results from the 'Visible Workspace' project to be provided, once available.

### **Priority 2**

#### **Provide co-ordinated advice and support to businesses**

#### **Background/Key Issues**

There are a number of services and organisations who can provide business advice and support. It is recognised that there needs to be a co-ordinated approach to ensure that businesses get the full range of services for which they are eligible.

#### **Current Activity**

As part of the Government's Solutions for Business initiative to simplify and streamline services, a Sunderland Business Support Network has been established. The Network meets regularly to discuss and co-ordinate activity. Business support agencies hold weekly meetings to discuss individual cases and ensure they are being offered relevant support.

The Working Neighbourhoods Fund programme has brought a significant level of funding to the City, as set out below;

- 2008/2009 - £8.590m
- 2009/2010 - £10.456m
- 2010/2011 - £10.904m

A Working Neighbourhoods Strategy has been developed resulting in a number of projects being supported in the City;

- Employment Specialists (Mental Health) - addressing people long term mental health needs and problematic substance abuse and NEET groups.
- Kickstart – addressing young offenders, parents, care leavers, young people.
- The Hub project – young people in or in a risk of being in NEET.
- Work it out! – addressing workless people on inactive benefits and disadvantaged people and groups living in deprived areas.
- PIE – addressing Carers/ex Carers aged 16 – 65.
- Sunderland Coaching Academy addressing a wide range of disadvantaged groups.
- Skills Bridge – addressing low skilled, hardest to reach benefit claimants.
- Employment support for people with disabilities.
- Sunderland Council's Job Linkage Core Delivery Services.
- Essential Steps to Employability, addressing people with no or low skills.
- Unlocking potential addressing young people in the NEET group.



### **Priority 3**

#### **Co-ordinate work of advice and business support agencies**

##### **Background/Key Issues**

It is important to have an overview of work in this area to allow a balanced and proportionate response.

##### **Current Activity**

The Business Investment Team is dedicated to delivering the Sunderland Strategy's Strategic Priority Prosperous City: "To create an enterprising and productive global city with a strong and diverse economy providing jobs and careers for generations to come."

The primary aim of the Business Investment Service is to ensure improvements in economic prosperity in the City through encouraging business growth, development and investment. To achieve this aim, the team:

- Develops measures to increase the level of business activity and stimulate sustainable economic interest and investment in the City;
- Provides support and assistance to local and incoming businesses in order to develop employment opportunities and support business growth;
- Provides proactive and reactive support and assistance to secure direct investment and re-investments within the City to create and safeguard local jobs;
- Promotes physical and infrastructure improvements for business growth;
- Works to develop a skilled and motivated workforce to support the long term goals of Sunderland as a competitive location.

Between April and December 2009, 19 businesses in the Sunderland North Area successfully applied for financial assistance from the BIT to implement business growth plans, creating a potential 164 new jobs. This represented 28% of the applications for that period.

The Libra Partnership has developed a plan 'The Route to Advice' to co-ordinate advice available from providers.

Sunderland City Council advice providers now co-ordinate and jointly deliver advice. Providers include Welfare Rights and the Housing Options Team

A rapid response scheme provides employees threatened by redundancy benefit and money advice.

### **Priority 4**

#### **Work with employers to develop relevant training packages to meet skills shortages**

##### **Background/Key Issues**

Developing areas of work require specialised staff and new training packages developed to meet their requirements.

##### **Current Activity**

Early in 2009 Sunderland City Council commissioned an Employment Skills Survey to establish what current and future skills needs are in order to match skills with employers' needs. Routeways to Employment in the public sector, healthcare and contact centre have been developed as a result. In partnership with Sunderland University, the exercise will be repeated in 2010 to ensure that information is relevant and updated. Results will be used to influence future WNF development and interventions.

Funded through Working Neighbourhoods Funding, the Working Links part of Job Linkage service is working closely with employers to ensure that job vacancies can be matched with skills development to ensure employment training is appropriate for the vacancies both current and anticipated.

SAFC Foundation is working in partnership with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and Job Centre Plus targeting people over 18 who are not in work or training. The programme began in October 2009 and will run for an initial 18 month period. SAFC Foundation is consulting the North East Chamber of Commerce and Job Centre Plus to identify occupations where there are skills shortages and to invite employers to engage with course participants.

Health, Housing and Adult Services (HHAS) have developed a service model for vulnerable adults to prepare them to a point where they are ready for employment, and aims to support employers to enable vulnerable people to enter/remain in employment.

## **Priority 5**

### **Provide in-work support to those gaining new jobs**

#### **Background/Key Issues**

People gaining work after periods of unemployment, or those undertaking a change in career/sector sometimes require support to sustain employment.

#### **Current Activity**

Included in the extended Job Linkage service, in work support is prioritised through Working Neighbourhoods Funding. All projects funded via WNF offering specialist support e.g. to those leaving care, offer continued support to clients for a period of 6 months after they have gained employment.

Welfare rights advice is being given by Sunderland City Council and partners funded by the Council in relation to benefits, in-work benefits, housing and debt issues.

The Housing Options Team at Sunderland City Council have 5 resettlement workers across the City who will work with Job Linkage to provide support to clients who have housing issues. This is to ensure they do not lose their home which would affect their ability to gain/stay in a job.

Health, Housing and Adult Services (HHAS) are working with Remploy to support people with disabilities into employment. The project aims to co-ordinate the employment and social care needs of individuals to ensure they are better supported.

HHAS are delivering a WNF project focusing on supporting people with mental health needs into employment. The project also supports clients to remain in sustainable employment.

The Libra partnership, a network of advice organisations, offer financial advice and support. A new website was launched in October 2009 [www.librasunderland.co.uk](http://www.librasunderland.co.uk)

As the national skills service, Train to Gain provides support and to employers to enable them to develop their workforce and increase skills and opportunities for those in work. It aims to meet the needs of employers of all sizes and from all sectors to improve the skills of their employees as a route to improving their business performance and is a valuable resource for employers, unlocking employees' potential and increasing company productivity. A broad range of training is covered – from basic level skills to Level 2, Level 3 and other higher-level skills such as Leadership and Management.

## **Priority 6**

## **Provide access to educational activities for all adults and raise aspirations and skills in relation to employability**

### **Background/Key Issues**

There are people in the area who have lived in households of second and third generation levels of unemployment and therefore have aspiration levels that need addressing. High levels of unemployment and low paid work further compound this issue.

### **Current Activity**

Across the North Area Committee area there are a wide range educational activities. Opportunities for educational activities exist at the Bunny Hill Centre, BIC, WNF funded projects, Sunderland University, Sunderland College, Sunderland Libraries and a number of Community and Voluntary Sector projects such as SNCBC, Wearmouth Community Development Trust, Sunderland North Family Zone, Springboard.

SAFC Foundation has a successful Family Learning programme, which for the last six years has delivered a range of courses using the power of football to improve skills (including numeracy and literacy). All courses are free and run in local schools or at an SAFC Foundation site.

SAFC Foundation has a successful trainee scheme which targets young people aged 16+. Trainees are with the organisation for two years, gaining qualifications and employability skills, on the job training, coaching and mentoring. During the last 12 months 5 out of 11 trainees were recruited on to permanent positions within the organisation.

Through the Carers Strategy, carers and ex-carers are being assisted into employment. Advice and guidance on vocational training provides part of the service.

The Volunteering programme in HHAS recruits, trains and places volunteers in a variety of roles within the Learning Disability Service and the Sunderland Community Mental Health Partnership.

HHAS clients are using Direct Payments scheme to pay for college courses to enhance changes in the workplace.

A new Transitions Team has been set up to ensure vulnerable young people who have been receiving care and support from Children's Services have a smooth transition into adulthood and receive the care and support they need.

Sunderland City Council's Family, Adult and Community Learning Service (FACL) have a range of learning programmes in Downhill, Southwick, Town End Farm and Redhouse designed to engage hard to reach adults. Courses are being planned for delivery in the Bunny Hill Centre.

Job Linkage is a nationally accredited Information, Advice and Guidance service, with over 11 years experience of delivering community based employment services. Co-ordinated by Sunderland City Council it aims to 'Link Local People to Local Jobs'. There are 3 Job Linkage outlets across the City, based in community settings. In the North area, these are Hylton Castle, Town End Farm, and Southwick.

The Working Neighbourhoods Fund is ensuring the strategic expansion of the existing Job Linkage service to ensure that support for individuals to move from unemployment into work is both co-ordinated across the City and tailored to the specific needs of the North Area.

A specific community liaison officer within the Job Linkage service has been appointed for the North Area to target recruitment and ongoing support at the most vulnerable residents.

Employability skills courses are being developed to be delivered in 2009/10. These courses are aimed at developing individual's skills so that they become sustainable in the local economy in terms of participating in volunteering opportunities or progressing into options that will lead to future employment.

Textiles courses for learners with learning difficulties/disabilities are currently delivered by FACL at the Bunny Hill Centre.

### **Gaps/Needs**

Provision is predominantly during the day. There is limited provision at evenings and weekends.

### **Action**

This item is being addressed through the Learning priority.

### **Priority 7**

#### **Co-ordinate approach to enterprise support and development**

#### **Background/Key Issues**

Businesses who are starting up in a stage of development receive assistance in this area and it is important to co-ordinate this approach to provide consistency and quality to those who seek such a service

#### **Current Activity**

The North-East Business Innovation Centre (BIC) is located in the North and is one of the leading enterprise agencies in the United Kingdom. The BIC is an organisation which exists to service businesses of all sizes at all stages. The team of experienced advisers help hundreds of businesses to start up each year, and the 14-acre BIC site can accommodate over 160 companies in purpose-built offices and work spaces. They also offer an array of technical resources and support services, as well as quality meeting / conference facilities fitted with the latest video conferencing equipment.

