

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

AGENDA

Meeting to be held in the Civic Centre, Committee Room No. 1, on Tuesday, 13th December, 2011 at 5.30 p.m.

Membership

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

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December 2011 – 31 March 2012**

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Report of the Chief Executive (copy attached)

E. WAUGH,
Head of Law and Governance.

Civic Centre,
SUNDERLAND.

5th December, 2011

At a meeting of the SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE on TUESDAY, 25th OCTOBER, 2011 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor S. Watson in the Chair

Councillors Errington, T. Foster, Howe, Kay, McClennan, Porthouse, Rolph and Smiles

Apologies for Absence

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

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee held on 13th September, 2011

Councillor Rolph referred to the declarations of interest she had made at the meeting and advised of the following amendments:-

- Tyne and Wear Archives be amended to Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums Joint Committee; and
- Durham City Council be amended to Durham County Council, and it was:-

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 13th September, 2011 be confirmed as a correct record, subject to the amendments as outlined.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Errington declared a personal interest in Item 4 0 Building a Sustainable and Lasting Legacy in Sport and Physical Activity Policy Review 2011/12 : Active Sunderland Board.

Change to Order of Business

At this juncture, the Chairman proposed that Item 5 – Empire Theatre Annual Report be heard first on the agenda as Mr. Ben Phillips, Empire Theatre Manager, needed to attend another meeting.

Empire Theatre Annual Report

The Executive Director of City Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which was an annual update on the work ongoing within the Sunderland Empire Theatre and the monitoring systems that were currently in place to ensure the highest quality of service if achieved within the Theatre.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Vicki Medhurst, Cultural Heritage Manager, introduced Mr. Ben Phillips, Empire Theatre Manager, to the Committee advising that he had been in post now for around three months but that this was his first attendance at the Scrutiny Committee.

Ms. Medhurst then presented the report to Members outlining the performances and attendance at them for the year 2010/11, advising of future productions that were forthcoming at the Theatre and explaining processes that had been undertaken with regard to education and outreach, service quality and building maintenance of the Theatre.

Councillor McClennan sought clarity on the mosaic profiling study ATG had invested in and was advised that it looked at customers and catchment areas and was used to help target more effectively future productions and marketing strategies to the most suitable demographic.

She then referred to the difference between Paid Admits and Total Admits in the table appended to the report and was advised that for some shows, such as the Michael McIntyre performance all of the audience were non paying guests and therefore there would have been no paid admits. He also advised that if take up of tickets was poor, companies would sometimes paper the house with free guests to fill the audience.

When asked how the theatre would gain income on these occasions, Mr. Philips explained that they would still receive the theatrical rent and the spend per head of how much customers spent on their visit.

Councillor Rolph commented on the Stage Experience project cost of £175 per participant and asked if the mosaic profiling was able to give information on where the young people who attended the project lived in the city. Mr. Phillips advised that there was a wide cohort of young people from around the city, Washington and the Coalfields areas that attended the project and advised that there were also free places for participants who lived in areas of deprivation.

With regards to complaints around booking fees when buying tickets, particularly by Ticketmaster, Mr. Philips could advise that since 1st August, 2011, the theatre had moved away from using Ticketmaster and now ran their own ticketing system. Booking fees would still apply but they were now more locally sensitive than they used to be. Councillor Rolph commented that she would be interested to see the same report next year to see what difference, if any, the new system made to the complaints.

Councillor Rolph then referred to paragraph 3.4.3 of the report, regarding the in house questionnaire and the maximising of sales and was informed that it would generally ask if they had been offered a drink for the interval, programme or refreshments.

Councillor Porthouse commented that he was surprised not to see the price of refreshments as one of the complaints and was informed that the complaints listed were those that were logged physically either by email or letter. With regards to the price of drinks he explained that the theatre had a retail opportunity time of around one hour and twenty minutes and they needed to use this to extract as much spend per head as possible. The theatre had much lower prices than other theatres in the same group and prices were always displayed for the public to view.

He then referred to the theatre's Memorandum of Association and was informed that it had been set out some time ago and now needed reviewing to fit in with the future role and aspiration of the theatre.

Councillor Howe asked how much the agreed maintenance and management fee was that was paid to ATGV and was advised that it was an annual contribution of £114,000.

In response to a query from Councillor Kay as to how the theatre benchmarks itself against others, Mr. Philips advised that they were ranked in the top five in the northern division. With regards to attendance, it was recorded at 43.2% which put the theatre 6th in the division. He explained that they did not benchmark against theatres supported by the Arts Council as these received funding from government which the Empire did not. Overall he felt the theatre was performing well and if Member required any further detail he could provide this outside of the meeting.

When asked by Councillor McClennan if the theatre undertook any age profiling as part of the mosaic profiling, Mr. Philips informed the Committee that they did and they found that each performance was very age specific so there was no general trend for attendees.

Having considered the report, it was:-

2. RESOLVED that the content of the report be received and noted and a further update on the Empire Theatre be submitted on an annual basis.

Building a Sustainable and Lasting Legacy in Sport and Physical Activity Policy Review 2011/12 : Active Sunderland Board

The Chief Executive and Executive Director of City Services submitted a joint report (copy circulated) which provided background to the Committee in relation to the Active Sunderland Board and would contribute towards the evidence for the policy review for 2011/12; Building a Sustainable and Lasting Legacy in Sport and Physical Activity.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Victoria French, Sport, Wellness and Partnership Manager attended the meeting and gave a presentation to the Committee which gave Members background information on the Active Sunderland Board and the work that they undertook. She introduced the Committee to Mr. Ivan Whitfield, Director of Sport with University of Sunderland, Mr. Graham Robinson, Football Development Director at SAFC Football Foundation and two of the five Activators, Tracey and Lindsey, who were in attendance to answer questions from Members.

(for copy presentation – see original minutes)

Councillor Howe referred to the list of participants and queried the inclusion of the Marine Activity Centre (MAC) and the Sunderland Adventure Site which he felt were currently underused and was advised by Ms. French that they were working closely with the MAC to develop opportunities for aquatic activities beyond swimming and helping support people to access these activities. She commented that they had worked with a number of clubs throughout the Active Sunderland project, encouraging them to promote taster sessions to inform people of what was on offer within the city.

Councillor Rolph asked if the 2,700 adults that have been worked with through the Activators were profiled in any way and if so if further information could be given on them. Ms. French advised that they do already use the mosaic profiling system and there was a lot of data to be collated. The data would then be measured using the system to allow them to drill down to specific details and profiles of those involved and help in the future to specifically target activities and resources to the most relevant audience.

Councillor Rolph went on to ask if there were any particular groups that were hard to reach and falling behind or if there were any that were especially successful and was informed by one of the Activators that they tried to work with as many different groups as they possibly could on a daily basis so didn't feel like there was any specific group lacking the offer of support. She explained that they found when they worked with one group it would open pathways to other groups where they could plan taster sessions around what they would like to participate in and word of mouth between the groups was key to them being successful.

When asked if the Committee could see a copy of the monthly newsletter that was sent from the Active Sunderland Website, Ms. French agreed to forward a copy to Members.

Councillor Rolph commented that she was pleased to see a representative from the University present at the meeting as the transition from school to further education was important and she queried how the University were trying to tackle the issue. Mr. Whitfield advised that sport played a major part in the University with a wide range of different activities at different levels being on offer. He advised that a recent survey of the academic programme had revealed that there were 1,100 sports related programmes on offer, with a large proportion of the student body taking part in activities in some way. He also advised that a number of volunteer groups were working alongside the Council and partner agencies to encourage using the University spaces which was never normally encouraged previously.

Councillor Errington referred to the Cricket Development Network in paragraph 3.6 of the report and asked if this was tied into the work of existing clubs so as to ensure they weren't reinventing something that was already in place. Ms. French advised that this work was not led by the Council but by the formed sub group and she was aware that they were currently trying to connect with existing clubs in a number of sports to help in driving the individual sport forward.

With regards to funding streams, Councillor Errington asked how clubs were advised funding may be available and was informed that Officers try to promote funding streams where available and communicate with groups in the city but through a formed network group they would be able to provide access to any funding opportunities more centrally for clubs. She advised that the starting point for this work would be contacting Members with a proforma of what they know is currently available in their Ward. They would then ask Members to include any groups or clubs that may have been missed that they are aware of to help build an overall directory.

Councillor Foster referred to the FA Charter Standard and the advantages of signing up to it and asked if anyone was picking up a similar project for cricket in the city. Mr. Robinson explained that clubs had to meet certain criteria if they were wanting to reach charter standard but that once they had achieved this there were further funding streams and training opportunities available to them. He also advised that the charter standard had to be continually upgraded every year.

Ms. French commented that the English Cricket Board (ECB) did not have access to the funding pot that the FA did but there was a working group and sub group trying to pull together to achieve the same success with out the funding stream. Mr. Robinson confirmed that a lot of work had been undertaken with the Durham Cricket Club to create a foundation and hopefully support them in going into communities giving residents more opportunities.

Councillor Porthouse commented that it was interesting to see the various networks that were proposed but raised concerns that golf was never included and young people may be missing an opportunity to get involved in the sport. Ms. French advised that they were undertaking a consultation exercise in the near future, asking residents what activities they take part in, what they would like to be able to participate in, where and when and if golf was a popular sport they could then look at working with venues to help provide it but up until now golf had never been a popular sport with Sunderland residents.

Councillor McClennan commented on the membership of the Board and the lack of any voluntary organisations and was advised that although the Board was first established in 2008 and it had taken up until recently to get it to the membership it was at. Ms. French recognised that the third sector were not represented and this was an issue that needed addressing, although they were included and contacted via the sub group so did have some involvement in the Board.

Councillor Kay reiterated Councillor Porthouse's comments regarding golf and stated that the same could be said for other sports which were omitted such as swimming, bowls and gymnastics. Ms. French advised that there were currently working groups established looking at gymnastics and swimming, and it had been found that

swimming had a board in place that was working well. She explained that from the consultation they would be able to find what are deemed as priority sports and what residents wish to focus on in Sunderland.

Mr. Whitfield explained that they would map sports provision across the city so that moving forward the Board could provide information on where sports could be played and this was a real opportunity for the Board to get a full understanding of what was available within the city. Mr. Robinson also added that in schools coaches and teachers worked well at signposting young people towards the right clubs for them if they excelled in or enjoyed a particular sport to get them involved from a young age.

Councillor Rolph commented that the sport of boxing was not included and asked if there was an issue. Ms. French advised that historically it had been difficult to engage with those clubs, however they would continue to try and contact boxing clubs in the city to help support them in the fantastic work they currently do at engaging with young people.

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

3. RESOLVED that the presentation and report be received and noted, and information as set out be included towards the evidence gathering on the Committee's policy review topic for 2011/12.

Neighbourhood Renewal Assessment (NRA) for Maudlin Street, Hetton Downs

The Executive Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which briefed the Committee on the NRA for Maudlin Street, Hetton Downs, prior to its consideration by Cabinet on 2 November, 2011.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Mr. Alan Caddick, Head of Housing, presented the report, advising the Committee of the current position with regards to the NRA for Maudlin Street, Hetton Downs, namely that Cabinet would be asked to note and approve the outcomes of the NRA and the proposed actions described, authorise the Executive Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services to continue with the programme of acquisition and assembly of land at Maudlin Street and the demolition of the street.

In response to comments from Councillor Rolph regarding the length of time it had taken to deal with the issues in the area and the blight of properties owned by private landlords, Mr. Caddick advised that they had been acquiring and clearing sites in the area and were now working with the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) at how the land should be developed. He explained that there was a lot of funding involved and they needed to look at what the area needed for the future, and provide a report on these discussions to a future meeting of the Committee.

When asked what would happen with Springboard, as it was a valuable community asset, Mr. Caddick advised that they were working with them to relocate in nearby premises if they wished but this was a business decision they would make themselves.

Councillor Porthouse referred to paragraph 4.1 of the Cabinet report and asked how long the Officer felt it would take to acquire the remaining 23 properties and was advised that there was only one block of houses remaining and the acquisition of these would not stop work being undertaken elsewhere. He advised that they had performed well in acquiring the sites, using no compulsory purchase orders and having moved many people into better accommodation.

Councillor Kay referred to Option Four within the consultants assessment and the increased property value of £80,000 each and was informed that the property values on the development would usually be of a mixed variety and premium, with new developments also raising property values in the area. Councillor Rolph asked if the £80,000 would be in addition to the £40,000 the properties were currently valued at and was advised that it would be, therefore creating a total value of approximately £120,000.

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

4. RESOLVED that the report on the NRA for Maudlin Street, Hetton Downs, in advance of its submission to Cabinet on 2 November, 2011, be received and noted.

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Project – Low Carbon Social Housing Pilot

The Executive Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which briefed the Committee on the ERDF Low Carbon Social Housing Pilot prior to its consideration by Cabinet on 7 December, 2011.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Rolph referred to the hard to treat social housing properties and asked if it was correct that single skin housing, which these may be some of, couldn't have cavity wall insulation. Mr. Caddick confirmed that they could not treat houses which were poorly insulated. He explained that with energy providers such as EDF they were looking at alternative ways, as well as looking at solution of a regional approach to combat that issue.