Established in 1994, the facilities have grown in line with the needs of industry and include specific incubator units to help nurture aspiring businesses.

Sunderland Enterprise Consortia (SEC) is a unique and long established Wearside based partnership that is focused upon the stimulation and development of enterprise within the City of Sunderland. Each partner brings a specialist route way and reach to the stimulation and growth of the enterprise market within Wearside. The consortia, including SES, BIC, SNCBC, FISCUS, Gentoo and Sunderland City Council, have designed an intensive Enterprise Talent Scout initiative funded through Working Neighbourhoods Funding. Talent scouts and business advisers are working throughout Sunderland to target new potential entrepreneurs and support them on the route to setting up in business. SEC promotes self-employment, social enterprise and aims to increase business creation amongst people from the City of Sunderland, including residents from deprived communities and under-represented groups and/or individuals. The objective is to capture the imagination and engage Wearside residents via Talent Scouts and Community Enterprise Coachin, delivering intensive customer facing support whilst supporting and assisting residents to access business start up support.

The SEC provides 1:1 self employment business start up advice, training and assistance from SNCBC and Job Linkage offices, Sunderland BIC, Gentoo housing offices and community venues

The activities of the SEC is backed up by a small and larger grant fund to help new businesses develop and existing businesses grow.

In terms of Business starts, the Enterprise Activity of partners has supported the start up of 9 new enterprises, including an artist, an entertainer, a design consultant and a builder.

## Developing an Economic Masterplan for Sunderland

### REPORT OF THE HEAD OF STRATEGIC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

#### 1.0 Why has this report come to the Committee?

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to share with the North Sunderland Area Committee the content of the Economic Masterplan for Sunderland as it has been developed so far, in order that it might be used to inform the Committee's discussion of the Prosperous City theme within its Local Area Plan. Also to seek the views of the Area Committee on the economic direction for Sunderland that has been produced.
- 1.2 The development and delivery of a successful Economic Masterplan for Sunderland will make a significant contribution to the achievement of Strategic Priority 1: Prosperous City. The contribution of the North Area of the City to the achievement of the overall vision is likely to be substantial.

#### 2.0 Background

- 2.1 A report was presented to this Committee on the 7<sup>th</sup> September 2009 outlining progress made up until that point on the Economic Masterplan.
- 2.2 Since that meeting Cabinet has agreed the proposed Vision for the Economic Masterplan and a set of five aims, based on the ideas and analysis that was presented to this group in September. These are now being shared in the press and on the council's website, and residents views are being sought.
- 2.3 Focused delivery groups have now been established for each of the Aims. These groups are identifying the projects, programmes and activities that will contribute to the delivery of each aim, as well as looking at how activity can be resourced.
- 2.4 Progress is also being made towards a detailed City Centre Strategic Framework. The City Centre is the subject of Aim 3 of the Economic Masterplan, and the City Centre Strategic Framework will set out in detail the role of the City Centre in delivering the Economic Masterplan. This work has built on the outcome of a City Centre workshop, which took place in September and included representatives from retailers, businesses, community groups and public sector partners. It is anticipated that this Framework will be complete in draft for consultation with the public in February.

#### 3.0 The Vision and Aims

- 3.1 A preferred direction and set of 5 aims has now been developed for Sunderland's Economic Masterplan. The proposed vision is for Sunderland to become:

'An entrepreneurial University City at the heart of a low carbon regional economy'

- 3.2 The vision is supported by 5 Aims.

**Aim 1 '...a new kind of University City'**

**Aim 2 '...a national hub of the low carbon economy'**

**Aim 3 ‘...a connected waterfront city centre’**

**Aim 4 ‘...a whole-life, inclusive city economy’**

**Aim 5 ‘...entrepreneurial in economic leadership’**

3.3 The Vision and Aims have been approved by the Council’s Cabinet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2009.

3.4 Each proposed Aim is described in turn below:

**4.0 Aim 1 ‘A new kind of University City’:** This is about Sunderland University’s ability to facilitate enterprise and innovation in the city, as a ‘hands on’ enabler and key driver, and its ability to support raising ambition across the city.

**4.1 Potential role for the North Area:** Important role as host for one of the University campuses plus the Business and Innovation Centre.

4.2 This Aim has four key components:

- a) **Utilisation of assets for wealth and job creation:** The University leading, in collaboration with other city institutions, in delivering strategies and programmes for enterprise, innovation and business development.
- b) **Promoting Brand and Repute:** Building and promoting Sunderland’s brand and repute on the activities and achievements of its higher and further education sectors and presenting a distinctive physical offer to change the perceptions and expectations investors and key decision makers have of Sunderland.
- c) **Building entrepreneurial institutions:** Establishing entrepreneurial institutions and partnerships to capture and reproduce creativity and innovation.
- d) **Fostering Cultural Change:** The ambition behind ‘a new kind of University City’ is to secure a sustained transformation that extends to the city as a whole, raising the aspirations of residents of Sunderland and the region. This will require ‘symbols of change’, such as pioneering projects in the city centre (linking to Aim 3), innovative approaches to carbon reduction (linking to Aim 2) and community engagement through outreach activities, such as wider entrepreneurship education programmes (linking to Aim 4)

**5.0 Aim 2 ‘A national hub of the low carbon economy’:** emphasises the city’s national exemplar potential in this agenda and the need to promote showcase projects, including electric vehicles, but also in other low carbon technologies and lifestyles.

**5.1 Potential role for the North Area:** A role in each target sector, but especially as a potential key location for software, health and well-being and creative industries, as well as supply of labour and services to electric vehicle production and offshore energy industry.

5.2 This Aim has four key components:

- a) **Pioneering a low carbon economy:** Encouraging early development of the Electric Vehicle sector (and market) will allow Sunderland to gain pioneering advantage. Many new industries will evolve in the early stages of electric car technology and production. Electric batteries, telematics and infomatics, charging point technology, ‘Smart Grid’ integration, and ‘payment options’ all give rise to business investment opportunities in the city. This should also include new approaches to the regeneration, growth and connectivity of local communities through ‘pioneering, low carbon city villages’.
- b) **Sector development plans for a low carbon economy,** including skills, supply chains and inward investment. There will be a focus on the following Sectors:

### **Advanced Engineering (Electric Vehicles)**

A focus on this sector builds directly on the city's established strengths in manufacturing and strong growth in GVA in this sector in Sunderland. In employment and GVA terms, this sector is projected to increase at a greater rate in Sunderland than regionally, with important emerging opportunities in automotive manufacture associated with electric vehicles. The city has an established manufacturing supply-chain linked to Nissan, Rolls Royce etc that can be further developed to respond to new opportunities.

### **Energy for a low carbon economy**

Establishing our role in renewable energy production to support the low carbon economy. Major global shifts are occurring in the energy sector, with a strong focus on low carbon energy sources, including off-shore wind power generation. While the traditional utilities sectors are projected to decline in employment significance, the city is well placed to capture regional economic activity associated with low carbon energy including the North Sea off-shore wind energy programme. The combination of manufacturing skills, port capacity and the experience of developing the Nissan supply-chain, offers real opportunities for Sunderland in this sector. Links between new forms of energy, electric vehicle specialisms and Software City could create significant opportunities for added value activities associated with energy production and utilisation.

### **Software / Business Services**

This sector is projected to grow ahead of the regional pace, albeit from a comparatively low base. It reflects the global drive towards more knowledge intensive activities and associated technology and encompasses the established 'Software City' initiative, which seeks to develop the city's recognised strengths in software production and applications

### **Health & well-being**

Business activities associated with health and well-being are projected to grow strongly in the city, both in employment and GVA terms. This is already a strong sector in the city economy and its growth would respond to increasing market opportunities around healthy living but also the drive to tackle ill-health and economic inactivity. There is a clear link between growing this sector and the need to radically improve the city's labour market competitiveness. Sunderland has the potential to capture an increasing share of regional growth in this sector with direct relevance to wider city agendas.

### **Creative industries**

This sector is not straightforward to define but generally comprises a range of activities associated with artistic pursuit and design technology and production. While it is not possible to be precise about growth prospects in Sunderland, the combination of assets including University facilities and specialisms, the Music City initiative and programmes linked to the National Glass Centre etc, offer a base from which this sector could become a stronger feature of the city economy. The development of this sector fits well with the drive for a more distinctive, waterfront city centre, where more visible creative activity and associated events programmes could support retention of younger population, improve the external perceptions of the city and thus enhance its broader business investment appeal.

- c) **A 'Low Carbon Technopole'**: establishing appropriate sites and premises for the Low Carbon Economic Area and creating a low carbon business infrastructure.
- d) **Embedding low carbon economy principles**: ensuring we live up to the concept of a low carbon economy by showcasing low carbon buildings, providing sustainable transport and educating people in low carbon approaches.