Councillor Rolph commented that there was a lot of potential for the project and would welcome more information on the properties that fall into the relevant category. Mr. Caddick informed her there were around 8,000 properties in the city and he could provide that information outside of the meeting.

Councillor Porthouse commended the report and asked when the project would start. Mr. Caddick advised that it needed to be finished by March, 2014 so it would need to get started imminently. He advised he was the Chairman of the Steering Group that would be driving the project forward and he would be monitoring progress closely and keep the Committee informed.

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

5. RESOLVED that the report on the Low Carbon Social Housing Pilot, in advance of its submission to Cabinet on 7 December, 2011, be received and noted.

Work Programme 2011-12

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

(for copy report – see original minutes)

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

Ms. Helen Lancaster, Scrutiny Officer, referred to the Pilot: VCS Network Representative Co-option item on the Work Programme and explained that this would be postponed to a future meeting, to allow her to address Members concerns which had been raised at the informal meeting.

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

Forward Plan – Key Decisions for the Period 1st November, 2011 – 29th February, 2012

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide Members with an opportunity to consider those items on the Executive's Forward Plan for the period 1st November, to 29th February, 2012 which related to the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee.

(for copy report – see original minutes).

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

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

(Signed) S. WATSON,
Chairman.

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

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Strategic Priority: Healthy City

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

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report informs members of progress on the Scrutiny Committee's Policy Review for 2011/12 into building a sustainable and lasting legacy in sport and physical activity.

2. Background

- 2.1 Following the initial scoping of the Policy Review on 26 July 2011, members have commenced evidence gathering in relation to Building a Sustainable and Lasting Legacy in Sport and Physical Activity.

3. Current Position

- 3.1 The aim and terms of reference for the Policy Review can be found at **Appendix 1**.

Project Plan

- 3.2 At the Committee meeting of 13 September 2011 members agreed the approach to be taken in regard to gathering the evidence for the Policy Review. Attached for members information is an updated illustration (**Appendix 2**) which outlines the various activities and evidence gathering that will be undertaken throughout the review process. The plan seeks to finalise the evidence gathering arrangements in the coming months. Throughout the review process members will be provided with an up-to-date plan reflecting confirmed dates and additional information.

Evidence Gathering To Date

- 3.3 This is the first report to Committee detailing the progress of the policy review; to date the Committee has gathered evidence through;
- The Scene Setting Presentation;
 - Revisiting the Active City Strategy;

- Discussion with members of the Active Sunderland Board and the city's activators;
- Provision mapping exercise through the involvement of Elected Members (ongoing); and
- Considering benchmarking and best practice.

Further Evidence Gathering

3.5 Further evidence gathering activities confirmed for December 2011 and January/February 2012 are as follows;

Method	Activity	Location	Date and Time	Terms of Reference (Appendix 1)	Additional Information
Formal Committee Meeting	Community Access to Education Facilities	CR1, Civic Centre	13.12.11 5.30pm	D, E, F	NA
Formal Committee Meeting	'2012 in Sunderland' - Update	CR1, Civic Centre	13.12.11 5.30pm	H, I	NA
Formal Committee Meeting	Sport and physical activity providers (to be held at a provider venue)	TBC	16.01.12 5.30pm	D, E, F I	NA
To be agreed	Meet with individual residents about experiences of participation, including barriers	TBC	16.01.12 5.30pm	I	NA
Formal Committee Meeting	Results of Sport and Leisure annual consultation and mapping exercise with Elected Members	CR1, Civic Centre	28.02.12 5.30pm	E, H	NA
Formal Committee Meeting	Sport England	CR1, Civic Centre	28.02.12	A, I	NA

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 That members of the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee note and comment on the information provided.
- 4.2 That the Scrutiny Committee agrees an approach to ensure all of the necessary evidence is gathered in order to meet the aims and terms of reference of the policy review.

5. Background Papers

- Minutes of the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee; 26 July 2011, 13 September, 25 October

Contact Officer: **Helen Lancaster, Scrutiny Officer (0191 561 1233)**
Helen.lancaster@sunderland.gov.uk

Appendix 1

BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE AND LASTING LEGACY IN SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Overall Aim of the Scrutiny Policy Review

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

Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference for the policy review are:-

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

APPENDIX 2: BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE AND LASTING LEGACY IN SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY – POLICY REVIEW PLAN

TASK	TERMS OF REFERENCE	CONTRIBUTORS	DATE/TIME	METHOD/LOCATION
JULY 2011				
Agree scope of the policy review and receive background information in support of the policy review	NA	Helen Lancaster, Scrutiny Officer Julie D Gray, Victoria French – City Services	26 July 2011, 5.30PM	Committee Meeting, CR1
Scene Setting Presentation	A, B, C	Julie D Gray/Victoria French – City Services	26 July 2011, 5.30PM	Committee Meeting, CR1
SEPTEMBER 2011				
Agree the approach to the review, sources of evidence and timetable	NA	Helen Lancaster, Scrutiny Officer	13 September 2011, 5.30PM	Committee Meeting, CR1
OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2011				
Review the objectives and achievements of the Active City Strategy	B	Helen Lancaster, Scrutiny Officer Victoria French/Richard Lowes, City Services	NA	Information circulated to Members
Write to all Elected Members to seek their knowledge regarding sport and physical activity venues and provision in each ward	D, E, I	Helen Lancaster, Scrutiny Officer Victoria French/Richard Lowes, City Services	NA	Questionnaire/proforma
Receive evidence from partners of the Active Sunderland Board	A, C	TBC	25 October 2011, 5.30PM	Committee Meeting, CR1
Benchmarking and Best Practice	B	Helen Lancaster, Scrutiny Officer Victoria French/Richard Lowes, City Services	NA	Information circulated to Members
DECEMBER 2011				
Explore community access to education facilities and discuss the opportunities and barriers to increasing usage.	D, E, F	Helen Lancaster, Scrutiny Officer Victoria French, City Services, Mike Foster, Children’s Services, Helen Elderkin, Redhouse Academy, Trish Stoker, Southwick Primary School	13 December 2012, 5.30PM	Committee Meeting, CR1
Receive an update regarding 2012 in Sunderland (following wider consultation with Area Committees)	H, I	Victoria French, City Services		
JANUARY 2012				
Hold Committee meeting in a provider’s venue, tour of facilities/programmes etc	D, E, F	Helen Lancaster, Scrutiny Officer Victoria French/Richard Lowes, City Services	16 January 2012, 5.30PM	Committee Meeting, CR1
Receive evidence from a range of sport and physical activity providers about the opportunities and barriers to increasing participation	D, E, F, I	TBC		

Receive evidence from individual residents about their experiences of participation, including barriers they faced.	I	TBC		
FEBRUARY 2012				
Receive results of annual consultation and Elected Member knowledge to discuss and agree the priority sports and physical activities for the city	E, H	Julie D Gray, Victoria French – City Services	28 February 2012, 5.30PM	Committee Meeting, CR1
Receive evidence from Sport England re priorities for sport and physical activity, innovation and delivering services	A, I	TBC		
APRIL 2012				
Agree the final report for the policy review	NA	Helen Lancaster, Scrutiny Officer	17 April 2012, 5.30PM	Committee Meeting, CR1

**BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE AND LASTING LEGACY IN SPORT
AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY POLICY REVIEW 2011/12: USE OF
SCHOOLS IN THE PROVISION OF SPORT AND PHYSICAL
ACTIVITY**

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

Strategic Priority: Healthy City

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

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report provides information to the Scrutiny Committee in relation to the use of schools beyond the school day in the provision of sport and physical activity. This report contributes to the evidence for the Committee's policy review for 2011/12; Building a Sustainable and Lasting Legacy in Sport and Physical Activity.
- 1.2 The report will be presented by colleagues from City Services, Sport, Leisure and Community Development and Children's Services. The Committee will also have the opportunity to seek evidence from representatives from two of the city's schools.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At its meeting on 13 September 2011, the Scrutiny Committee agreed the approach to the Policy Review; Building a Sustainable and Lasting Legacy in Sport and Physical Activity, which included evidence in regard to the use of schools as community facilities.
- 2.2 This report contributes principally to the following draft terms of reference for the review;
 - (d) To understand the range of sport and physical activity provision currently being delivered across the city by the council, the voluntary and community sector and private sector;
 - (e) To understand the current level of diversity of provision across the city, considering the opportunities available for traditional and non traditional and alternative forms of activity; and

- (f) To understand the opportunities that exist in the city for an 'equitable offer' for sport and physical activity and the barriers to achieving this.

2.3 Community access can be defined as;

"Where a school has facilities for use by the wider community [e.g. playing fields, sports facilities, IT facilities, halls] it should look to open these up to meet the needs in response to local demand. If there are existing facilities which meet local need, there is no need for the school to open up and where consultation reveals no demand, there is no need to set up services. Extended services should not be developed in competition with local private, public and voluntary providers but should complement existing provision."

- 2.4 Schools have facilities that can be used by local communities, particularly in a sport and physical activity context as some contain swimming pools, MUGAs and other sporting facilities.
- 2.5 Community access to school facilities contributes to neighbourhood renewal, increasing educational attainment and increasing community spirit and cohesion.
- 2.6 The 2002 Education Act provided school governing bodies the powers to develop extended services from school sites, but placed a duty on them to consult with the Headteacher and school staff, the Local Education Authority, parents and pupils in doing so. It was also recommended that consultation took place with the local community.
- 2.7 School governing bodies were not allowed to use core school budgets to subsidise lettings and had to maintain separate community budgets. The need to implement full cost recovery for school lettings meant that charges were prohibitive for some community providers.
- 2.8 This financial guidance remained in place until 2010 when legislation has given the freedom to schools to use budgets flexibly. However, with the potential of reduced funding, the duty of governors is to prioritise funding for the delivery of the school's core business.
- 2.9 In 2004, Central Government provided funding to local authorities to support schools to develop and deliver extended services. By 2005, a 'core offer' of extended services was defined in the DfE Extended Schools Prospectus. This set out a minimum 'core offer' which it was expected that all schools would provide access to for children, young people, parents and the local community by September 2010. This included community access to school facilities particularly specialist sports, arts and ICT facilities.
- 2.10 Guidance stated that schools did not have to provide each of the extended services individually, but through working in partnership with others. Furthermore, services were only deemed necessary where

there was demand and where delivery was feasible. Schools had to demonstrate that there was no demand through consultation. Suitability of premises and safeguarding of pupils were another consideration in developing community access.

- 2.11 Within the context of this report, the most significant elements of the core offer are community access to specialist facilities on school sites.
- 2.12 The Sunderland Extended Schools Strategy 'Open for Everyone' 2005-10, stated that Sunderland was building their extended schools programme on a strong foundation, as there was already a high level of extended services across all elements of the core offer being delivered through schools.

3. CURRENT POSITION

Local Authority Influence and Responsibility

- 3.1 Sunderland City Council's Children's Services Directorate and City Services Directorate previously provided support to schools to access external funding to develop community facilities on schools sites. Children's Services provided ongoing support to develop community activity programmes; from 2008-11 funding was provided through the Standards Fund: Extended Schools Sustainability Grant for the purpose of supporting the co-ordination of extended services in and around schools. However, in April 2011, Government simplified the funding system by mainstreaming relevant grants into the Direct Schools Grant.
- 3.2 As of April 2011, the Council no longer has any responsibility with regard to developing community access in schools and now has very little influence in this area. A School Lettings Policy (<http://www.sunderland.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=10981&p=0>) has been developed by Children's Services which is available to schools, should they wish to utilise it. The standard policy provides information on the schools charges (room hire, lighting, heating, staffing, etc), safeguarding and insurances.

Benefits to Opening Facilities for Community Use

- 3.3 Opening schools to the community for use outside of the school day, not only benefits the communities within which they are located, but it also benefits the schools themselves. The key advantages include;
 - Maximising the use of facilities;
 - Improved sense of community;
 - Improved relationships between schools and the families they serve;
 - Greater involvement of the local community within schools;

- Greater opportunities to engage with children and young people and their parents; and
- Greater involvement of parents and the benefit this brings to the development of a school.

Challenges in Managing Facilities for Community Use

- 3.4 Conversely, there are also potential barriers to schools opening up to the community and Members may be aware of ongoing issues around community access to schools.
- 3.5 Whilst many communities have positive comments around the use of schools, some less positive experiences, nationally, have included limited availability at weekends and out of the school term, high costs, overly complicated booking systems and variations in pricing.
- 3.6 In opening up school facilities beyond the school day, governors need to give consideration to:
- Safeguarding - it is their responsibility to ensure that any provider delivering activities has robust safeguarding and safer recruitment policies and procedures in place;
 - Public liability - to ensure that this is not the responsibility of the Governing Body and that all schools must have Transfer of Control agreements in place with external providers delivering from the site, and must ensure that there is adequate risk management for any activity delivered by the school; and
 - Finance - there should be a charging policy in place with external providers to ensure that the school budget does not subsidise community access. However, schools may choose to use their budget to deliver out of school activities for the benefit of their own pupils as this supports attainment and achievement.
- 3.7 The most common reasons for schools not opening up facilities beyond 5pm and at weekends in Sunderland are:
- Adequate provision for young people in the local area run by voluntary youth providers;
 - The cost of employing site management staff to cover the extended hours and conditions of employment for site management staff;
 - Safeguarding; and
 - Site security.