- 6.0 **Aim 3 ‘A connected waterfront city centre’:** This reflects the importance of the city centre as a whole but also seeks to emphasise the importance of the city’s waterfront position as a driver for economic development and place-making.
- 6.1 **Potential role for the North Area:** Pivotal role in providing the City’s finest waterfront locations (river and beach) and the city centre north of the River Wear.
- 6.2 This Aim has three key components:
- a) **A complementary city centre:** focuses on strengthening the city centre’s offer and its assets to develop its principal role as an employment centre and its ability to draw in people to use retail and leisure facilities. In this way Sunderland City Centre will be equipped to boost regional economic performance and national competitiveness.
  - b) **A distinctive waterfront city centre:** seeks to capitalise on the city centre’s waterfront proximity - river and sea, as a distinguishing feature of the city and an asset that will encourage further economic activity, as one of a series of distinctive city centre districts, gateways and destinations in the region. The emphasis is also on developing the city centre as a ‘showcase’ for the new city economy through exemplar projects for ‘University City’ and the ‘Low Carbon Economic Area’.
  - c) **A connected city centre:** The reference to a ‘connected’ city applies at several levels, including connections to other cities to improve Sunderland’s credentials as a business location and internal connections to improve the efficiency and quality of people’s experiences travelling within the city centre. Importantly this also includes digital connectivity, with potential for enhanced broadband services.
- 7.0 **Aim 4 ‘A whole life inclusive city’:** provides the link to the Working Neighbourhoods Strategy, particularly its enterprise components, which link well with the ‘entrepreneurial’ vision, but also ensure that the strategy provides a framework for delivering economic interventions that directly contribute to improving access to opportunity and reducing worklessness. The ‘inclusive’ reference seeks to convey a message about linkage and accessibility from communities to new economic foci as well as using the economic agenda to address social exclusion. ‘Whole life’ refers to all ages but also seeks to pick up the health and lifestyle messages from the Green/Park City.
- 7.1 **Potential role for the North Area:** University will play a key role in raising aspirations and supporting businesses. North Area a key attractor for young people.
- 7.2 This Aim has four key components:
- a) **Engaging neighbourhoods in the new economy:** The strong emphasis on skills development and enterprise under this Aim, and also through the ‘University City’ brand, supports the delivery of sustained improvement in disadvantaged communities across Sunderland.
  - b) **Prospecting and developing city enterprise:** For the ‘entrepreneurial University City’, a city-wide Enterprise Strategy is a prerequisite. This should be a multi-layered strategy addressing enterprise and entrepreneurship deficits at all levels.
  - c) **A strategic approach to raising skills:** An inclusive city economy for Sunderland requires a focused approach to workforce skills – one that reflects the diversity in both the capabilities of city residents and the needs of the new economy.
  - d) **Retaining young people in the city:** A ‘whole life, inclusive city economy’ is dependent on retaining young people in Sunderland. While the strategy will create opportunities for all age groups, and the ‘whole-life’ principle reflects this aim, the economic strategy prioritises a strategic approach to retaining and attracting young people to live and work in Sunderland.



**8.0 Aim 5 ‘Entrepreneurial in economic leadership’:** The economic vision and aims for Sunderland are ambitious and challenging, but achievable. Driving this ambitious city agenda will require clear, strong, entrepreneurial leadership around which resources and appropriate governance arrangements can be assembled.

## **9.0 Next Steps**

- 9.1 The vision and aims are being shared with residents through the media and on the council’s website. Further events are also being held with Business groups and community organisations across the city.
- 9.2 The Delivery Groups are progressing the development of the Delivery Plans for the Economic Masterplan. It is expected that these will be completed and approved by the Economic Masterplan Steering Group by the end of March 2010.
- 9.3 The Delivery plans will be assessed for robustness against a set of scenarios, to allow the delivery groups to prepare contingency plans setting out how the Economic Masterplan would move forward should external factors (i.e. levels of private sector funding) not be as expected.
- 9.4 It is anticipated that a draft final Economic Masterplan will be ready in Spring 2010 for presentation to Cabinet in June, followed by wider consultation as a full document through the Autumn.

## **10.0 Recommendation**

- 10.1 Members are recommended to note the content of this report and utilise it in their discussions regarding the Prosperous City theme.

## **12.0 Background Papers**

- 12.1 Report of the Deputy Chief Executive, 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2009, Cabinet Report: ‘Developing an Economic Masterplan for Sunderland’.

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# North Sunderland Area Committee

4 January 2009

## Report of the Chief Executive

### Thematic Feedback Report

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

- 1.1 At its first meeting of the municipal year in June 2009, the Committee agreed the work plan for the 2009/10. As some priorities are not being discussed until 2010, it was deemed necessary to establish working groups outside of Area Committee and build in additional actions to ensure that all priorities are addressed throughout 2009-10.
- 1.2 Each Area Committee has a standing agenda item allowing for updates to be given on all five thematic priorities throughout the year and at the November meeting summary templates showing updates on actions were presented. Progress on key actions, with ratings of red, amber or green will be presented at each meeting. Progress on all other actions identified at Area Committee will be available on line via [www.sunderland.gov.uk/localareaplans](http://www.sunderland.gov.uk/localareaplans) and updated bi monthly to provide up to date information on performance and progress. In addition, the Area Action Plan updates presented to Committee will show performance against key indicators, again rated red, amber or green in comparison with the City performance. Area Action Plans for Safe, Attractive and Inclusive and Learning are attached at Annex 1.

#### 2. Thematic Feedback

- 2.1 In July 2009, the Area Committee agreed a number of actions and proposals, relating to the **Attractive and Inclusive** priorities, to be formulated into an action plan for Area Committee to monitor. This is attached as Annex 1. the Area Committee agreed a number of actions and proposals relating to the **Safe** priorities in September 2009 and the **Learning** priorities in November 2009. This is also attached in Annex 1.
- 2.2 **Prosperous** priorities are to be considered at the Area Committee in January 2010, with **Healthy** priorities in March 2010. In August 2009 a workshop was held discussing both thematic priorities, with the understanding that any early achievements should be delivered between now and November 2009, or as soon as practically possible, instead of waiting until 2010.
- 2.3 Information is currently being collected from the workshops to inform action plans, to enable Area Committee to monitor progress on this standing item at each Area Committee, this will allow for the priorities to be continuously updated.

#### **4. Recommendation**

4.1 Area Committee is asked to agree the attached Annex 1.

#### **5. Background papers**

- Sunderland Strategy Delivery Plans
- Local Area Agreements Delivery Plans
- Safer Sunderland Partnership
- North Sunderland Local Area Plans
- Information provided by partners and officers at workshop event August 2009 and one to one meetings

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Annex 1: Area Action Plans for Attractive and Inclusive, Safe, and Learning

# North Area Action Plan- Safe

Objective	Action	Lead Officer	Progress	Next Steps/Who?	Performance Measure	City wide	Area wide	Redhill	St Peters	Fulwell	Castle	Southwick
Tighter Control on sale of alcohol to under 21s and reduce underage drinking	Explore options to deliver joint operation between Trading Standard and northumbria Police for covert operations	Insp Lisa Musgrove/ Tom Terrett	The Police and Trading standards are working together to identify areas for a joint operation	Northumbria Police/Trading Standards to feedback to Area Committee	% of residents who consider people being drunk or rowdy in public spaces to be a problem	32.70%	38.80%					
					% of residents who consider young people hanging around on streets to be a problem	50%	59%					
Provide more/better facilities/activities for young people	Provide further information regarding additional mobile youth provision with spec and costs	Andy Neal	Information was provided at the November 09 meeting	Further information will be provided once the commissioning exercise is complete. This will identify gaps in service provision and inform areas for future development (possibly with SIB funding)								
Provide more/better facilities/activities for young people	Continuation of the work done through Phoenix project and secure longer term project funding to allow for future planning.		Funding approved in November 2009 to deliver the Phoenix project to young people in the North area.	Progress reports will be provided to Area Committee	Number of young people contacted through the Youth Service							
					Number of young related incidents of anti social behaviour	42.2		58.1	42.5	18.6	68.9	37
					Number of incidents of fire related anti social behaviour							
Provide a more visible Police/CSO/warden presence (reassurance and enforcement)	Forward strategy for Castletown Gating Order including funding application for £3,500 for initial period		Funding approved in November 2009 to continue current arrangements until March 2010	Comm Development Team and Diversity and Inclusion Team/Castletown Wardens- Development work with community group to sustain project								
Provide a more visible Police/CSO/warden presence (reassurance and enforcement)	Prepare funding application for Community wardens - liaise with Gentoo re match funding	Estelle Brown (SNCBC)	At the November AC meeting, SIB funding was awarded to continue with the project for a further 12 months	Area Committee to receive regular updates on progress/performance of the project								
Provide a more visible Police/CSO/warden presence (reassurance and enforcement)	Explore feasibility of developing a Community Payback Scheme to improve the quality of life, via LAPs priorities i.e. removal of graffiti	Simon Smart	Initial discussions have been held with the Youth Offending Service (YOS) who have agreed that it is feasible for Area Committee to discuss and recommend a hotspot in their area that will improve the quality of life for local residents e.g. removal of graffiti, litter picking etc..	Members are asked to consider potential areas and send details to the Area Officer two weeks before the next Area Committee. One location will be chosen by the Area Committee from the list presented. NB requests from victims of crime	% of people who feel safer	58%	82%					
					Rate of anti social behaviour incidents	113.6		127.7	108.8	50.8	131.3	120.7
					Crime Rate	82.5		79.3	76.7	50.5	70.9	116.5
Strengthen relationships between police and community to reduce fear of crime	Improve intelligence sharing with partners, police, Gentoo, Environmental Enforcement Officers and Cllrs	Insp Lisa Musgrove	This has been identified and noted. The LMAPS group in the North works to improve intelligence sharing. Councillors agreed to pilot informal meetings with the Police between Area Committee meetings. The first one was held in December 2009, the second will be held in February 2010.	The value of these meetings will be assessed in March 2010 to establish whether they are to continue	% of residents who feel they can influence decision in their locality	26.3	25					
					% of residents who strongly believe they belong to their neighbourhood	64.6	68					

Objective	Action	Lead Officer	Progress	Next Steps/Who?	Performance Measure	Annex 1						
						City wide	Area wide	Redhill	St Peters	Fulwell	Castle	Southwick
Monitor use of CCTV and explore further need	Submit application for SIB funding to purchase head cams	Insp Lisa Musgrove										
Monitor use of CCTV and explore further need	Explore feasibility of funding two illuminated speed signs for the Sea Front	Dan Hattle	This has been incorporated into the application for Seafront Improvements as part of the SIP contribution from St Peters and Fulwell wards	Proposal to be presented to the January 2010 meeting								