Community Access Linked to Funded Developments

- 3.8 As a starting point in understanding which schools open their doors to the community in the city, an audit undertaken on behalf of the Scrutiny Committee has identified those schools that have received funding since 2002, where there has been an element of community access contained within the agreement. The funding taken into consideration

includes Spaces for Sport and Art (Sport England); Local Public Service Agreement Pump Fund; PE and Sport Programme (New Opportunities Fund); SIB/SIP Area Committee Awards and Football Foundation grants. The information obtained is not exhaustive and does not take into account all funded developments.

- 3.9 Since 2002, a total of 28 awards and grants have been made to 23 schools to support the development of/improvements to sport and art facilities and equipment, an element of which included access for the community. This information begins to give a picture of community access to schools across the city;

Area	Schools
Coalfields	Dubmire Primary Houghton Kepier Hetton School Newbottle Primary Monument Consortium
East	Mill Hill Primary School Thornhill School Business & Enterprise College
North	Town End Academy Castle View Enterprise Academy Seaburn Dene Primary Red House Academy Hylton Castle Primary School
West	Farringdon Primary Quarry View Primary Farringdon Community School Sports College Plains Farm Primary East Herrington Primary Castlegreen Primary Academy 360 (was Pennywell)
Washington	George Washington Primary Biddick School Sports College Blackfell Primary Biddick Primary

A more detailed list can be found at **Appendix 1**.

East Area Committee

- 3.10 This municipal year, East Area Committee agreed to continue with the Task and Finish Group for its priority for youth provision from 2010 into 2011/12 and aligned and combined £50,000 of SIB with £25,000 from Children Services Area budget. One of the identified actions for the

Task and Finish Group established to take this forward was the need to review opening school facilities to the wider community.

3.11 As a way forward, the Task and Finish Group will hold a general meeting with Headteachers from primary and secondary schools across the East to;

- Find out what facilities schools have;
- Highlight the advantages of opening up facilities on an evening and weekend; and to
- Discuss ways extended school arrangements can work collaboratively to deliver planned activities for members of the community.

As this work closely ties with this element of the Scrutiny Committee Committee's Policy Review, it is suggested Members could be updated on the development of this work as progresses.

North Area Committee

3.12 North Area Committee has identified youth provision as a key issue for improvement in the area and has worked with Children's Services to develop and deliver a programme of activities for young people through school holidays, including sporting and physical activity sessions.

3.13 The Committee has identified good practice from schools within the area, for example;

- A clear 'hub' of the community;
- Strong links with community groups and associations in the local area;
- Opening schools out of hours and during the holidays;
- Good promotion and advertising of activities; and
- Being a community base for commissioned activities.

It will aim to facilitate learning to encourage those schools that currently don't provide access to the community to adopt best practice from those schools (or academies) that do with a view to providing a more equitable offer of community access across the North area going forward.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 The Committee is recommended to note and comment upon the report, asking questions of representatives from Redhouse Academy and Southwick Primary School where appropriate.

5. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee Minutes, 26 July 2011; 13 September 2011; East Area Committee Agenda and Papers, 14 November 2011

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Appendix 1**Schools – Community Access linked to Funded Developments**

Funding Provider	Name of School	Area	Date Funding Received	Current Community Access
Spaces for Sport and Art (Sport England)	Dubmire Primary	Coalfields	January 2002	Monday-Friday 4.30pm – 9.00pm Saturday 9am – 12.30pm
Spaces for Sport and Art (Sport England)	Farringdon Primary	West	March 2002	Monday–Friday 4pm– 9pm Saturday and Sunday on application.
Spaces for Sport and Art (Sport England)	Hylton Castle Primary	North	March 2002	Monday–Friday 4–9pm. Saturday and Sunday on application.
Spaces for Sport and Art (Sport England)	George Washington Primary (was High Usworth)	Washington	January 2002	Monday – Thursday 5.30 / 6pm – 8pm
Spaces for Sport and Art (Sport England)	Quarry View Primary	West	March 2002	School demolished as part of the Maplewood School redevelopment
LPSA Pump Fund	Mill Hill Primary	East		Not known
NOF PE and Sport Programme	Farringdon Primary	West	2003	Mon – Fri 5.30pm -9pm Sat – 9pm – 4pm
NOF PE and Sport Programme	Houghton Kepier	Coalfields	2003	Monday-Friday 6– 9pm (Fitness Suite 5– 9pm) Saturday 10am – 2pm Sunday 10am – 4pm
NOF PE and Sport Programme	Biddick Primary	Washington	2003	Mon–Fri 6pm - 10pm Weekend varying

NOF PE and Sport Programme	Town End Primary	North	2003	Mon–Thurs 10am – 11am and 5pm – 8pm Fri 9am – 12pm Sat/Sun 9am – 5pm
NOF PE and Sport Programme	Blackfell Primary	Washington	2003	2 football teams meet and brownies but no timetable as such.
NOF PE and Sport Programme	Monument Consortium	Coalfields	2003	Mon–Fri 6pm – 9pm
NOF PE and Sport Programme	Castle View Primary	North	2003	Mon–Fri 4pm – 10pm Sat/Sun 9am – 5pm School Hols 9am – 10pm
NOF PE and Sport Programme	Thornhill School Business & Enterprise College	East	2003	Mon–Friday 5.30pm– 9.30pm Sat 9am – 12am
NOF PE and Sport Programme	Hetton School	Coalfields	2003	Mon – Fri 5pm – 9pm 9am - 12pm
NOF PE and Sport Programme	Plains Farm Primary	West	2003	Not known
NOF PE and Sport Programme	Seaburn Dene Primary	North	2003	Not known
NOF PE and Sport Programme	Academy 360 (was Pennywell)	West	2003	Demolished as part of the redeveloped Academy 360
SIB / SIP Area Committee Awards	Newbottle Primary	Coalfields	2010	The outdoor play environment will be available throughout the school day Open to community on parent evenings, after school activities, school fairs, and any visits from cluster schools, Sports events
SIB / SIP Area Committee Awards	Red House Academy	North	Nov 2011	Mon – Thurs 6pm – 9pm
SIB / SIP Area Committee Awards	Biddick Primary	Washington	Sep 2010	Community play facility will be available for community use in Summer 2012 as the site needs to be established before use (grass and trees).
SIB / SIP Area Committee Awards	Plains Farm Primary	West	June 2009	Monday– Friday 4.30–10pm
SIB / SIP Area Committee Awards	East Herrington Primary	West	October 2007	Three nights per week

Football Foundation	Biddick Community Sports College	Washington	2011	Community access 6pm-10pm week days, 9am-9pm weekends.
Football Foundation	Biddick Community Sports College	Washington	2004	Available for public bookings
Football Foundation	Farringdon Community Sports College	West	2011	Community access 6pm-10pm week days, 9am-9pm weekends.
Football Foundation	Castlegreen Primary	West	2004	Available for public bookings
Football Foundation	Hetton School	Coalfields	2004	MUGA Access Community Access 5-9pm weekdays, 9am-12pm Weekends.
Football Foundation	Houghton Kepier	Coalfields	2004	Monday-Friday 6– 9pm Saturday 10am – 2pm Sunday 10am – 4pm

**BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE AND LASTING LEGACY IN SPORT
AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY POLICY REVIEW 2011/12:
SUNDERLAND IN 2012**

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CITY SERVICES

Strategic Priority: Healthy City

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

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report provides an update to the Scrutiny Committee in relation to Sunderland in 2012. This report contributes to the evidence for the Committee's policy review for 2011/12; Building a Sustainable and Lasting Legacy in Sport and Physical Activity.
- 1.2 An accompanying presentation will be delivered to the Scrutiny Committee which will include the outcomes to discussions held at each Area Committee throughout November 2011 and the subsequent workshops that took place.

2. Background

- 2.1 It is considered that the 2012 Games could have a clear and lasting impact on every aspect of Sunderland life and the ability to positively affect the physical and social health of communities. The 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games will be the largest event ever held within the United Kingdom (UK) and will not return to the UK in our life time.
- 2.2 The potential exists to improve health, tackle exclusion and isolation, engage those who have disengaged from certain areas of society, and empower and inspire individuals and communities to come together and therefore improve community cohesion.
- 2.3 The 2012 Games present an opportunity for all sport and activity providers, arts and cultural providers, as well as community groups to capture the imagination of residents and engage people within a Sunderland celebration programme. The Olympics and Paralympics are not just about sport, they are an opportunity to enjoy and participate in a major cultural celebration. In addition, they also provide an opportunity for everyone to celebrate the Games through other 'windows', including libraries, heritage, dance, music, theatre, the

visual arts, film and digital innovation and leave a lasting legacy for the arts in the UK.

- 2.4 Attaining a lasting legacy beyond the London 2012 Games will not be easy, but there is no reason why this cannot be achieved. In order to develop a meaningful programme of activities it will be possible to develop and deliver in partnership with key stakeholders, a range of programmes, initiatives and support services that will inspire residents.

3. Current Position

- 3.1 It is proposed to develop and deliver a comprehensive city programme of community events, activities and opportunities in the build up to, during and beyond the London 2012 Games.
- 3.2 It is acknowledged that developing a Sunderland programme to engage residents with London 2012, will require a level of association between the Sunderland programme and the London Games. It is therefore proposed to maximise the well known 5 Olympic Rings and create a relationship between the 5 Rings and the city's 5 regeneration areas.
- 3.3 The overall aim of the Sunderland in 2012 programme will be to increase participation through inspiring and encouraging people to 'take part in' a variety of activities and opportunities. These opportunities may be developed through sport and physical activity, arts, cultural activity, or via participation in volunteering within the community. The programme will aim to inspire individuals within their local communities to '*take part in...*' the various opportunities, irrespective of age, ability, gender or ethnicity whether it be doing, watching, supporting, or volunteering.
- 3.4 The following outcomes are an example of those that will be achieved through the delivery of the Sunderland in 2012 programme;
- Increased levels of participation in sport and physical activity;
 - Strengthened sport and physical activity participation, and development pathways to tackle health inequalities – providing opportunities for achievement at all levels;
 - Improved levels of physical and emotional health through participation
 - Increased numbers volunteering within the city;
 - Inspiring children and young people and providing activities for everyone, including families;
 - Using sport and arts to tackle youth disorder and anti social behaviour;
 - Greater levels of engagement, inspiration and participation across the city;
 - Championing our heritage and culture;
 - Greater and stronger links between art, culture and sport and physical activity; and

- Greater public awareness of opportunities and achievements within the city
- 3.5 It is proposed the Sunderland in 2012 programme will provide a mixture of opportunities for residents to engage with the programme. Firstly the initiative will introduce and embed a level of friendly 'competitiveness' into the programme. Areas will be 'affiliated' to a coloured Olympic Ring.
- 3.6 Secondly, the programme will have a number of city challenges where the city, as a community, will be encouraged to work towards these and reach a number of targets. including for example, challenging the city to:
- Recruit 2012 new volunteers as part of the programme
 - Take part in at least one of the activities throughout the programme
 - Be part of the world record attempt.
 - Swim 550 miles (Sunderland to Olympic Aquatic centre) as part of the city BIG Swim
- 3.7 Members of each Area Committee were invited to inform and shape the content of the Sunderland in 2012 programme to ensure opportunities and activities are relevant to the communities within each area. The outcomes of these discussions and next steps will be shared with the Scrutiny Committee in more detail at the meeting.

4. Background Papers

- 4.1 The following background papers were relied upon to compile this report;
- North Area Committee Agenda and Papers – 21 November 2011

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Appendix 1

Weekly 'take part in.....' Activities

Examples of activities could include:

- Potential area based, or area versus area tournaments, for all ages and abilities
- Programmes to target unrepresented groups and challenge the barriers to their participation
- Themed photography/visual art exhibitions across the city in partnership with Sunderland University and Sunderland College as a continuation of the Curating the city project
- Taster sessions in new sport and physical activities to encourage individuals to participate in new activities
- Sunderland Festival at Herrington Country Park featuring big screens, the Festival could include screenings across the weekend; exhibitions and demonstrations
- Heritage Open Days and Festivals
- Exhibitions and linked education programme at Sunderland Museums and Galleries.

Appendix 2

We took part in2012 in Sunderland

Examples of activities could include:

- The city challenges achieved
- The World Record achieved
- The Games Makers from Sunderland who volunteered at the games
- Sunderland past, present and future Olympians and Parlympians
- The activities that took place as part of the Sunderland in 2012 programme
- The completion of the 'we took part in.....' commemorative book and time capsule
- Launch of the 'Sunderland Hall of Fame' to recognise and celebrate those within the city that make an outstanding contribution to sport.