## North Area Action Plan- Attractive and Inclusive

Objective	Action		Lead Officer	Progress	Next Steps/Who?	Performance Measure	City wide	Area wide	Redhill	St Peters	Fulwell	Castle	Southwick
Improve sea front and St Peter's riverside	Provide costings and information on keeping toilets at the sea front open all year round		Ron Odunaiya	Area Lead Executive agreed to funding of winter opening of sea front toilets for this year.	City Services to establish a forward strategy for future years and keep Area Committee informed - no further action for committee								
Improve sea front and St Peter's riverside	Provide report to Area Committee regarding 'quick wins' for sea front in advance of major strategy development		Dan Hattle	Area Committee agreed to provide £100,000 for sea front improvements. A fully developed SIP/SIB application is presented to this (January 2010) meeting	Area Committee to consider application. Lead agent to provide regular updates								
Reduce empty properties and invest more in residential areas	Individual Area Ction Plans to be developed regarding empty properties in all areas		Alan Caddick/ Derek Welsh	A report was presented to the November 2009 Committee.	Further updates will be presented once available	Empty properties back into use	387						
Increase partnership working with private landlords/tenants	Affordable housing Policy to be reported back to Area Committee		Alan Caddick	A group has been formed that will develop the policy and once the draft policy is available it will be taken through the AC's for information and comment	Affordable Housing Policy draft to AC when available - timescales to be clarified with HHAS								
Promote heritage and existing attractions (eg Fulwell Mill, Hylton Castle, St Peter's Church)	Develop SIB funding application and organise battle re-enactment event at Hylton Castle		Jane Hall	Jane Hall (CCS) liaising with sealed Knot (events organiser) to establish costs and other factors. A meeting was held in November to further develop.	SIB application to be developed - timescales tbc								
Promote heritage and existing attractions (eg Fulwell Mill, Hylton Castle, St Peter's Church)	Provide a report on the potential of bonfire celebrations at Hylton Castle for 2010		Estelle Brown	A multi agency meeting was held on the 17th September to develop a working group to take arrangements forward. The Community Wardens are taking a lead role in this (SNCBC)	Updates to be provided once a plan has been developed.								
Promote heritage and existing attractions (eg Fulwell Mill, Hylton Castle, St Peter's Church)	Receive SIP/SIB funding application to improve Thompson Park		Keith Hamilton	An outline scheme and plans have been developed.	An application for SIB/Southwick Ward SIP will come forward to the March 2010 meeting								

## North Area Action Plan- Learning

Objective	Action	Lead Officer	Progress	Next Steps/Who?	Performance Measure	City wide	Area wide	Redhill	St Peters	Fulwell	Castle	Southwick
Provide non-academic support and advice for Children and young People	Review of anti-bullying provision in schools and explore extending anti-bullying programmes in Primary Schools in the North	Lynda Brown										
Specialist and generalist youth provision to be available in all wards in the North Area	Review current policy for community use of school facilities outside of school hours	Helen Ford										
Specialist and generalist youth provision to be available in all wards in the North Area	Review the use of underutilised youth and sports facilities, e.g. North Community Sports Centre											
Raise aspirations of children/young people and their families	Area Committee to receive a further report on the priority of raising aspirations across the City, presenting suggestions to help address the issues	Lynda Brown			% of population aged 16-64 who have no qualifications	36.90%	39.20%					
	<b>Review</b> - FACL to identify and support the development of new providers of family learning	Lynda Brown			% of population aged 16-64 who have no qualifications	36.90%	39.20%					
Raise attainment levels and skills of young people	Escalate to the 14-19 partnership a review of apprenticeship opportunities and greater public sector commitment to the creation of more full apprenticeships being required	Lynda Brown			% of pupils attaining Key Stage 2 Level 4 English	81%	79%					
					% of pupils attaining Key Stage 2 Level 4 Maths	78%	77%					
					% of pupils attaining Key Stage 2 Level 4 5+ A-C	64%	59%					
					% of pupils attaining Key Stage 2 Level 4 A-C English & Maths	43%	34%					

**Sunderland North Area Committee meeting  
4<sup>th</sup> January, 2010**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I**

**Title of Report:**

Financial Statements and Funding Requests

**Author(s):**

Office of the Chief Executive

**Purpose of Report:**

This report outlines current expenditure from the Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB), Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) and Community Chest applications for funding from these budgets in order to support new initiatives, which will benefit the area and the delivery of the Local Area Plan.

**Description of Decision:**

The Committee is requested to approve all 28 proposals for support from the 2009/10 Community Chest budget as detailed in Annex 1

Approve four proposals for support from the 2009/10 SIB fund as detailed in Annex 2

- Sea Front Improvements
- Sunderland History Fair
- ABOUT (A Body of United Teenagers)
- Miners Memorial

Defer one proposal for support from the 2009/10 SIB fund as detailed in Annex 3

- Community Leaders of the Future

Approve one proposal for support from the 2009/10 SIP fund as detailed in Annex 3

Note the financial statement for 2009/10 report in Annex 4

**Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework?                      Yes**

**Suggested reason(s) for Decision:**

SIB and SIP was established to promote action on key priorities identified in the relevant Local Area Plan, and to attract other funding into the area. Applications for SIB/SIP funding should demonstrate the potential benefits to local communities the proposed project would bring, and subsequently be able to provide evidence and statistics that can illustrate these benefits.

Community Chest support is given to projects which clearly demonstrate that they will address identified local needs, provide genuine community benefit and which can subsequently provide evidence/measurement of success in this respect.

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

The circumstances are such that there are no realistic alternatives that could be considered.

**Is this a “Key Decision” as defined in the Constitution?**

No

**Relevant Review Committee:**

**Management Scrutiny Committee**

**Is it included in the Forward Plan?**

No



# Sunderland North Area Committee

4 January 2010

## Report of Chief Executive

### Financial Statements and Funding Requests

#### 1 Purpose of the Report

1.1 This report outlines current expenditure from the Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB), Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) and Community Chest and applications for funding from these budgets in order to support new initiatives, which will benefit the area and the delivery of the Local Area Plans.

#### 2.0 Description of Decision (Recommendation)

2.1 The Committee is requested to approve all 28 proposals for support from the 2009/10 Community Chest as detailed in Annex 1.

2.2 The Committee is requested to consider five proposals for support from the 2009/10 Strategic Initiatives Budget as set out below and detailed in Annex 2

##### Recommend Approval

SIB applications

• Sea Front Improvements	£32,000	Recommend approval
• Sunderland History Fair	£3,800	Recommend approval
• ABOUT (A Body of United Teenagers)	£23,685	Recommend approval
• Miners Memorial	£5,000	Recommend approval

##### Recommend Deferral

SIB application

• Community Leaders of the Future	£11,543	Recommend deferral
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2.3 The Committee is requested to consider one proposal for support from the 2009/10 Strategic Investment Plan budget as set out below and detailed in Annex 3

SIP application

• Sea Front Improvements	£96,000	Recommend approval
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2.4 Note the financial statement for 2009/10 in Annex 4

#### 3.0 Background

3.1 The Council has reduced the amount of Regeneration Frameworks across the City from six to five. This has resulted in a new calculation of SIB funding to be awarded to the Sunderland North Area Committee of £288,548 to be allocated up until March 2010. All allocations of funding should be matched against the criteria outlined in delivering the key priorities of the area, identified within the Local Area Plan (LAP).

3.2 SIP was approved at Cabinet in March 2008. Included within the plan was an additional one-off allocation of £1.426m to Area Committees. The amount allocated to each Area Committee was the same as SIB allocation for 2008-09. This equates to £266,540 for the North. At a meeting in September 2009 the Committee discussed how to split the funds across the five wards of Fulwell, St Peter's, Southwick, Redhill and Castle. The Committee agreed to contribute £50,000 to the Sea Front Improvement project and divide the remaining £216,540 between the five wards, giving each ward a total of £43,308. Fulwell and St Peters wards identified an additional £15,000 per ward as a further contribution to the Sea Front Project. Each ward will identify areas of priority within their own ward and applications for SIP funding will be presented to Area Committee for a decision. This funding is available until March 2011.

3.3 The Committee will be aware that the Community Chest forms part of the Strategic Initiatives Budget and that £250,000 is available for the scheme in 2009/2010, £10,000 for each Ward, plus any unclaimed allocations identified from previous years. This scheme is operated under Section 137 of the Local Government Act.

#### **4.0 Current Position SIB**

4.1 Following the November 2009 Committee meeting, a balance of £228,056 remained to be allocated this financial year.

4.2 The projects in Annex 2 request a total of £64,485. Should Committee grant this request the remaining balance would be £163,571. At the last meeting Committee agreed to receive applications for a number of projects, including a contribution to the Sea Front project, support to the Mobile Youth provision and support for Head Cams. The Sea Front project has been developed for consideration at this meeting while other fully developed applications will be presented to future Area Committee meetings.

4.4 Emergency protocols for accessing SIB or SIP funding were agreed by Committee at the September 2009 meeting.

#### **5. Current position SIP**

5.1 The full allocation of £266,540 remains to be allocated and fully expended by March 2011. At the last meeting Committee agreed to contribute a total of £96,000 from SIP to the Sea Front project. An application requesting a contribution of £96,000 is to be considered at this Area Committee in January 2010. Should Committee grant this request the remaining balance would be £170,540.

#### **6 Current Position Community Chest**

6.1 To date approvals for each Ward total:

Castle	£8790
Fulwell	£9843
Redhill	£1475
Southwick	£10755
St. Peter's	£4491

6.2 The projects listed on Annex 1 total:

Castle	£500
Fulwell	£1745

Redhill	£2401
Southwick	£800
St. Peter's	£2250

6.3 Should the Committee grant the requests listed on Annex 1 the remaining balances, including the unclaimed allocations identifies from previous years, would be:

Castle	£2210
Fulwell	£3239
Redhill	£15956
Southwick	£4383
St. Peter's	£6182

## **7.0 Reasons for the Decision**

7.1 SIB and SIP was established to promote action on key priorities identified in the relevant Local Area Plan, and to attract other funding into the area. Applications for SIB/SIP funding should demonstrate the potential benefits to local communities the proposed project would bring, and subsequently be able to provide evidence and statistics that can illustrate these benefits.

7.2 Community Chest support is given to projects which clearly demonstrate that they will address identified local needs, provide genuine community benefit and which can subsequently provide evidence/measurement of success in this respect.

## **8.0 Alternative Options**

8.1 Each project is required to indicate what alternative options they have considered during the application business process.

## **9.0 Relevant Consultations**

9.1 Financial Implications

The Director of Financial Resources has been consulted on this report and all costs associated with developing SIB, SIP and Community Chest applications.

9.2 Implications for Other Services

Each project is required to indicate what implications there may be for other services in the application business process.

9.3 The Public

Each project is required to indicate what consultation it has undertaken and other documentary evidence it has to support its proposal in during the application business process. Residents have been consulted about the priorities in the Local Area Plans and bids support these identified priorities.

9.4 The Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 and the Councils Race Equality Scheme.

Each project is required to indicate whether it has an equal opportunities policy, or what measures it employs to address equal opportunity issues, during the application business process.

#### 9.5 Public Relations and Publicity

Each project is required to indicate how it will promote funding awarded from Area Committee.

#### 9.6 Councillors

Members have been consulted on all applications for SIB, SIP and Community Chest support and the implementation of the review.

### **10.0 List of Appendices**

10.1 Annex 1 Community Chest: Proposed projects for approval

10.2 Annex 2 SIB: Proposed projects

10.3 Annex 3 SIP: Proposed projects

10.4 Annex 4 Financial statement

### **11.0 Background Papers**

11.1 The following background papers were used:

- Community Chest and SIB Application Forms
- Schedule of projects circulated at the panel meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2009.
- Reports to previous Area Committees
- Progress reports from current SIB projects
- Sunderland North Local Area Plan

**COMMUNITY CHEST 2009/2010**  
**PROJECTS PROPOSED FOR APPROVAL**

	<i>Recommended Grant subject to final estimates, invoices, up to £:</i>
<b>CASTLE WARD</b>	
<b>'Think Tap' Dance Group</b> – Contribution towards hire and tutor costs.	500
<b>Total</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>FULWELL WARD</b>	
<b>Cuthbertson Court Residents Group</b> – Contribution towards social activities, trips, refreshments etc.,	400
<b>Fulwell Neighbourhood Watch</b> - Contribution towards social activities, trips, refreshments etc.,	495
<b>Sunderland &amp; District Table Tennis Club</b> – Contribution towards centenary celebrations, purchase of equipment etc.,	100
<b>Sunderland Orphanage &amp; Educational Foundation</b> – Contribution towards clothing vouchers, shoes etc.,	500
<b>Youth Musical Spectacular</b> – Contribution towards hire of theatre, lighting, sound systems, catering etc.,	100
<b>Sunderland Diabetic Support Group</b> – Purchase of lap top, room hire, printing costs etc.,	50
<b>Ravens Ski Club</b> – Contribution towards training software, tutors, gazebo, shelters and equipment.	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>1745</b>
<b>REDHILL WARD</b>	
<b>Southwick &amp; Monkwearmouth Community Transport</b> - Contribution towards repairs etc.,	500
<b>Redhouse C.A. Over 60's Club</b> - Contribution towards social activities, trips, refreshments etc.,	400
<b>Redhouse Community Centre Karate Club</b> – Purchase of equipment.	500

<b>Pipkin Rabbit Rescue</b> – Contribution towards care of abandoned pets.	100
<b>Friends of Sunderland Museum</b> – Purchase of display boards and stands.	20
<b>M. S. Society</b> – Contribution towards trips and physiotherapy sessions.	20
<b>Royalty Theatre</b> – Contribution towards updating fire regulations, re-wiring etc.,	100
<b>Sunderland Orphanage &amp; Educational Foundation</b> – Contribution towards clothing vouchers, shoes etc.,	500
<b>Youth Musical Spectacular</b> – Contribution towards hire of theatre, lighting, sound systems, catering etc.,	100
<b>Sunderland Diabetic Support Group</b> – Purchase of lap top, room hire, printing costs etc.,	20
<b>Sunderland &amp; District Table Tennis Club</b> – Contribution towards centenary celebrations, purchase of equipment etc.,	61
<b>Ravens Ski Club</b> – Contribution towards training software, tutors, gazebo, shelters and equipment.	80
<b>Total</b>	<b>2401</b>
<b>SOUTHWICK WARD</b>	
<b>Southwick Youth &amp; Community Centre</b> – Purchase of jumpers for the bowls club.	300
<b>Southwick Golden Gloves</b> – Purchase of equipment, gloves, boxing bags, body pads etc.,	500
<b>Total</b>	<b>800</b>
<b>ST. PETER'S WARD</b>	
<b>Dame Dorothy Primary School</b> – Contribution towards swimming lessons for children.	500
<b>Redby Primary School</b> – Contribution towards educational trip to France.	1000
<b>Sunderland Orphanage &amp; Educational Foundation</b> – Contribution towards clothing vouchers, shoes etc.,	500
<b>Youth Musical Spectacular</b> – Contribution towards hire of theatre, lighting, sound systems, catering etc.,	100

<b>Sunderland Diabetic Support Group</b> – Purchase of lap top, room hire, printing costs etc.,	50
<b>Sunderland &amp; District Table Tennis Club</b> – Contribution towards centenary celebrations, purchase of equipment etc.,	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>2250</b>
<b>Total of Projects</b>	<b>7696</b>

Name of Project	<b>Sea Front Improvements</b>
Lead Organisation	Sunderland City Council

Total Cost of Project	Total Match Funding	Total Requested
£168,000	Potentially £40,000 SIB (£10,000 from each of the other four Area Committees) and £96,00 SIP from North Area Committee	<b>£32,000 SIB</b>
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
1 year 3 months	January 2010	March 2011

### The Project

The proposal is seeking £32,000 SIB from this Area Committee towards a £168,000 package of public realm improvements at Seaburn upper and lower promenades. The project will resurface areas of the promenade, install new street furniture and planting and improve the soft landscaping of the area. This is the first phase in a more comprehensive improvement scheme for Seaburn.

### The Need for the Project

The community spirit survey in 2007 and, more recently, the Sea Front strategy consultation in Spring 2009 raised the need for a more attractive, improved sea front. The consultation took place with residents from all five areas in the City who highlighted the importance of the sea front to the City.

### The Outputs for the Project

Output Code	Description	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
A4	events/programmes of work to improve appearance of streets		2	

### The key milestones for the Project

Milestone and key event	Forecast Dates
Develop detailed design proposals	January 2010
Procure contractor	April 2010
Commence works on site	May 2010
Completion of first phase of works/project	July 2010

### Recommendation: **Approve**

- The project will enhance one of the City's key assets and help to improve visitor perceptions of the City as a whole
- The project is not part of the scheme being developed under the £1m Sea Change funding. It is a separate project focusing on the improvement of Seaburn as a family resort
- This key location will kick-start the wider regeneration of the seafront, attracting investment to the City. The Seafront Regeneration Strategy relies to an extent on investment from the private sector. Investment in the public realm will demonstrate an improvement to the area and increase developer confidence and attract spend from the private sector



- This project has been developed with full support from the North Area Committee. Members of the North AC are part of the Sea Front Member Steering Group.

Name of Project	Sunderland History Fair
Lead Organisation	Sunderland Heritage Forum

Total Cost of Project	Total Match Funding	<b>Total SIB Requested</b>
£5600		<b>£3800</b>
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
1 day	5 <sup>th</sup> June 2010	5 <sup>th</sup> June 2010

### The Project

Provides a showcase for Sunderland's local history organisations and attractions. The event is open to all groups and organisations interested in promoting our heritage through their activities. It provides, under one roof, a unique opportunity for the general public to appreciate the diversity of the active organisations in the region, also providing a personal contact for individual interests. It also helps smaller groups with advice on presenting and promoting their work. Contact with the public often results in acquisition of further information, knowledge and often items for collections.

### The Need for the Project

A similar event was held for the first time in 2008 where the response exceeded all expectations. The event attracted over 60 exhibitors and more than 3000 visitors through the day. 180 potential exhibitors have been contacted specifically about a further fair in 2010 and most have declared an interest in participating.

### The Outputs for the Project

Output Code	Description	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
P3	Number of people employed in voluntary work		500	
A3	Number of community/voluntary groups supported		100	
A6	Number of community or educational events held		20	30

### The key milestones for the Project

Contacting possible interested groups and compiling data base	May/June 2009
Booking Venue	June 2009
Sending booking forms to organisations on data base	November 2009
Follow up letter to non respondents	January 2010
Event plan to Council Events Team	February 2010
Co-ordinating volunteers	April/June 2010
Event takes place	5 June 2010

**Recommendation: Approve Subject to:**

- Consideration of engaging specific communities of interest, identity and place to understand the impacts on ethnicity, gender and disability

Name of Project	ABOUT (A body of united teenagers)	
Lead Organisation	£23,685 across 2 yrs	

Total Cost of Project	Total Match Funding	<b>Total SIB Requested</b>
£46,313		£23,685
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
	January 10	Dec 2011

### The Project

The project will be made up of 2 elements. The first and main element will be to encourage and enable young people throughout the area to come together. Initially, they will meet in smaller groups (mini forums) to gain confidence and discuss issues about the patch they live in. Representatives from each mini forum will make up an area young people's forum. It is envisaged that the forum will build positive working relationships with organisations such as The Primary Health Care Trust, Gentoo housing, schools, appropriate departments of the local authority such as Parks & play, Youth development and Regeneration & Planning as well as with the local councillors and MP for Sunderland North.