**PERFORMANCE REPORT QUARTERS 1 & 2 (APRIL –
SEPTEMBER 2011)**

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1.0 Purpose of the report

The purpose of this report is to provide Sustainable Scrutiny Committee with a performance update for the period April to September 2011.

2.0 Background

Performance reports provided to Scrutiny Committee throughout 2010/11 as part of quarterly performance monitoring arrangements were closely linked to performance indicators from the previous government's national indicator list, with a particular focus on those prioritised within the Local Area Agreement.

In October 2010 the Coalition Government announced the deletion of the National Indicator set and also announced that from April 2011 there would no longer be a requirement for council's to produce an LAA. Both announcements signalled a move towards self regulation and improvement with more flexibility to report against local priorities using a set of locally determined measures for 2011/12.

For 2011/12 the Council's aim is that, in future, performance reporting should be focused on the key priorities for the people, place and economy of Sunderland and should continue to be a robust appraisal of the situation resulting in actions. It should cover the main strengths, areas for improvement, outstanding risks and how these are being addressed. This is a move away from simply reporting all performance indicators with no weighting to reflect their relative importance to the Council. Instead, the aim is to draw attention to the areas that matter most and maximise improvement to deliver Value for Money.

It is envisaged that in 2011/12 Scrutiny will continue to have an important role to play in the authority's revised performance management framework. This will include regular challenging of heads of service and senior officers on ongoing performance issues focussing on particular areas of concern.

The following criteria have been taken into consideration by Heads of Service and service managers in establishing performance indicators for 2011/12

- **Council priorities** (including a City that is Prosperous; a Learning City; Healthy; Safe; and Attractive & Inclusive)
- **Service priorities**
- **Service/operational needs**
- **Internal management information** (including corporate health measures)

- **Value for money** – economy efficiency effectiveness
- **Customer expectations**
- **Ability to benchmark** against our peers (e.g. other local authorities). For some services, sector led consultation has been carried out through various benchmark groups to establish an agreed set of indicators which could be shared.
- **Sector led approaches-** where national frameworks have been developed by particular sectors or professional bodies

Attached at Appendix 1 is an extract (produced by *Performance Plus*, the council's corporate performance management software system) from the full set of indicators that the Council has identified so far as appropriate for local self-regulation and which would fall within the remit of this committee. It also includes any performance indicators from national frameworks relevant to this committee.

These indicators are a mixture of former national indicators (NI's) where these are thought still to be appropriate, and locally determined indicators

Members should note that some of the indicators against which the services are now measured are new or emerging and as a result baseline and benchmarking data is not available. For this reason also at this stage for some measures targets have not been set. For some measures the data has not been collected at this point in the year as the information is not due for collection until quarter 3 or quarter 4. Target setting will be revised once more data is available to inform our position. For 2012/13 performance reporting a formal target setting process is due to be undertaken later in the year as part of the service planning process.

3.0 Performance

3.1 Community Cohesion

The Council is currently in the process of updating its equality objectives to meet the legal needs of the Equality Act 2010 and the associated Public Sector Equality Duty. The revised Equality Scheme (draft to Cabinet in January 2012) will include new council-specific objectives. These objectives will be aligned to the Council's emerging Corporate Outcomes Framework and other key areas of development, namely the Council's approach to community resilience, the Safer City Scrutiny Committee policy review of community cohesion and subsequent community cohesion strategy review. The development of the Council's approach to community resilience and review of community cohesion will incorporate a review of intended outcomes and associated performance measures; this will need to include a review of the associated performance information within future scrutiny performance reports.

In the last performance report to this scrutiny committee for 2010/11 year end By the end of Quarter 2 (September 2011, the proportion of employees from minority ethnic communities (BV017a) has increased to 1.41%, from 1.29% in Quarter 1 and 1.27% for the same period the previous year. There remains some under-representation of Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) staff across the Council compared to the BME population in Sunderland of 2.1% (2001 Census).

The number of black and minority ethnic staff is unlikely to increase in the near future as the Council is not recruiting externally (except in schools).

3.2 Housing

In relation to housing two of the overarching priorities for Sunderland are:

- To develop and deliver new homes that meet aspirations and needs of existing and potential residents in line with the Economic Masterplan and the developing Local Development Framework and Core Strategy.
- Meeting the accommodation needs of all vulnerable and socially excluded people.

The supply of new housing and the prevention of homelessness are therefore key to achieving the City's housing priorities.

Housing supply

The number of net additional homes was 323 as at September 2010 and increased to 376 at the end of March 2011 when this indicator was last reported to this scrutiny committee. In the first quarter of the year, this saw a significant reduction to 74 homes and at the end of quarter 2 (September 2011) the number of additional homes had reduced to 31.

The reduction in the number of net additional homes provided in 2011/12 is due to two main reasons:-

Firstly, the number of new build completions across the city has declined significantly from 375 units in the first half of 2010/11 to 149 units the first half of 2011/12.

The rate of new build in Sunderland has been artificially sustained primarily due to the previous Government's affordable housing policies, such as the Kickstart scheme. In 2010/11 407 out of 641 (63.5%) new build properties were developed by the social housing sector. This contrasts with only 178 in 2009/10, which only accounted for 39.9% of all new build completions. In addition, the extra care housing programme in Sunderland has created sites in Hetton, Houghton, Silksworth and Washington which has delivered additional affordable housing schemes over the last several years.

Private developers during this period however have not been able to develop and deliver private schemes. The principle factor being the lack of mortgage availability as opposed to the lack of available sites that are ready to develop for housing.

Secondly, the number of demolitions in the first half of 2010/11 was 90 and this has increased by 92% to 173 in 2011. This is due to several large regeneration sites across the city being demolished, particularly in the Doxford Park (50 demolitions), Broom Hill (38 demolitions), Castletown (34 demolitions) and Downhill (40 demolitions) parts of the city.

Homelessness

In terms of homelessness prevention, activities across the council cover the provision of information, advice and support to individuals and families early to reduce their risk of homelessness before these individuals become “accepted” as homeless, placing a statutory duty upon the council to re-house the household. These are particularly important services due to the challenging economic conditions impacting nationally and locally.

A key measure of performance is the total number of homelessness cases prevented. Performance has continued to improve during the second quarter of 2011/12 with 381 cases prevented at the end of September 2011 compared to 350 at the end of September 2010. This is due to the Access to Housing team's ongoing implementation of the homeless prevention agenda. The team was reorganised in July 2011 to provide a more locally based service.

Statutory Homeless activities across the council cover housing advice and housing allocations to those individuals and families to which the council has statutory responsibilities for homelessness. A key measure of this is for the total number of homelessness acceptances. Again performance has continued to improve in the first half of 2011/12 with performance at 51 at the end of September 2011 compared to 81 as at September 2010.

Support and activities across the council cover the statutory homelessness acceptance of families and individuals that need to access temporary accommodation and are then supported to identify and move to more permanent solutions in the city. This indicator has also shown an improvement for the latest performance period with 5 families living in temporary accommodation compared to 7 in the previous year.

3.3 Culture

The number of visits to the city's museums (per 1,000 population) continues to perform well. Although figures are lower than in the previous year at 887 compared to 893, performance is well above the target set for the year at 758. Similarly performance for visits in person whilst lower than the previous year at 734 compared to 781 but are above the target of 675. This has been achieved largely due to the popular summer exhibition 'The Truth about Fairies'. However, visitor numbers at Monkwearmouth have been lower this year but the opening, during October half-term of The Wagon Shed in the Sidings following a two year restoration project, is expected to increase visitor numbers for quarter 3.

The number of pupils visiting museums in organised school groups has declined and is below target. A number of initiatives and strategies have been developed across TWAM (Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums) to promote schools use of museums including:

- a pilot to streamline the booking processes for schools and ensure that certain workshops are offered in increased numbers at times of the year when they have been found to be in demand has proved successful and is being rolled out across TWAM;
- a leaflet 'Explore your World' which lists all the schools workshops on offer including an 'at a glance' table with Key Stage and curriculum links has been distributed to all schools in Tyne & Wear this autumn; and
- a Transition Project demonstrating the relevance of using museums during the year 6 transition year has been launched.

3.4 Sport and Leisure

Although attendances at the city's leisure complexes in the period up to September 2011 have reduced in comparison to the previous year, they are higher than the local targets set for 2011/12.

- 'Total Visits' are ahead of target for 2011/12 by 46,925,
- 'Swims' ahead of target by 14,921, and
- 'Other Visits' ahead of target by 32,004.

It should be noted that targets have been set lower than compared to last year due to the cancellation of the Free Swimming Programme, the economic downturn and the implementation of new facility operating models at Crowtree, Community North and Silksworth Sports Complex.

Adult participation in sport and leisure is measured through the *Active People Survey* (coordinated by Sport England) which is the largest survey of sport and active recreation in Europe. The survey undertaken by MORI provides the largest sample size ever established for an adult (16+) sport and recreation survey. The results below are the latest figures also reported in the last Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny committee performance report. It is anticipated that a further update on the survey for this year will be available for the next performance report.

The percentage of adults participating in sport and physical activity (formerly NI8) increased in Sunderland since the last survey from 19.5% to 22.5%. Research shows that Sunderland performance levels are higher than the average scores for Tyne and Wear (21.3%), the North East (22.1%) and England (22.1%).

In Sunderland, the percentage of the adult population who volunteer in sport for at least one hour a week increased from 4.9% to 7.2%. Research evidences that the Sunderland performance is higher than the average scores for Tyne and Wear (4.9%), the North East (4.9%) and England (4.5%).

Other outturns in the Active People Survey are also impressive when compared to either national, or regional averages. 18.20% are receiving coaching, compared to 17.5% nationally, 14.8% regionally. 14.80% are active in competitive sport, compared to 14.4% nationally, 12.8% regionally. Sunderland is also higher than the national average for resident satisfaction levels with regard to its Sports Service, 71.1% compared to 69%.

The improved performance in this area is attributable to:

- Leading the work of the Active Sunderland Partnership Board to drive forward a joined up approach to increasing participation
- Investment into modern, high class sport and swimming facilities
- An affordable pricing framework for residents
- Wellness provision: 7 Wellness Centres and 8 Community Wellness venues
- Wellness service delivering preventative services to drive forward participation
 - Mums on the move / Maternity Lifestyle Service
 - Wellness on 2 Wheels, Cycle Sunderland
 - Wellness Walking Programme, Walks in the Park, Nordic Walking
 - Active Sunderland Project
- Wellness service delivering targeted services to drive forward participation;
 - Exercise Referral and Weight Management Programme
 - Lifestyle Activity and Food Programme
 - Workforce Health and Wellbeing Project
- Wellness service delivering specialist services to drive forward participation
 - Specialist Weight Management Service
 - Stop Smoking Service
- Football Investment Strategy, developing new facilities and pathways for participation
- Partnership working to deliver such activities such as the Active Sunderland Week, Niall's Mile and the Big Bike Ride.

New local performance indicators to measure participation in sport and physical activity are being developed for inclusion in the 2012/13 performance framework.

Sustainability

An updated position in terms of the percentage CO2 reduction from Local authority operations (NI185) and percentage CO2 reductions across an agreed set of sectors (housing, road transport and business) (NI186) against the 2005 baseline will be reported to scrutiny committee at the end of this financial year. The previous performance report highlighted improved performance against both performance indicators and both were on target. There is a 2 year time lag on the data, with latest data relating to 2008.

Employers in Sunderland account for 40% of the 2.1 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emitted from Sunderland each year. Sunderland has set a target to cut the city's carbon emissions by 29% by the year 2020. Through the low carbon city campaign, the Sunderland Partnership aims to register over half of all emissions from Sunderland's employers to the campaign, and ask each one to commit to reducing their emissions by at least 10% in 10 years or sooner.

An update against our level of preparedness to adapt to climate change (NI 188) will be available in March 2012. The last performance update to scrutiny for the year end 2010/11 reported that performance against this indicator was stable.

4.0 Recommendation

The Committee considers the findings within this report, including areas of good progress made by the Council and those areas that need further improvement highlighted in the report.