The secondary element will be to build on the work of the Southwick Hacks newspaper. 1000 copies of the newspaper are produced quarterly. The young people are involved in this process from beginning to end, from planning and writing to journalism and photography. The young people will use the newspaper as a basis to develop the forum and for reporting back to other young people which will enable the effect of the project and young people's achievements more fully. This will give young people across the area an opportunity to be involved and have their common voice heard.

They will gain an understanding of how a Neighbourhood and City work, and how they are able to have constructive input into the development of the same

### The Need for the Project

The need for this type of project can be clearly seen in the LAP for the area from the lack of adult involvement or interest in the community they live in or their confidence and ability to change the situation.

### The Outputs for the Project

Output Code	Description	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
S5	Number of Young people benefiting from activities designed to involve them in community etc.,		75+	75+
S6	Number of additional young people engaged in youth activities		30+	30+
L7	Additional youth sessions a week		5	3
L8	New Young people engaged and participating over a 10 week period		10	10

## The key milestones for the Project

Milestone and key event	Forecast Dates
Groups of young people meeting as mini forums	April 2010
Representatives from mini forums into main forum	September 2010
Respect Day	August 2010
Respect Day	August 2011
Additional groups begin throughout the 2 years as identified.	
Production and delivery of Southwick Hacks Paper 4 times per year	April 2010 onwards

### Recommendation: Approve Subject to:

- Further consideration of measures for success which should be both qualitative and quantitative
- Consideration of including gender, ethnicity and age analysis in the monitoring regime and being more specific to the project's commitment to equal opportunities

Name of Project	<b>Miners Memorial Window – Civic Suite</b>
Lead Organisation	Culture & Tourism (SCC)

Total Cost of Project	Total Match Funding	Total SIB Requested
£25,000	£0	<b>£25,000 (£5k from North Area Committee)</b>
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
5 months	January 2010	March 2010

## The Project

This project will deliver a bespoke design for the glazed area above the entrance to the Civic Centre Suite. The aim is to provide visitors and Council members with a high quality commission, which will be visually exciting and create an engaging and contemporary design that will complement the Civic Centre Building. The design will reference the past mining industry specifically the 1984 -1985 Miners Strike. The mining industry was a major determinant of the city's development and its heritage and culture.

The artist will create a design for the glass area above the entrance door to the Civic Suite ensuring that the work can be viewed from both inside and outside the civic centre and will:

- make a visually appealing feature of the entrance to the Civic Centre Council Chamber
- be robust in construction, require minimal maintenance, and adhere to health and safety requirements.
- reference the history of the 1984 -1985 strike
- be permanent (i.e. should function effectively on the site for a period of not less than 20 years)

## The Need for the Project

The project has been identified and supported by families and individuals connected to the city's mining history. The project will be delivered in partnership with the Durham Miners Association.

## The Outputs for the Project

Output Code	Description	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
A6	Number of community/educational events	1		

## The key milestones for the Project

Milestone and key event	Forecast Dates
Artist contracted and presentation of designs	Jan 2010
Technical development	Jan – Feb 10
Unveiling of artwork	6 Mar 2010

### Recommendation: Approve Subject to:

- Additional outputs identified – set a target for A2 – Number of people using improved community facility. The application will be strengthened by confirming the number of people who would be able to access the artwork
  - Confirmation no planning permission is required
  - Confirmation of who will be invited to the launch event (numbers, families, community?)
- Confirmation of future repair, maintenance and cleaning programme in place

Name of Project	<b>Community Leaders of the Future</b>
Lead Organisation	Education Business Connections

Total Cost of Project	Total Match Funding	Total SIB Requested
£75,915	£18,200	<b>£57,715 (£11,543 from North Area Committee)</b>
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
Two years	January 2010	December 2011

## The Project

It is a two-year project which includes a high profile citywide competition open to all secondary and special schools with a key theme of volunteering whilst developing both key employability skills, work readiness and entrepreneurship on participating young people. It will culminate in a high profile awards event to mark the European Year of Volunteering in 2011. There will be 4 large scale events during the two years. A secondary school from each of the five regeneration areas, with pupils in the range 11 to 13, will be invited, to take part in the competition and activities plus 2 citywide special schools and one citywide voluntary aided school. The project includes a number of core elements all designed through a phased learning programme to raise awareness in targeted young people of the impact they can make in supporting local VCS organisations in their community. There is also accredited training for young people resulting in NCFE awards. In particular the programme will aim to develop young people's work readiness and employability skills, foster a sense of entrepreneurship and an understanding that volunteering makes a real difference to everyday life across the city and that young people can be positive about giving freely of their time and energy as a preparation for adulthood and citizenship.

## The Need for the Project

The project would appear to fill a gap for schools and young people. The applicant states that having worked with all the city's secondary schools, there is a clear demand and an unmet need to deliver more activities. In particular, the application states that schools have requested curriculum enhancing activities around involving business and enterprise activities, friendly

competitions between schools, programmes which embed employability skills and which reward pupils' achievements, as well as connecting the schools to local communities. This project would actually meet all of these requirements, in particular for the 8 schools involved and their pupils (which will number 30 from each secondary and 10-15 in each special school). There is evidence in the application around the importance of volunteering and the need to engage young people in this activity as early as possible in terms of developing their citizenship skills, an understanding of their communities as well as learning, life and employability skills.

### The Outputs for the Project

Output Code	Description	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
A3	Number of community/vol groups supported	8		
P3	No of young people in voluntary work	230		
S5	No of young people benefiting from youth inclusion/diversionary activities	230		

### The key milestones for the Project

Milestone and key event	Forecast Dates
Market and recruit project to schools	Feb 2010
Presentations and initial classroom work	March – May 2010
Official launch	June 2010
Project activity: Classroom activities; Pupils review business plans, etc; re-profile income generating target etc; Mix of face-to-face and online support from third sector organisations and EBC to complete gathering of evidence for NCFE qualification submissions; Cut off for completion of NCFE qualification portfolios Updating of website based on project activity Mid term evaluation	June – October 2010
Skills/industry/employment Event	October 2010
Project activity	November – June 2011
Third Sector Event	May 2011
Fundraising Enterprise Event	July 2011
Project activity	August – November 2011
Celebratory Event	December 2011

### Recommendation: Defer

Although the project is innovative and ambitious, it requires a high level of support from schools, including a commitment to identifying and supporting at least 30 young people over a 2 year period. Therefore until the project has been discussed with the schools identified and they have given, at least, their initial commitment to supporting the project for a two year period, the project should be deferred. The project is also reliant on commitment from a number of voluntary sector organisations to ensure success of the project. Again, an indication of the support from these organisations would strengthen the application.

Name of Project	<b>Sea Front Improvements</b>
Lead Organisation	Sunderland City Council

Total Cost of Project	Total Match Funding	Total Requested
£168,000	Potentially £40,000 SIB (£10,000 from each of the other four Area Committees) and £32,000 SIB from North Area Committee	<b>£96,000 SIP</b>
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
1 year 3 months	January 2010	March 2011

### The Project

The proposal is seeking £96,000 SIP from this Area Committee towards a £168,000 package of public realm improvements at Seaburn upper and lower promenades. The project will resurface areas of the promenade, install new street furniture and planting and improve the soft landscaping of the area. This is the first phase in a more comprehensive improvement scheme for Seaburn.

### The Need for the Project

The community spirit survey in 2007 and, more recently, the Sea Front strategy consultation in Spring 2009 raised the need for a more attractive, improved sea front. The consultation took place with residents from all five areas in the City who highlighted the importance of the sea front to the City.

### The Outputs for the Project

Output Code	Description	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
A4	events/programmes of work to improve appearance of streets		2	

### The key milestones for the Project

Milestone and key event	Forecast Dates
Develop detailed design proposals	January 2010
Procure contractor	April 2010
Commence works on site	May 2010
Completion of first phase of works/project	July 2010

### Recommendation: **Approve**

- The project will enhance one of the City's key assets and help to improve visitor perceptions of the City as a whole
- The project is not part of the scheme being developed under the £1m Sea Change funding. It is a separate project focusing on the improvement of Seaburn as a family resort
- This key location will kick-start the wider regeneration of the seafront, attracting investment to the City. The Seafront Regeneration Strategy relies to an extent on investment from the private sector. Investment in the public realm will demonstrate an improvement to the area and increase developer confidence and attract spend from the private sector

- This project has been developed with full support from the North Area Committee. Members of the North AC are part of the Sea Front Member Steering Group.