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Report Key

This is the latest available performance data from the previous year. A question mark means that information is not available

This is the latest available performance data during the current year. A Question mark means that information is not available





Comments against performance

<u>Performance Indicator</u>	<u>Previous Year</u>	<u>Source Date</u>	<u>Latest</u>	<u>Source Date</u>	<u>Are we improving?</u>	<u>Commentary</u>
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Previous Year source date

Latest source date




This is a comparison of Latest against Previous. The symbols mean:

- Performance has improved 
- Performance is stable 
- Performance has declined 
- Information is not available 




Community Cohesion



Performance Indicator	Previous Year	Source Date	Latest	Source Date	Are we improving?	Commentary
The percentage of top 5% of earners from black and minority ethnic communities (BV011b).	2.39 %	30/09/2010	2.11 %	30/09/2011		A slight decline on the previous year. This indicator relies upon staff turnover, a small comparative sample and also people declaring themselves as having a disability. The review of monitoring information for employees self-declaring a disability will ensure that figures remain up-to-date.
The percentage of local authority employees from minority ethnic communities (BV017a).	1.27 %	30/09/2010	1.41 %	30/09/2011	n/a	This indicator relies upon staff turnover and people declaring themselves as being from an ethnic minority. Staff turnover has declined due to the economic climate and the internal jobs market has influenced a slow change in the council demographics. As part of the next employee survey, staff will be encouraged to declare their ethnicity if they previously have not done so.
Level of Equality on a scale of 1 to 3 (1=Developing, 2=Achieving, 3=Excellent) (LPI017)	Achieving	30/09/2010	Achieving	30/09/2011		The Equality Framework for Local Government is an assessment against five performance elements to arrive at an overall rating of either 'Developing', 'Achieving' or 'Excellent'. A self assessment against the Equality Framework was undertaken in 2010/11 from which the evidence supported the council remaining at a level 2 'Achieving'. Since then the action plan has been advanced and actions continue to be progressed. It should be noted, however, that a new Equality Framework is expected against which the council will have to consider the new criteria.

Culture






Performance Indicator	Previous Year	Source Date	Latest	Source Date	Are we improving?	Commentary
The number of visits to/usage's of museums per 1,000 population (BV170a).	893.00	30/09/2010	887.00	30/09/2011		Performance against this indicator continues to be strong. Target of 758 to September 2011 has been achieved.
The number of visits to museums that were in person per 1,000 population (BV170b).	781.00	30/09/2010	734.00	30/09/2011		The summer exhibition The Truth about Faeries which includes a magical fairy grotto designed by Northern Stage, has been very popular, especially with young visitors. Whilst visitor number at Monkwearmouth have been lower this year, the opening, during October half-term of The Wagon Shed in the Sidings following a two year restoration project, is expected to increase visitor numbers. TWAM (Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums) has a marketing plan and events programme linked to the exhibition programme which aims to promote the exhibitions and venue at regular intervals to keep the profile high and promote regular and repeat visits. Target of 676 to September 2011 has been achieved.
The number of pupils visiting museums and galleries in organised school groups (BV170c).	5,214.00	30/09/2010	4,045.00	30/09/2011		A number of initiatives and strategies have been developed across TWAM to promote schhols use of museums including: a pilot to streamline the booking processes for schools and ensure that certain workshops are offered in increased numbers at times of the year when they have been found to be in demand has proved successful and is being rolled out across TWAM; a leaflet 'Explore your World' which lists all the schools workshops on offer including an 'at a glance' table with Key Stage and curriculum links has been distributed to all schools in Tyne & Wear this autumn; and a Transition Project demonstrating the relevance tof using museums during the year 6 transition year has been launched.

Housing




Performance Indicator	Previous Year	Source Date	Latest	Source Date	Are we improving?	Commentary
The total number of homelessness cases prevented (LPI044)	320.00	30/09/2010	386.00	30/09/2011		Performance has continued to improve during the 2011/12 financial year. This is due to the Access to Housing team's implementation of the homeless prevention agenda. The team was reorganised in July 2011 to provide a more locally based service. It is anticipated that the upcoming changes in the Welfare Reform 2011 Bill will have a negative impact on future performance once introduced. The team are currently investigating with other departments the likely impact the reforms will have and what measures can be introduced to mitigate and help residents of Sunderland.
Total number of homelessness acceptances (LPI065)	198.00	30/09/2010	51.00	30/09/2011		Performance has continued to improve during the 2011/12 financial year. This is due to the continuing success of the homeless prevention agenda and the Access to Housing team's implementation of it. The team was reorganised in July 2011 to provide a more locally based service. It is anticipated that the upcoming changes in the Welfare Reform 2011 Bill will have a negative impact on future performance once introduced. The team are currently investigating with other departments the likely impact the reforms will have and what measures can be introduced to mitigate and help residents of Sunderland.
The number of homeless households living in temporary accommodation (NI156).	7.00	30/09/2010	5.00	30/09/2011		With the ongoing success of the homeless prevention agenda the number of households placed in temporary accommodation has been reducing for a number of quarters. The lack of suitable move on accommodation however means that some households are remaining in temporary accommodation for longer periods of time.

Performance Indicator	Previous Year	Source Date	Latest	Source Date	Are we improving?	Commentary
Total number of additional homes provided (NI154).	323.00	30/09/2010	31.00	30/09/2011		<p>The decline in the number of net additional homes provided in 2011 is due to two main reasons. Since 2007, the number of new build properties across the country has declined significantly. The rate of new build in Sunderland has been artificially sustained due to the previous government's affordable housing policies, such as the Kickstart scheme, which has enabled social housing providers in the city to bring stalled developments to completion. In addition, the extra care housing programme in Sunderland has created several sites with a sizeable number of properties in the last few years. Private developers during this period however have not been able to develop and deliver private schemes due to low demand and/or potential buyers' inability to obtain mortgages. This can be seen in the 60% decline in the number of new build properties in 2011 compared to 2010 as the social housing and extra care schemes were completed.</p> <p>Secondly the number of demolitions in 2011 has increased by 92% compared to 2010. This is due to several large regeneration sites across the city being demolished, particularly in the Doxford Park, Broom Hill, Castletown and Downhill parts of the city.</p>
The total number of net additional dwellings that are deliverable as a percentage of the planned housing provision (in net additional dwellings) for the 5 year period (NI159).	120.16 %	31/03/2010	120.00 %	31/03/2011		<p>Only a very marginal decrease on the previous year and still 20% over and above the housing supply requirement.</p>

Sport and Leisure

Performance Indicator	Previous Year	Source Date	Latest	Source Date	Are we improving?	Commentary
Total number of visits to leisure centres (LPI021)	1,123,166.00	30/09/2010	1,110,257.00	30/09/2011		2010/11 attendances included free swimming statistics which inflated last year's attendances. The economic downturn has also had an effect on leisure complex visits. However, attendances at the city's leisure complexes are ahead of this year's target by 46,925.
Total number of swims within leisure centres (LPI022)	335,368.00	30/09/2010	323,447.00	30/09/2011		Last year's attendances included free swimming statistics which inflated attendances. However, swimming attendances are ahead of this year's target by 14,921
Total number of other visits to leisure centres (LPI023)	787,798.00	30/09/2010	786,810.00	30/09/2011		Attendances are slightly down on last year, with the economic downturn having an effect. However, other visits are ahead of this year's target by 32,004
% of population volunteering in sport and active recreation for at least one hour per week (LPI018).	4.94 %	31/03/2010	7.20 %	31/03/2011		An improvement on previous Active People Survey results and on target. 7.2% of Sunderland adults are sports volunteers, compared to 4.5% nationally.
The % of the population (aged 16 plus) who participate in sport for at least 30 minutes on 3 or more times a week (NI008)	19.60 %	31/03/2010	22.50 %	31/03/2011		An improvement on previous Active People Survey results and on target. The percentage of adults participation in sport and physical activity (3x30mins) has increased in Sunderland since 2009 from 19.5% to 22.5%, and this compares to the national average of 22%.

Sustainability

Performance Indicator	Previous Year	Source Date	Latest	Source Date	Are we improving?	Commentary
The % CO2 reduction from LA operations against a set baseline (2008-2009 emissions).(NI185)	-0.18 %	31/03/2010	2.00 %	31/03/2011		An improvement year on year against this annual measure. Latest data relates to 2008. A 2009 update is available in March 2012.
The % reduction in CO2 emissions across an agreed set of sectors (housing, road transport and business) against emissions from the 2005 baseline year. (NI186)	5.41 %	31/03/2010	8.50 %	31/03/2011		As above.
The level of preparedness reached in relation to Climate Change against the 5 levels of performance, graded 0 to 4. The higher the number, the better the performance (NI188).	2	31/03/2010	2	31/03/2011		Stable performance year on year against this annual measure which is due to be updated in March 2012.

THE CONSERVATION OF BUILT HERITAGE ASSETS IN THE CITY**REPORT OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE****1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To respond to a request of the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee to provide an update on progress in respect of the work being undertaken by the Planning Service to protect and enhance the city's built heritage. This report complements a corresponding report prepared by the Executive Director of City Services that deals with the heritage work being undertaken by Culture and Tourism. Committee will note that certain subject areas are common to both reports, reflecting the cross-directorate working that is taking place.

2.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The City Council currently exercises its functions in relation to the City's heritage through the Office of the Chief Executive, via the Planning Service, and through City Services, via Culture and Tourism. This report deals with the role of the Planning Service, specifically that of the Conservation Team.
- 2.2 A report titled 'The Conservation Of Historic Assets And Their Role In Supporting Sustainable Communities' was presented to Committee in February 2011 for consideration. It described the situation regarding tangible heritage assets within the city such as scheduled monuments, listed buildings and conservation areas. It described the national planning policy context in which they are designated and subsequently regulated so as to conserve and sustain their essential value and heritage significance to the community. That report also included a summary of priorities to be addressed by the Planning Service's Conservation Team in 2011 and 2012 (the list of priorities is reproduced in Appendix 1 of this report).
- 2.3 This report brings the report of February 2011 up to date in terms of the Government's latest intentions for the planning system in the UK. The report also outlines the current position in terms of the review of the Planning Service and considers how the new structure for the service will impact upon the delivery of services in 2012 and beyond. A brief summary of the activities of the conservation Team since the February Report is also provided.

3.0 CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 The main areas of change since the last report are listed below, beginning with changes to the structure of the planning service and followed by a description of projects completed and projects ongoing. The report also describes two new heritage sites that have been formally designated by Central Government. The report ends with a brief discussion of the Government's proposed changes to the national planning context:

3.2 Staffing Resource

- 3.2.1 At the start of 2011 the planning service establishment included 3 FTEs (full time equivalent) in the Conservation Team. Following a review of the Planning Service a new structure was agreed by Personnel Committee in October 2011. The new structure includes a heritage protection team which will have responsibilities for the protection of the built and natural environment and will be made up of 3 FTEs, including an ecologist (these duties are currently undertaken separately by the Conservation Team and Countryside Team). Whilst this new team will continue to ensure that the council delivers its statutory responsibilities for the protection of the built and natural environment this reduced resource will reduce the activities the team can undertake over and above its statutory responsibilities. In light of these changes future priorities for the team are currently being considered. Once the new structure for the Planning Service is put in place a future work programme will be agreed.

3.3 Work Programme

- 3.3.1 The ongoing work that the team is currently undertaking is considered in more detail below.

Planning Policy and Guidance Documentation

- 3.3.2 **World Heritage Site (WHS) candidature:** Submission of the Nomination Document, Management Plan and other material in support of the Wearmouth-Jarrow (W-J) Partnership's bid to UNESCO for inscription as a World Heritage Site took place in January 2011 and the visit by the UNESCO assessor took place in September 2011. The outcome of the bid should be made known in July 2012. The Conservation Team provides representation on the W-J Conservation Working Group and the Management Group and provided input to the documents that made up the Nomination File; it also inputs to the ongoing monitoring of development pressures in the WHS Buffer Zone and wider setting, making reports to the W-J Conservation Working Group and Management Group as required.

The Conservation Team is also providing input to the project to deliver the Landscape Vision for Wearmouth, ensuring that design solutions being put forward are heritage led and founded in an understanding of the site's Outstanding Universal Value.

- 3.3.3 **Wearmouth Candidate World Heritage Site Masterplan and Design Code Supplementary Planning Document:** The production of this document did not feature on the list of priorities in February as it had been envisaged that it was nearing completion. Regrettably, following the responses to the public consultation carried out additional work has been required before the document can be finalised. The revised document is currently the subject of a further round of public consultation with the intention that a final draft be reported to Cabinet in February 2012 for adoption as a Supplementary Planning Document. This unexpected and substantial piece of work has been afforded priority given that its timely completion is considered crucial in the bid for World Heritage Site inscription. As a result work on other projects has been delayed.

- 3.3.3. **Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Strategies (CAMS):** Twelve of the city's fourteen conservation areas now have CAMS adopted as formal planning guidance. The conservation areas that remain to be dealt with are the two in Old Sunderland areas (the East End) which are being addressed as one exercise. Work on this has been affected by the need to prioritise the production of the Wearmouth Candidate World Heritage Supplementary Planning Document, as set out above. The CAMS is now expected to be brought forward for adoption in 2012, following public consultation. These CAMS promote understanding and appreciation of the historic areas and carry weight as formally adopted planning guidance in the exercise of the council's development control function. The council also has a statutory duty to consider other parts of the city for designation as new conservation areas; the Conservation Team is thus developing a list of areas thought to be suitable for designation as Conservation Areas. Additional CAMS will be required to be prepared to support the future designation of new conservation areas in the coming years.
- 3.3.4 **Supplementary Planning Documents on Local Heritage Designations:** Work on this document has progressed but is now on hold due to priorities being given to other areas of work (as above). The value of addressing this work at this time has also been called into question as the Government has announced that extensive changes to formal advice on planning matters are to be introduced very soon (see 3.7 below) that may serve to supersede the provisions that would have appeared in this document.