\* £288,548 was allocated for 2009-10, £28,712 was carried over from 2008-09: Balance £317,260

	<b>Committee Date</b>	<b>Main Fund 80%</b>	<b>Opportunities: 20%</b>	<b>Total 100%</b>
<b>Available Funding 2009/10 *</b>	29.06.09	£253,808	£63,452	£317,260
Project Name	-	-	-	-
Hylton Castle & Dene Business Plan Extension	07.09.09	-	£12,110	£305,150
Phoenix Project	09.11.09	£15,274	-	£289,876
Community Neighbourhood Support Initiative	09.11.09	-	£46,320	£243,556
Castletown Gating Order	09.11.09	£3,500	-	£240,056
<b>Balance</b>	-	<b>£235,034</b>	<b>£5,022</b>	<b>£240,056</b>

**SIP: North Statement 4th January 2010**

	<b>SIP Budget</b>	<b>Approvals</b>	<b>Balance</b>
<b>Available Funding 2009/2010</b>	£266,540	£0	£266,540
Central allocation for Sea Front Regeneration	£50,000	£0	£50,000
Castle	£43,308	£0	£43,308
Fulwell	£43,308	£0	£43,308
Redhill	£43,308	£0	£43,308
Southwick	£43,308	£0	£43,308
St Peter's	£43,308	£0	£43,308
<b>Balance</b>	<b>£266,540</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£266,540</b>

**Community Chest: North Statement 4th January, 2010**

\*:£10,000 was allocated per ward from 2009-10, Budget includes carry over from 2008-09 of £25,020

	<b>Community Chest Budget</b>	<b>Approvals</b>	<b>Balance</b>
<b>Available Funding 2009/10 *</b>			
Castle	£11,500	£8,790	£2,710
Fulwell	£14,827	£9,843	£4,984
Red Hill	£19,832	£1,475	£18,357
Southwick	£15,938	£10,755	£5,183
St Peter's	£12,923	£4,491	£8,432
<b>Total</b>	<b>£75,020</b>	<b>£35,354</b>	<b>£39,666</b>



## **NORTH AREA COMMITTEE**

**4th January 2010**

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

#### **AREA REVIEW PROCESS: - INTRODUCTION OF A REFERRAL CRITERIA AND PROCESS FOR DEALING WITH ISSUES OF LOCAL CONCERN INCORPORATING A REVISED MECHANISM FOR COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION - INITIAL PROPOSALS**

##### **1. WHY HAS IT COME TO AREA COMMITTEE?**

1.1 During the development of the new Area Governance arrangements agreement was given to the introduction of an Area Review process (outlined as Protocol 4 of the Area Committee Handbook). This report outlines the proposed introduction of a Referral Criteria and process for dealing with such reviews and which can be used by Area Committees, Scrutiny Committees and the Sunderland Partnership, and includes amalgamation with the Councillor Call for Action mechanism (CCfA).

##### **2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

2.1 The CCfA mechanism came into force on 1 April 2009 namely through the Police and Justice Act 2006 and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. Such provisions provide Members with the opportunity to ask for discussions on issues where local problems have arisen and where other methods of resolution have been exhausted.

2.2 In Sunderland, two local issues have been raised through the CCfA mechanism and as a result of those referrals; it has become apparent that the current procedure should be reviewed to ensure both current and future CCfAs are addressed in a timely, open and transparent way.

2.3 At the same time work is also being undertaken to develop the Area Committees links with both Scrutiny Committees and the Sunderland Partnership, one of which is the signposting and escalation of local issues to the most appropriate body for resolution where appropriate as referred to in the current Area Review process.

2.4 The remainder of this report outlines the initial proposals for Referral Criteria and process for dealing with such reviews which can be used by Area Committees, Scrutiny Committees and the Sunderland Partnership, and includes amalgamation with the Councillor Call for Action mechanism

##### **3. INITIAL PROPOSALS**

3.1 Consideration has been given on a practical level as to how best to implement a 'referral' mechanism within existing policies and practices to escalate / re-direct issues of local concern either raised by an Elected Member/Committee,

member of the public or external partner to the appropriate body namely the Area Committees, the City Council's Scrutiny and Sunderland Partnership.

- 3.2 To assist those bodies in determining the appropriateness of undertaking an investigation triggered either by the non-mandatory / CCfA referral route, the following selection criteria is proposed for future use by such bodies, at the point of the referral being considered at the next available meeting:-
- (i) Clear evidence that reasonable attempts have been made to resolve the issue with relevant partners / council departments?
  - (ii) Has a significant impact on a group of people living within the Sunderland area;
  - (iii) Relates to a service, event or issue in which the Council has direct responsibility for, significant influence over or has the capacity to act as public champion;
  - (iv) Not be an issue which Overview and Scrutiny, Area Committees or LSP have considered during the last 12 months (unless circumstances have changed substantially);
  - (v) Not relate to an on-going service complaint or petition (including the ability to exclude any matter which is vexatious, discriminatory or not reasonable) ;
  - (vi) Not relate to matters dealt with by another Council committee, unless the issue deals with procedure and policy related issues; and
  - (vii) If meets the criteria, agree which body most relevant to consider further, Overview and Scrutiny, Area Committees or LSP.
- 3.3 The proposed selection criteria outlined above, clearly makes provision for the processing of referrals to be undertaken in an open and transparent way and provides a formal record as to whether the issue is worthy of further investigation together with the agreed course of action and any associated / prescribed timescales.
- 3.4 **Appendix B** outlines the revised procedure for determining the appropriateness of undertaking such an investigation.
- 3.5 Furthermore, it should be noted that the CCfA measure requires the Councillor to use every available tool to resolve the issue in the first instance without involving the relevant Area Committee or Scrutiny Committee, therefore any additional burden should be minimal as the mechanism is designed as a last resort after all other avenues have been exhausted.

#### **4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

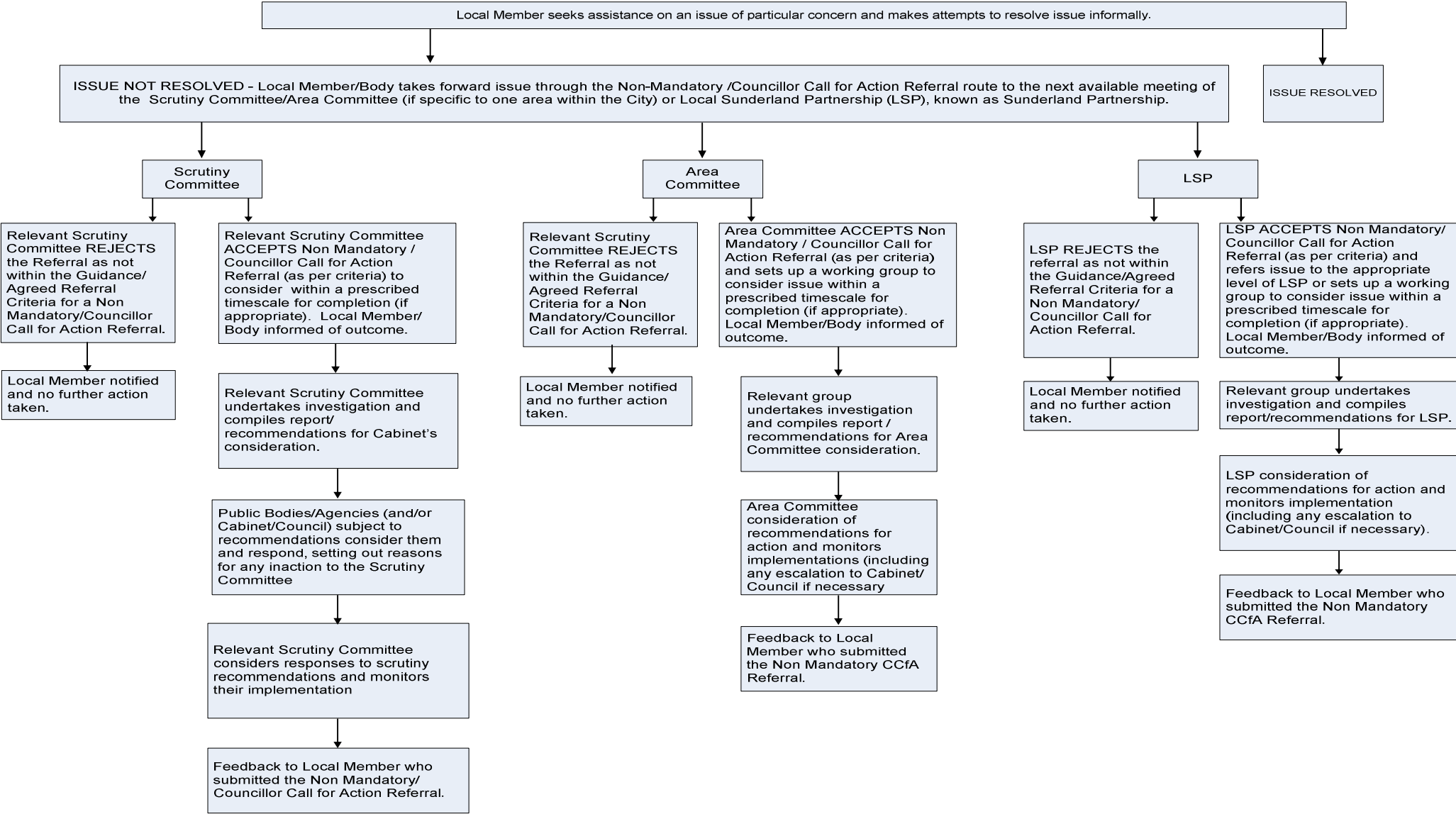
- 4.1 It is recommended that the Area Committee:-

- (a) Supports the introduction of the referral criteria and process for determining the appropriateness of undertaking an investigation triggered either by the non-mandatory referral / Councillor Call for Action route;
- (b) Subject to the comments received from the Area Committees (along with the Scrutiny Committees and Sunderland Partnership), the revised procedure be referred to Cabinet for approval, implemented and included in the Area Committee Handbook.