Other Project Work

- 3.4.1 **Townscape Heritage Initiative:** Only one heritage grant scheme is now being operated in the City, the Old Sunderland Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) that is joint funded by the Council and Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). This is currently programmed to end in June 2012, however, HLF has agreed to extend the timescales to assist in the delivery of works to the former Orphanage, Holy Trinity Church, and 49 to 50 High Street East. Work is progressing on these projects. The ending of this type of partnership funding streams will significantly curtail the Planning Service's pro-active approach to historic buildings through grant incentives.
- 3.4.2 **Development Briefs for Council Owned Heritage Assets:** To facilitate the work of the council's Property Services function in the disposal of council owned heritage assets, the Conservation Team has prepared detailed development briefs for the former Fire Station in Bishopwearmouth, and Hetton House, and is in the process of preparing a development brief for Penshaw House. This work has involved the procuring and project managing of specialist consultants to carry out building appraisals and produce 'conservation statements' for Hetton House and Penshaw House; these statements being required to inform the content and guidance of the development briefs. The team has also in the last year completed development guidance for Ashburne House, at the request of and in collaboration with Sunderland University.
- 3.4.3 **Restoration Works to Monuments:** In response to requests received from Area Committee or individual Councillors, the following heritage assets have been restored or are in the process of being restored in 2011/2012 through the design skills and project management provided through the Conservation Team: Roker

Park Drinking Fountain; Harraton War Memorial. Assistance is also being provided on a project to repair and restore Alice Well.

- 3.4.4 **Bowes Railway Company Capital Projects:** The Conservation Team supports the Railway Company to bring forward capital projects. In 2011, this work has produced an offer of grant from English Heritage in the sum of £149,300 to assist in the restoration of the Wagon Shop, a heritage building at risk. The Council has provided £35,000 in match funding and a design team has been appointed that is currently preparing a detailed schedule of repairs to be implemented in the spring of 2012. This is being project managed by the Conservation Team. Other projects include securing Scheduled Monument Consent for works to upgrade the electrical systems of the museum site.
- 3.4.5 **Heritage at Risk:** The Conservation Team endeavours to monitor the condition of the city's various heritage assets and where there is evidence that such buildings are 'at risk', for example those included on English Heritage's 'Heritage at Risk' register, measures are taken where possible and resources allow to address the cause of the problem. Measures are being explored that will address the currently poor condition of two buildings on the Heritage at Risk register (in addition to Bowes Railing as described above) i.e. the Acoustic Mirror in Fulwell and Doxford House, Silksworth. Other assets at risk are also being addressed as described in 3.4.1 and 3.4.4 above.
- 3.4.6 **Management of Consultants on Research Projects:** At the request of Area Committees, assistance is being provided by the Conservation Team to appoint heritage specialists to carry out research or bring forward projects. Work is currently progressing to develop 'Village Atlases' for Old Penshaw Village and Old Hetton. The Conservation Team will soon be procuring specialist consultants to carry out the Village Atlas for Old Penshaw, and will be providing assistance to Limestone Landscapes in 2012 with regard to Hetton. It is envisaged that this work will, amongst other benefits, provide the research and baseline information to identify areas that would be suitable for conservation area declarations in the future and inform the production of suitable Character Appraisals and Management Strategies for their preservation and enhancement.

3.5 Heritage Assets Added or Lost:

- 3.5.1 Defended settlement on the summit of Humbledon Hill: Under the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (As Amended), the Minister for Tourism and Heritage has decided to add the summit of Humbledon Hill to the Schedule of Ancient Monuments. The settlement is an early palisaded enclosure that incorporated the remains of at least two Bronze Age round barrows; although there are numerous examples of hillforts and defended settlements in the upland areas of North East England, examples on the coastal plain are rare.
- 3.5.2 St Nicholas's Church – Listed Grade II: Under the provisions of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, the Minister for Tourism and Heritage Built has decided to add the above building to the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest, effective from 29 October 2011. Built in 1939, it is considered an attractive inter-war church by the respected architect

Donald McIntyre. Most notably, it houses the largest collection in the country of Leonard Evett's stained glass work.

3.6 National Planning Context

- 3.6.1 The former Government's 2010 Statement on the Historic Environment and its Planning Policy Statement No 5, 'Planning for the Historic Environment' (2010) are soon to be repealed. The Government has announced its intention to replace all of the current planning policy guidance with a single document, the central message of which is that development means growth and that sustainable development should go ahead without delay. The draft NPPF states that "the Government's objective is that the historic environment and its heritage assets should be conserved and enjoyed for the quality of life they bring to this and future generations".

4.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 The prime role of the Conservation Team is to provide input to the council's development management role as local planning authority, mainly through the determination of applications for planning permission, listed building consent and conservation area consent. Other statutory duties include the preparation of character appraisals and management strategies for the city's conservation areas and, from time to time, considering whether other areas of the city warrant conservation area status.
- 4.2 Although the team now has reduced resources efforts will be made to bring existing project work to a satisfactory conclusion. As set out above future work programme priorities will be agreed once the new Planning Service structure is in place. It is envisaged that the Conservation Team will focus on its statutory duties described in 4.1 above, additional priorities over and above the statutory functions will be agreed as part of the future work programming process.

5. RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 That the Scrutiny Committee note and comments on the information provided.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- § Adopted City of Sunderland Unitary Development Plan
- § The Government's Statement on the Historic Environment for England 2010 (DCMS - March 2010)
- § Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5) 'Planning and the Historic Environment'
- § PPS5 Planning for the Historic Environment: Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide (DCLG, DCMS, English Heritage - March 2010)
- § National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Draft for Consultation 2011

APPENDIX 1.
Extract from February 2011 Report
Priorities for 2011 and 2012

- 7.1 The following priorities are proposed to be addressed by the Conservation Team in 2011 and 2012:
- 1 Support the Council's Development Management Function;
 - 2 Contribute to the City's Local Development Framework Core Strategy and Supplementary Planning Documents on Heritage Designations (see 5.4);
 - 3 Support the Wearmouth-Jarrow World Heritage Site candidature and subsequent responsibilities;
 - 4 Progress to adoption the Old Sunderland Conservation Area appraisal and Management Strategy
 - 5 Progress to completion the Old Sunderland THI grant scheme;
 - 6 Continue to support the development of Bowes Railway Museum;
 - 7 Liaise with the County Archaeologist in the development of the Historic Environment Record for the City.
 - 8 Liaise with English Heritage in the monitoring of Heritage at Risk.
 - 9 Initiate the identification and declaration of new conservation areas and preparation of associated CAMS;
 - 10 Initiate a List of locally significant heritage assets for the City, subject to relevant government guidance being put in place and additional resources being identified.
- 7.2 Meeting all of these priorities in 2011 and 2012 will be dependant upon a number of factors, and in particular, resource availability. The timescale for item 2 will be dependant upon the review of the Planning and Environment Service and changes to the development plan system signalled by government in the Localism Bill. Items 9 and 10 are likely to be brought forward over a longer period of time. Potential work on the Local List is being deferred pending the publication of new guidance by English Heritage expected in summer 2011.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CITY SERVICES

HISTORY AND HERITAGE UPDATE 2010/11

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update members on the work ongoing within City Services with regard to the Heritage offer across the city and to provide evidence for the review the Committee has undertaken in relation to Culture supporting sustainable communities.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Heritage is an important element of the city's character – Sunderland has a distinct heritage through which the city achieves its sense of pride. This pride is based on our character and our traditions, including the distinct identity of specific communities and the cultural traditions of our people. Heritage encompasses everything that relates to the origins of people or a community and their cultural identity.
- 2.2 Heritage activities also create a sense of place through the satisfaction felt by people about where they live and a sense of being part of a community.
- 2.3 A local building or monument highly regarded and recognised by people can also create a stronger sense of place. In turn a stronger sense of place is widely seen to help people's well-being and also to be important for the social cohesion of communities. The popularity of TV programmes such as "Who Do You Think You Are?" has led to an increase in the number of people tracing their family history and also visiting places associated with their family. Again further enhancing a person's sense of identity.
- 2.3 The City Council is committed to supporting heritage initiatives and currently this area of work is delivered through City Services supported by two dedicated Cultural Heritage Officers (25 and 22 hours each) and staffing associated with the World Heritage project, managed through the City Council on behalf of the Wearmouth Jarrow Partnership. The Council also has a dedicated building conservation team within the Office of the Chief Executive to support the built heritage agenda across the city.
- 2.4 The key priority for heritage in Sunderland is to celebrate, conserve and promote the city's heritage to inspire the future.

The key themes for heritage delivery in Sunderland are:-

- Learning / Education
- Preservation / Conservation
- Promotion

- Voluntary Groups
- Heritage Management

3.0 VISION FOR HERITAGE

3.1 Culture and Tourism are now looking at options to develop a strategic vision for heritage which would assist in managing expectations across the city.

3.2 The vision, whilst realising efficiencies, will be to focus on the development of heritage whilst increasing the delivery through the community and voluntary sector and develop a Heritage Strategy to:

- Inform and influence the Cultural Strategy
- Promote the Heritage of the city
- Identify key messages relating to the Heritage of the city
- Prioritise Heritage Projects across the city

3.3 The development of a Heritage Strategy will be led through the City Services Directorate.

3.4 A key group to support this work will be the existing 'Heritage in Sunderland (Sunderland Stories) Group', which is a partnership group within the city, working together to develop the city's heritage agenda. The areas of work currently covered include:

- Communication
- Policy
- Support

3.5 Currently as part of this group work resources have been identified by the University of Sunderland to lead on a mapping exercise, which will assist in the development of the strategy for the city.

4.0 CURENT WORK ACROSS THE CITY

4.1 **Heritage Open Days 2010** – took place between Thursday 9 and Sunday 12 September and across the North East region. 220 buildings, tours and activities opened their doors or took place free of charge. In Sunderland there were 47 buildings and/or activities which took place with over 7,500 visitors attending over the weekend.

Comments received throughout the weekend included:

'I've been on many tours but I've never enjoyed any as much as this, it was fascinating. Please open up again so more can enjoy a wonderful experience!'

'An excellent tour, guided by someone who knew their subject and was articulate as well as entertaining.'

For the 2011 event there will be 44 events and activities taking place within the Sunderland area. Some of the new venues and activities for 2011 include a guided walk around the recently developed Elba park, the Quakers meeting house, Sheila Quigley's guided walk entitled - Slaughter in Sunderland and the popular listed pigeon cove at Ryhope.

4.2 **Local Studies** is dedicated to the collection of local information and works towards ensuring the ongoing collection of history in Sunderland. Demand for this service has continued to grow over recent years in relation to family history, and users continue to value the service provided. Following the review that was carried out by the Scrutiny Committee in 2009 developments in Local Studies include:

- Recruitment and appointment of a Local Studies Manager
- Development of a User Forum for the centre
- Research and development of Social Media
- Research and development of Digitisation Methods
- Ongoing regional partnership development

4.3 **Fulwell Windmill** – continues to be one of the most treasured and well known landmarks within the city. The service continues to be highly valued and offers drop in and group visits. Recent visitor comments include:

“Superb tour of the Mill and demonstrations – guide was brilliant at engaging the interest of a 3 year old and 2 parents. Very memorable.”

Very interesting and informal showing of Mill, enjoyed making flour at the end of the tour, will certainly come again”

The Mill has also recently worked in partnership with CEED to deliver a very focused volunteer programme, covering a range of practical skills - conservation, traditional woodcraft and horticulture. The Mill now incorporates a sensory garden to the front of the Visitor Centre and the main garden has been developed to grow wheat, incorporate a nature trail and working with willow and wood to develop seating areas and animals.

4.4 **Sunderland Heritage Forum** is a partnership of voluntary and professional organisations who continue to be very passionate and committed towards celebrating and protecting Wearside's heritage. Having been established for over 14 years the Forum continues to work with the City Council to deliver community led projects including Local History Month, Heritage Open Days, History Fairs and Community Lectures. The Forum also supports the Heritage agenda through the numerous Friends and volunteer groups across the city.

Projects delivered through the Forum include Local Heritage Month 2011, which as a bi-annual event saw over 35 heritage events and activities delivered across the city, development of the Sunderland Heritage Forum website which is a local resource to support the heritage agenda within the city and the delivery of a community lectures programme, hosting a range of guest speakers.

The Forum is now also working to deliver the 2012 Sunderland History Fair, which is scheduled to take place on Saturday 2 June 2012. This bi-annual event re-established in 2008 has continued to grow in popularity and brings together the region's history enthusiasts to promote the North East's rich heritage.

- 4.5 **Heritage Events** - continue to be developed within the city, working with the voluntary and community sector. During 2010-11 events included the Washington Heritage Festival which was an event created from the enthusiasm and commitment of local and voluntary community groups, funded through the Washington Strategic Initiatives Budget. The event saw over 3,000 visitors to the site at Albany Park and succeeded in creating a community based event, drawing together young and old, participating in community led activity. Programme included a parade of mining banners and colliery bands, school and youth theatre groups, Local History Societies, North East Aircraft Museum, partner agencies including Beamish, North of England Civic Trust, Washington Old Hall and much more. Comments from the event included:

"The atmosphere was excellent and was spot on in bringing local people together to celebrate being local and being part of Washington's rich past". (Scouts)

The 2011 event which took place on 17 September was as successful as in the previous year with a developed programme being enjoyed by all those visiting the event.

A further event which has been established for 2011 will be the Washington Village Christmas Festival. Funded through the Strategic Initiatives Budget the event is being supported through the City Council during its infancy, having been initiated and led by support from the local community. The event will comprise of music, food and exhibitors, along with local businesses and organisations such as Washington Old Hall and the City's Library Service supporting and contributing to the programme of the event.

Members should note that the above events have in the main been dependent upon securing appropriate funding with a level of in-kind support through relevant Officers within the City Council. It is envisaged that this is likely to continue in respect of 2012 but, due to the increasingly challenging financial climate there needs to be an emphasis upon sourcing alternative ways of enabling activity should it not be possible to secure funding/partnership working to support future heritage activity going forward.

- 4.6 **Bowes Railway** – having suffered during recent years the Railway Company has recently undergone a change in Chairmanship to enable the Railway to move forward as a sustainable and viable visitor attraction. Under the direction of Greame Miller the Railway has successfully managed to secure funding in a number of areas, most importantly securing funding through English Heritage to engage North of England Civic Trust (NECT) to work to strengthen the board and staffing of the Company, help it set out a forward strategy in a new business plan and produce an overall schedule of works and budget costs for the repair of all the historic buildings and structures. NECT's work will culminate in a re-launch of the site. This work is now currently underway and the Railway continues to

move forward, developing its management and governance arrangements along with a full and detailed programme of events.

The Railway also continues to be fully supported through the City Council both financially and through a range of in kind Officer support.

4.7 **Area Priorities** – Culture and Tourism are continuing to work with Members and the voluntary sector to develop the heritage agenda across the city whilst ensuring local priorities are taken into account. Work to date includes:

- Washington – have carried out a Study to consider the feasibility of a heritage agenda/heritage centre as highlighted through the local community. There has also been a Mining Banner Education Project working with local schools in the Washington Area to produce mining banners as part of an intergenerational project.
- Coalfield – identified heritage as a key priority and engaged outside consultants to carry out a study into the heritage provision of the area. On completion of the study a work plan was produced which highlighted a number of high priorities including the appointment of a Community Heritage Worker. The Committee are now working with the North Area Committee to secure a joint post between the two areas in order to move the heritage agenda forward, working closely with local community groups.
- North – as with the Coalfield area heritage was identified as a key priority for the committee, which resulted in a Task and Finish group being established. Working to develop a heritage based action plan for the area, as highlighted above, a joint post is to be created in order to implement the work plan for the area.
- East - The Heritage Quarter is a regeneration project for the East End of Sunderland which is being led by a community based interest group. Agreed and funded through the area committee the project will run for a three year period, engaging both a consultant and a community co-ordinator worker for the East Area of the city. The roles involve fundraising, engaging with public, private and voluntary sector partners and establishing a legal and community framework for future heritage activity. The role of the co-ordinator is to secure a programme of community heritage activities and promote and publicise heritage events in the East End.

4.8 **World Heritage Site Status** - The Nomination Dossier for the Twin Monastery of Wearmouth-Jarrow was signed off by the UK Government and submitted in January 2011, meeting the UNESCO deadline. This makes Wearmouth-Jarrow the official UK Nomination for World Heritage Site status in 2011.

In March 2011, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport received confirmation that the Nomination has passed its technical check and will proceed to full evaluation.

The evaluation of the bid falls into two parts:

- A desk-based evaluation of the submitted documentation by specialists
- A visit by an international evaluator from ICOMOS (the International Council on Monuments and Sites, specialist advisors to UNESCO on Cultural World Heritage nominations).

The evaluation visit took place during September 2011 and the evaluator visited the site and met key partners involved in its management. A significant amount of work was being undertaken to ensure that the two sites were presented to the best possible standard and that all partners participating in the visit were well briefed.

Following the visit, the evaluator will prepare a report which will go to the International World Heritage Committee at its annual meeting in July 2012 in St Petersburg, when a decision on the outcome of the Nomination will be made.

Site improvements

The visitor experience improvements across the site, funded by Sunderland City Council, South Tyneside Council, and ONE North East, are complete and installed. These improve the displays inside and outside the two churches, include a new orientation area within the National Glass Centre encouraging visitors to visit all related attractions and include improved pedestrian waymarking, including “bread-crumbs” pavement markers from St Peter’s metro.

Sunderland City Council has allocated £1.7 million to improve the landscape setting of the site over the next 5 years. Work to detail the content of this scheme is underway in consultation with all relevant partners.

An exhibition featuring the findings of the *One Monastery in Two Places* Project, by Newcastle and Durham Universities, funded by English Heritage, will be displayed across the site in September and October. This features innovative archaeological research and work analysing the community perceptions of the site.

5.0 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The profile of History and Heritage continues to grow not just within the city, but regionally and nationally. The benefits of heritage should not just be seen as economical but importantly how the historic environment impacts on local communities and helps develop and bring together those communities, as highlighted through the recent Washington Heritage Festival.
- 5.2 It is vitally important that the role of the voluntary and community sector continues to be embedded in delivering the heritage agenda within the city. Sunderland already has a vast number of groups and organisations who work closely with the City Council and its partners to continue to develop, promote, support funding applications and raise awareness of the city’s important heritage agenda and it will be a continuing priority to engage with these groups in order to secure the historic environment for the future.

5.3 City Services is committed to ensuring that History and Heritage continue to play a key role in the future development of the city and that this continues to be delivered by working in close partnership with all sectors including community and voluntary groups, partners and stakeholders, local businesses and potential funders.

6.0 RECOMMENDATION

6.1 Members are asked to note the contents of this report and to receive further updates regarding Heritage in Sunderland in the future.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 No background papers were relied upon to develop this report.

8.0 GLOSSARY

UNESCO – United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
DCMS - Department of Culture, Media and Sport
NECT – North of England Civic Trust
EH – English Heritage

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JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH, HOUSING AND ADULT
SERVICES**

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

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

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To brief the Committee on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment in relation to Homelessness, Hostels, Rough Sleeping and Migration.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Housing is one of the strategic issues that falls within the remit of the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee. The Committee has considered the issues around housing on an ongoing basis over several years.
- 2.2 At the beginning of this municipal year, and in response to a number of issues surrounding hostels within the city, the Committee requested a detailed report outlining the strategy for the city going forward in respect of this issue.
- 2.3 The context and the proposed approach to the hostels is now contained within the wider Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and the Committee will be briefed on the wider needs assessment. This JSNA forms part of a wider comprehensive JSNA covering a range of topic areas and will form the basis of evidenced based commissioning in the future.

Homelessness

- 2.4 Homelessness can affect anyone at any time for many reasons. Nationally tackling homelessness is at the centre of the Coalition Government's commitment to protect the most vulnerable in society and promote social justice. People living on the streets are some of the most disadvantaged people in society – at risk of severe illness, violence and early death.
- 2.5 Typically homeless households are thought of as those who are sleeping rough. From a legislative perspective however, local authorities have a duty to assess and provide assistance to households who are threatened with homelessness within 28 days. In deciding whether people are homeless, the council has to look at any accommodation they have access to. People should be considered homeless if they:-

- have no home in the UK or anywhere else in the world;
- have no home where they can live together with immediate family;
- can only stay where they are on a very temporary basis;
- don't have permission to live where they are;
- have been locked out of home and they aren't allowed back;
- can't live at home because of violence or abuse or threats of violence or abuse, which are likely to be carried out against them or someone else in the household;
- it isn't reasonable for them to stay in their home for any reason (for example, if the house is in very poor condition); or
- they can't afford to stay where they are

2.6 Households can become homeless for a number of reasons. On average, 3,400 households approach the Local Authority per year for assistance relating to homelessness and housing advice. Over recent years the number of cases accepted as unintentionally homeless and in priority need have been reducing as the Council has embraced a more preventative agenda.

Supported Housing and Hostel provision

2.7 The Council and other agencies provide support to vulnerable households through contracting arrangements for supported housing schemes and services. Previously, this was through the Supporting People programme. The Council also has a strategic oversight role, which includes a duty to evaluate local housing requirements and the appropriateness of existing accommodation based upon locally identified need. As part of this strategic role a hostel plan has recently been produced to address emerging issues in inappropriate private hostels that are not part of the supported housing programme where safeguarding issues have been raised. There are a number of private hostels within the city, particularly in the Sunnyside area, that have a large number of clients with substance misuse and alcohol addictions, in addition to mental health issues that receive minimal levels of support. As part of the Hostel plan it is proposed that these households will be transitioned into more appropriate and supported accommodation. The last year has seen increased activity and engagement with those living in the hostels and on the basis of the intelligence that we have gathered a more bespoke strategy for the hostels will be developed.

Rough Sleeping

2.8 Homelessness is about more than just providing housing. Homeless people often have complex underlying problems that can be worsened by living on the streets or in insecure accommodation. When most people think of a homeless person they tend to think of someone sleeping rough on the streets

2.9 The figures for rough sleeping published on 17 February 2011 by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) showed a total of 1,768 people sleeping out across England on any given night. In London, rough sleeping, the most visible form of homelessness rose by 8% last year. In Sunderland the level of rough sleeping is relatively minor compared to other cities. Several recent rough sleeper counts suggest that up to 3 people sleep rough per night in Sunderland. Regional work suggested that this may be higher but it is felt that this is not the case in Sunderland.

- 2.10 However, the issue outlined above in relation to the unregulated hostels could potentially mask a hidden rough sleeper problem. Currently the Council are in the process of developing a pilot to use Personal Budgets for rough sleepers. This will use Regional Homeless funding and has been agreed as a pilot for the north east.
- 2.11 The Council is working very closely with Homeless Link, a homeless charity who have been given an increasing role by the government in relation to homelessness; and who are now responsible for verifying Rough Sleeper counts in relation to carrying out a single homelessness survey carried out over a month long period to estimate how many people are sleeping rough in Sunderland on any given night.

Migration and Asylum Seekers

- 2.12 A national study published by Migration watch on 1 September 2011 found that immigration was responsible for almost 40% of the growth in households between 2001 and 2008 nationally. Looking ahead, 36% of new households will, according to official projections, be a result of immigration. Sunderland has experienced a declining population over several decades, and continues to be a net exporter of residents to other areas, particularly Newcastle and Durham.
- 2.13 As part of the process of assessing asylum seekers applications, asylum seekers are dispersed around the country and temporarily housed whilst the Home Office decides on the asylum application and whether a person can stay in the country. On average there are 170 households (single people and families) awaiting the outcome of their asylum application.

3. KEY ISSUES AND GAPS

- 3.1 Homelessness is beginning to rise. As the impacts of the economic downturn continue, the turmoil in global financial markets linked to historical toxic debt widens, and as the long-term housing shortage takes hold housing advice and accommodation services are now seeing greater demand for help from people having lost or are under threat of losing their home.
- 3.2 Official statistics are now showing an increase in the number of homeless people including a rise in street homelessness and the use of temporary accommodation. The cuts to affordable housing budgets, proposed changes to housing benefit entitlement and the introduction of the 'Universal Credit' are likely to make things worse for those people at risk of homelessness. All made more acute by the reductions in public sector funding putting advice and support services at risk in the future too.

Key issues

- 3.3 Homelessness:-
- Homelessness is rising nationally, but not currently in Sunderland;
 - Lack of suitable move on accommodation in Sunderland;
 - The need to implement a new allocations policy focusing on need;

- The need to identify 'hidden' homeless households and provide support and advice; and
- Nationally homelessness acceptances have increased by 17% between June 2010 – June 2011. Although having not experienced this trend in Sunderland there is a real risk with the Welfare Reform changes that acceptances could increase.

3.3 Hostel provision:-

- Inappropriate private sector hostels – especially in the Sunnyside area;
- Lack of support services (methadone clinics/needle exchanges/drop-in centres citywide/additional rehab spaces);
- A co-ordinated approach to the placement of clients in temporary/hostel accommodation incorporating a clear understanding of their needs and the suitable vacancies available in the city; and
- Pressure is being placed on A&E due to a lack of options for move on leading to bed blocking at a high cost.

3.4 Rough sleeping:-

- Rough sleepers have an average life expectancy of just 42 years, compared with the national average of 74 for men and 79 for women; and
- People who sleep rough are 35 times more likely to commit suicide than the general population

4. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COMMISSIONING

4.1 It is vital that all support services recognise the complex lives of homeless people. We need more flexible, personal services which reflect the complexity of individual's lives so that we can achieve the vital ambition of ending rough sleeping and homelessness in Sunderland – no first night!