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**PROPOSED NEW PROCEDURE FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF  
NON-MANDATORY/COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION REFERRALS TO  
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY**



## **North Area Committee**

**4 January 2010**

### **Report of the City Services Directorate**

#### **Area Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Networks and Volunteering in Your Area.**

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

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Area Committees of progress and proposed future development regarding the involvement and representation of the Voluntary and Community Sector [VCS] within the new Area Arrangements, enabling a more proactive level of participation in the delivery of the Local Area Plans.
- 1.2 This report will also inform Area Committees of the intention to celebrate the contribution of volunteers within each of the five areas of the City and to seek feedback from Committee on arrangements for area based celebrations

##### **2. Background**

- 2.1 VCS organisations provide an important route for individuals to become actively involved in their communities. This ranges from helping out with the local youth club to being a member of the Management Committee of the local Community Association. This results in more empowered and involved citizens who are contributing to the aims of the Sunderland Strategy, LAA and Local Area Plans.
- 2.2 Sunderland Community Network [SCN] is the vehicle for representation of the VCS to the Sunderland Partnership and, in the 2009 – 2013 Business Plan is seeking to engage smaller community based organisations. This aligns with the City Council's Area Arrangements which seek to involve local communities.
- 2.3 In order to achieve an environment where local people feel that they are able to have a say in decision making (NI 4) and where our local VCS organisations are thriving and vibrant (NI 7) the City Council, in partnership with SCN, has developed the Area VCS Networks.
- 2.4 Sunderland City Council is also committed to increasing levels of volunteering in the city (NI 6) by encouraging residents to become involved in volunteering opportunities both within the statutory and VCS organisations. Volunteering is an important expression of citizenship and essential to democracy, as recognised in the Sunderland Compact Volunteering Code of Practice. This commitment is recognised by Elected Members at Ward, Area, and at a City Wide level.

##### **3. Current Position**

- 3.1 The Vice Chairs of all five Area Committees have agreed to co chair the inaugural Area VCS Networks with a nominated VCS representative. The networks will be unique as they will be made up of VCS organisations operating within the five distinct areas.
- 3.2 Area VCS Networks will be established following a series of inaugural meetings throughout all five areas in December 2009. The Area VCS Networks have been invited

to nominate three individuals to represent the sector at area committee level, this will include the VCS vice chair of the Area VCS Network. City Services (Community Development function) will administer the nomination process. SCN will ensure individuals from the organisations are supported to take their place on the three agreed VCS places on Area Committees.

- 3.3 Nominated individuals will represent the views of the VCS within their areas (rather than their own organisational interests) thus providing an opportunity for all VCS organisations within the areas to have a nominated and supported representative at Area Committee.
- 3.4 The Council will support the Area VCS Networks by officer involvement from the Council's Community Development function; this involves a dedicated Area Community Coordinator for each of the five areas of the City. This role is distinctly different to the role of the Area Officers, based in the Office of the Chief Executive. The Area Officers will continue to support Area Committees however the two council functions will be complementary as in the first instance the Area Community Coordinator in the Community Development function will ensure VCS organisations are supported to become involved in the Area Committees and associated Local Area Plan delivery arrangements.
- 3.5 Sunderland City Council and partner organisations from the Sunderland Partnership co-ordinate and fund an Annual Volunteer Celebration hosted by the Mayor of Sunderland at the Seaburn Marriott Hotel in National Volunteers Week [June 1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>]
- 3.6 To complement the annual volunteer event in 2010, it is proposed that area based celebrations are also held to ensure as many volunteers across the city are recognised for their contribution. The area based celebrations will be co-ordinated through the Area Committee process and held prior to the annual city wide celebration at the Seaburn Marriott Hotel. This will provide an opportunity for the Area Committees to thank volunteers for the invaluable contribution they make to their area.

#### **4. Recommendation**

- 4.1 To note this report as an update on the position of the Area VCS Networks and provide feedback in relation to the area based Volunteer celebrations.

#### **5. Background papers**

- 5.1 None

#### **6. Contact Officer:**

- 6.1 Jane Hibberd, Assistant Head of Service (Community Development)  
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**RESPONSIVE LOCAL SERVICES**

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

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To present current Service Standards to North Area Committee for the services currently being reviewed as part of the Responsive Local Services (RLS) project and to ascertain present service performance for the North Area.

**2. INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Area Committee agreed at their meeting in November 2009, to move forward with the Responsive Local Services project, focussing initially important high volume neighbourhood services - graffiti removal, refuse collection, litter, dog fouling and grass cutting services.
- 2.2 In essence the Responsive Local Services project provides each Area Committee with the tools required to tailor services in the locality and communicate the improvements effectively to residents to improve satisfaction and resident understanding of the elected Member's community leadership role.

**3. CONTEXT OF AREA**

- 3.1 Sunderland North has 57,641 residents, 20.6% of the City's population. According to figures and categories used in the Census 2001, the area has a predominantly White Ethnic Group. Older People (women over 60 and men over 65) in the North make up 18.1% (10,295) and children under 16 make up 17.8% (10,130) of the population, slightly lower than the City average.
- 3.2 In relation to housing tenure the percentage of owner occupied property is 59.3% which is slightly less than the City average of 60.2%. Levels are considerably lower in Castle 47.6%, Redhill 43.2% and Southwick 45.2% wards. Levels of social housing are higher in Sunderland North. Genu stock accounts for 24.2% of property compared to a city average of 23.2% with levels particularly high in Castle, Redhill and Southwick. Housing associations comprise 10.1% of property compared to a city average of 10.3%.
- 3.3 The North Area is made up of five electoral wards of Castle, Fulwell, Redhill, Southwick and St Peter's. In accordance with the Place Survey 2008, 62% of residents do not see Graffiti as a problem and 82% are satisfied with refuse collection. 55% are satisfied with keeping public land clear of litter and refuse and 66% satisfied with grass cutting of open spaces. However, residents are generally dissatisfied with the rubbish or litter lying around, 52% stating it is a very big problem.

**4. CURRENT SERVICE STANDARDS**

- 4.1 Refuse Collection and recycling
- carry out a weekly collection of waste from households in a green wheeled bin;
  - carry out fortnightly collections of green waste (brown wheeled bin) and other recyclable materials (black kerb-it box)

- collect, free of charge, bulky items of household waste or sacks of garden refuse or other waste which cannot be accommodated in the wheeled bin. 3 collections (of 8 items or less) in any one financial year (1st April to 31st March).

4.2 Graffiti removal – Graffiti is removed from highways and public buildings. The council also removes graffiti from private property subject to owners' authorisation. The target in 2009/2010 is to remove graffiti within 2 working days from the time it is reported.

4.3 Grass Cutting – General Standards

- Grass is maintained within the city on varied frequencies from 1 occasion per year to up to 30 occasions per year, depending on the site and growing conditions. The majority of grass is cut 18 occasions per year at 2 to 3 weekly intervals, depending on weather conditions.

4.4 Dog Fouling – Sunderland City Council has actively been promoting responsible dog ownership in the City through a rolling programme of education and awareness. However, in order to further the campaign against dog fouling the Council has now adopted the provisions of the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996.

Under the Act it is an offence for anyone in charge of a dog to fail to clear up after it has fouled in a designated area. The majority of land in Sunderland open to the public is designated land. Sunderland City Council is enforcing the law and offenders may receive an on the spot fine of £50.00 or up to £1000 if the matter goes before the Court.

The service standard that applies to the removal of dog fouling is 24 hours or immediately if an operative is at the location.

4.5 Litter removal - Sunderland City Council carry out regular and routine cleaning and litter-picking of pavements, footpaths, carriageways and verges throughout the City.

The service standard for litter removal is 24 hours for a standard response or 2 hours for an emergency response e.g. broken glass.

## **5. SERVICE PERFORMANCE – SEPTEMBER TO OCTOBER 2009**

5.1 Refuse Collection – Each month we empty on average 106,982 wheeled bins within the North Area and provide 1,365 assisted collections per week. At present we have an average of 53 missed bin collections reported each month (0.0005%) and 1 missed assisted collection (0.0007%).

5.2 Graffiti removal – The speed at which graffiti reported to the council is removed is monitored. The target in 2009/2010 is to remove graffiti within 2 working days from the time it is reported. Across the city we are presently averaging removal within 0.29 working days.

5.3 Grass Cutting – 0 requests for service were received to remove grass from paths.

5.4 Dog Fouling – 26 incidents of dog fouling were reported, 5 of which was reported via the Staff Reporting Line.

5.5 Litter removal – 105 reports of litter or debris were received via the Staff Reporting Line.

5.6 An officer will attend the area committee in January to highlight the work being undertaken in this area.



5.7 It is intended that the Committee receives further updates relating to service performance at future meetings. The detail provided, including service responsiveness and levels of satisfaction, will also be improved to build a more detailed picture of environmental service issues in the area. Analysis of this data, including geographical distribution of incidents and service requests, will assist in allocating resources to solve local problems and tailoring services to meet local needs.

## **6. LOCAL AREA PLANNING**

6.1 The priorities within the North Local Area Plan for the Attractive and Inclusive Theme are to 'Make streets more attractive'.

6.2 The local objectives, related to the Responsive Local Services project are:

- improve areas of overgrown and run down land
- reduce flytipping and improve cycle paths
- tackle environmental issues (e.g. dog fouling. Graffiti, litter)

## **7. LOCAL PROBLEM SOLVING**

7.1 The current service standards coupled with current performance information provides committee with a sound platform to discuss area issues in relation to the five services noted. An issue log will be completed to ensure all discussions are recorded.

7.2 It is important to note that, at this time, the project can only consider any service tailoring on an area basis, not community or neighbourhood. As the project develops and becomes more sophisticated the potential for more localised tailoring can be considered.

7.3 Should the committee feel that the information provided highlights a local problem that should be addressed they can bring partners together via an existing group or sub group of the committee to undertake joint working to address the problem. Progress in this respect will be reported to the committee at the next meeting.

## **8.0 RECOMMENDATION**

8.1 The North Area Committee are requested to note this report for information and to accept further updates from the committee sub group.

## **9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

9.1 Staff Reporting Line information statistics – September to October 2009

9.2 Customer Services Requests for Service – September to October 2009

9.3 Place Survey 2008

9.4 North Local Area Plan