4.2 Therefore based upon locally identified need the following is required :-

- Develop contracted supported accommodation for homeless clients – ideally 2 projects for about 10-15 clients in each – one in the east of the city and one in the Coalfield area;
- Develop contracted supported accommodation for hostel residents - ideally 2 immediate access units (one for 15 people aged 21+, and one for 8-10 people that is gender specific);
- Develop a citywide outcome focussed move-on scheme for all potentially homeless people;
- Chronic exclusion resource for most chaotic cases, targeted at the hostel population;
- Develop a contracted 12 unit refuge for women and children at risk of domestic violence. There is a need to consider the revenue implications of developing such accommodation; and
- Increase the number of temporary family accommodation by 5 places.

5. WHO IS AT RISK AND WHY?

Threat of homelessness

- 5.1 Any household or person could potentially become homeless, either due to circumstance or through their own or other's actions. Homelessness has many different causes and often can be viewed as symptomatic of deeper underlying problems. Those who suffer physical and mental ill health, substance misuse, social exclusion and poverty, domestic violence and relationship breakdown and those who are offenders are more likely to become homeless. Nationally, people from ethnic minority backgrounds are around three times more likely to become homeless than their white counterparts. Such over-representation is found across all regions in England.
- 5.2 On average 3,400 households approach the Housing Options service in Sunderland every year, a rate of 28 households per 1,000 households in the city, claiming to be homeless or needing advice.
- 5.3 The majority of households that present to the service are under the age of 45, accounting for 82% of all cases, and over 90% of homeless acceptances cases. Applicants aged between 16 & 24 accounted for 38% of all applicants and 44% of homeless acceptance cases in the last 5 years.
- 5.4 Lone parent households and single young people are the most likely household types to present to the service as homeless. The largest potential causes of homelessness in Sunderland are:-
- Parents, relatives or friends no longer willing to accommodate (31%);
 - Termination of existing tenancy (10.7%);
 - Relationship breakdown (Non-Violent) (8.36%);
 - Domestic violence from partners or associates (8.4% of all presenting cases, 24.5% of homeless acceptances); and
 - Overcrowding (7.4%).
- 5.5 Crisis published a report in May 2011 about the experiences of single homeless households in England. Typically, such households are not classed as in priority need, which means local authorities have no legal duty to re-house them. The study found that:-
- The majority are 'hidden', staying in squats, sofa surfing, or sleeping rough and with no statutory entitlement to housing; and
 - 62 per cent of respondents were hidden homeless on the night they were surveyed and 92 per cent had experienced hidden homelessness.
- 5.6 The key conclusion to emerge from the study is that single homelessness and hidden homelessness are synonymous. In other words, to be a single homeless person in England in the main is to be 'hidden' (from support, advice and statistics). The study suggests that single homeless people are hidden due to:-
- Not meeting the priority need criteria;

- Leaving local authority offices without receiving meaningful advice and assistance;
- Not being given the opportunity to make a homelessness application.
- Being deterred from approaching local authority due to previous negative experiences or low expectations;
- Being misinformed about their entitlements or lack of knowledge; and
- Those that do meet the priority need criteria (due to mental health, formerly in care) do not approach local authorities

5.7 As a result of being 'hidden', people who could have promptly exited homelessness, had they received support, join a population of long-term homeless people with increasing support needs.

5.8 The report found that of the households that were hidden homeless on the day of the survey many were vulnerable with potentially significant support needs.

Potential Support Needs	%
Has spent most of their adult life unemployed	36
Has mental ill health	34
Has experienced drug dependency	32
Has a physical health problem or disability	35
Has experienced alcohol dependency	34
Was excluded or suspended at school	29
Has experienced violence/ abuse from a partner	23
Has experienced violence/ abuse from other family members or family friends	25
Has been in local authority care	25
Has children being looked after by someone else	26
Has literacy problems	21
Sometimes self harms	17
Has suffered the death of a long term partner	6
Has been in the armed forces	7

The hidden truth about homelessness, Experiences of single homelessness in England,(2011), Crisis

Supported Housing and Hostels

5.9 The Local Authority funded supported housing schemes and support for 28,048 households in December 2010. There are a range of client groups. They are older people with support needs; physical/mental disabilities; young people; single homeless households; homeless families with dependents and victims of domestic violence. There are also cross cutting services to various client groups.

5.10 There are 14 hostels/supported housing units in the Sunnyside area and the surrounding locality, with 334 bed spaces. Specifically in the Tavistock area there are four privately run hostels with 146 bed spaces. The client profile is varied and the concern is that the needs of clients are becoming more varied and complex requiring more personalised services. In these hostels the clients receive a minimal level of support but there are serious safeguarding concerns. These 'risks' have been further highlighted to the Council by the Care Quality Commission and the DCLG.

- 5.11 According to the No Health without Mental Health Strategy 2011, 60% of hostel residents suffer from some form of personality disorder. Much earlier research into the issues faced by single homeless people found that over a third of people in hostels and B&Bs, and well over half of people sleeping rough, reported more than one health problem compared to a quarter of the general population.
- 5.12 Such problems as depression, anxiety and nerves were amongst the most common for those who lived in hostels and B&B's. In comparison to the general population, it was found that residents in hostels and B&B's were eight times more likely to suffer from some form of mental health problem. The research further found that people living in hostels were also more likely to have some form of digestive problems relating to poor diets as well as other issues related to alcohol and drug use.

Rough Sleepers

- 5.13 In July 2011 the Government launched the vision to end rough sleeping: "No Second Night Out Nationwide". The focus of the vision is to help single homeless people who are not in 'priority need', including those who are living on the streets and those who are at the greatest risk of rough sleeping because they have lived on the streets or are living in insecure accommodation, such as hostels or shelters.
- 5.14 The No Second Night Out document found that in London, 52% of rough sleepers have alcohol support needs, 32% drug support needs, and 39% mental health problems. Many have had extensive contact with the state: 37% had previously been in prison, 12% in care and 3% in the UK Armed Forces. These factors can often be linked to social disadvantage. For example, family breakdown, debt and a lack of skills or qualifications. Many have experienced some form of trauma in their life.
- 5.15 Earlier studies by the Social Exclusion Unit considered the issue of rough sleeping in 1998. On the subject of who sleeps rough the Unit found:-
- There were very few rough sleepers aged under 18;
 - Around 25% are between 18 and 25;
 - Six per cent were over 60; and
 - Around 90 per cent were male.
- 5.16 The report confirmed findings of earlier studies on the main causes of rough sleeping. The single most common reason given for the first episode of rough sleeping was relationship breakdown, either with parents or a partner. Research by Centrepoin with homeless young people across the country found that 86 per cent had been forced to leave home rather than leaving out of choice. Homeless agencies continue to report that physical or sexual abuse lies behind a significant minority of family conflicts.
- 5.17 Older homeless people have also identified family crises as a key factor in their situation. Widowhood and marital breakdown figure largely as causes of homelessness as do eviction, redundancy and mental illness.

- 5.18 A disproportionate number of rough sleepers have experienced some kind of institutional life such as being in local authority care, prison or the armed forces.
- 5.19 Around 30-50% of rough sleepers have been found to suffer from mental health problems, although very few of these people have ever been in a long-stay hospital and have become homeless upon discharge. A high percentage of rough sleepers (around 50%) have been found to have a serious alcohol problem. Drug problems are more prevalent amongst younger rough sleepers; the Unit noted that research carried out in 1996 found that 39% of people sleeping rough under 26 had a drug problem

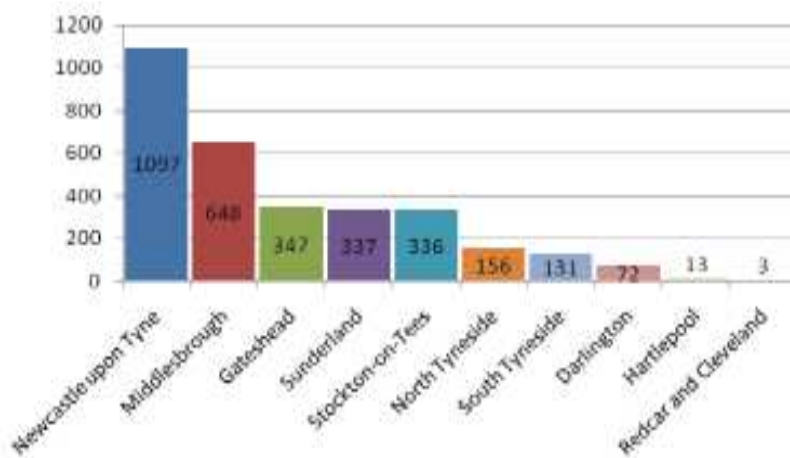
Asylum Seekers

- 5.20 Asylum is protection given by a country to someone who is fleeing persecution in their own country. It is given under the 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees. To be recognised as a refugee, a person must have left the country and be unable to go back because they have a well-founded fear of persecution. The Refugee Council published a report, 'Chance or choice? 2010', which looks at the reasons why asylum seekers came to the UK. It found that:-
- There is clear evidence that conflict is the single biggest reason why asylum seekers come to the UK and that most asylum seekers are primarily concerned with escaping from persecution or war. It is these 'push' factors that are decisive in the decision to migrate, rather than the 'pull' of any particular destination country;
 - The majority of respondents (over 80 per cent) had very little time to plan their journey and left within a matter of days or, at most, weeks of deciding their safety was at risk if they did not leave the country;
 - Most people fleeing for their lives were helped to leave by an external party or agent, who made the key decisions about their destination and helped to facilitate the journey to safety;
 - Around a third came from countries which had previously been British colonies or under British administration. For the minority who made choices about where to claim asylum, historical and colonial links appear to play an important role;
 - Very few asylum seekers had any detailed or meaningful knowledge of the UK asylum or welfare system. Most respondents had been working in their home country and expected they would be able to and need to work in order to support themselves and their families when they came to the UK; and
 - Three quarters had no knowledge of welfare benefits and support before coming to the UK and most had no expectation they would be given financial support. There is no evidence that respondents consider the UK welfare system to be more generous than that of other countries.

(<http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/Resources/Refugee%20Council/downloads/chancechoice.pdf>)

- 5.21 As at the end of June 2008 there were 3,181 asylum seekers in the North East receiving either subsistence only support or in National Asylum Seeker

Service (NASS) accommodation. This is a decrease of 12.49% or 454 from the end of March 2008 (3635).



North East Refugee Service, June 2008

*The current figure for asylum seekers in the city is 170, almost half of the reported figure in 2008.

6. LEVEL OF NEED WITHIN THE POPULATION

Homelessness

- 6.1 Of the 3,400 applicants that approach the service per annum only a small fraction of cases undergo a full homeless assessment. The outcome of cases in 2010/11 was 6.2% homeless decisions, 25.6% prevention cases, 58% advice cases and 10.1% other. Historically the level of homeless acceptances has been declining in Sunderland since 2005/6, after the government shifted the focus from assessing homelessness to a more preventative agenda in 2002/3. This has resulted in the number of acceptances falling from 894 in 2003/4 to 168 in 2010/11.
- 6.2 The statistics however only show the number of cases that present to the council for homeless assessments. A recent study by ANEC, *Filling in the Picture: Homelessness in the North East and Learning What Can Be Done About It?*, 2010, suggested that a conservative estimate of the number of hidden homeless households, those that do not approach the authority, is approximately 1.5 times the number of homeless cases and prevention cases in the region. If these figures are applied to Sunderland this would equate to 1,341 additional homeless households, or 2,235 households in total per year.

Supported Housing and Hostels

- 6.3 The council currently provides support to vulnerable adults through four main services types. They are accommodation based, community or social care alarm, floating support and the Home Improvement Agency services. In December 2010 Sunderland provided support to 28,048 vulnerable households. The largest client group supported was older people with support needs. The largest type of support provided to this group was the provision of

community or social care alarm services, followed by Home Improvement Agency Services and accommodation based services.

Client Groups	Supported Individuals/ Households
Older people with support needs	27,066
Young People at Risk	171
People with Learning Disabilities	160
People with Mental Health Problems	140
Single Homeless with Support Needs	139
Young People Leaving Care	129
People with Drug Problems	64
Homeless Families with Support Needs	46
Offenders or People at risk of Offending	44
Women at Risk of Domestic Violence	27
Generic	24
People with a Physical or Sensory Disability	20
Teenage Parents	18
Grand Total	28,048

Supporting People data, DCLG December 2010

Rough Sleeping

- 6.4 Successive rough sleeper counts have found that on a given night 3 people sleep rough in Sunderland. The latest was conducted in May 2010. However it is believed that formal rough sleeping counts underestimate the true level of rough sleeping. The ANEC study suggested regionally that 659 people slept rough in 2008/9, higher than what local counts suggested. Consultation with service providers and local agencies suggests that whilst this implied significantly higher figure does not apply in Sunderland, the number of people in supported housing accommodation that previously slept rough may suggest a higher figure that the count suggests.

Migration and Asylum Seekers

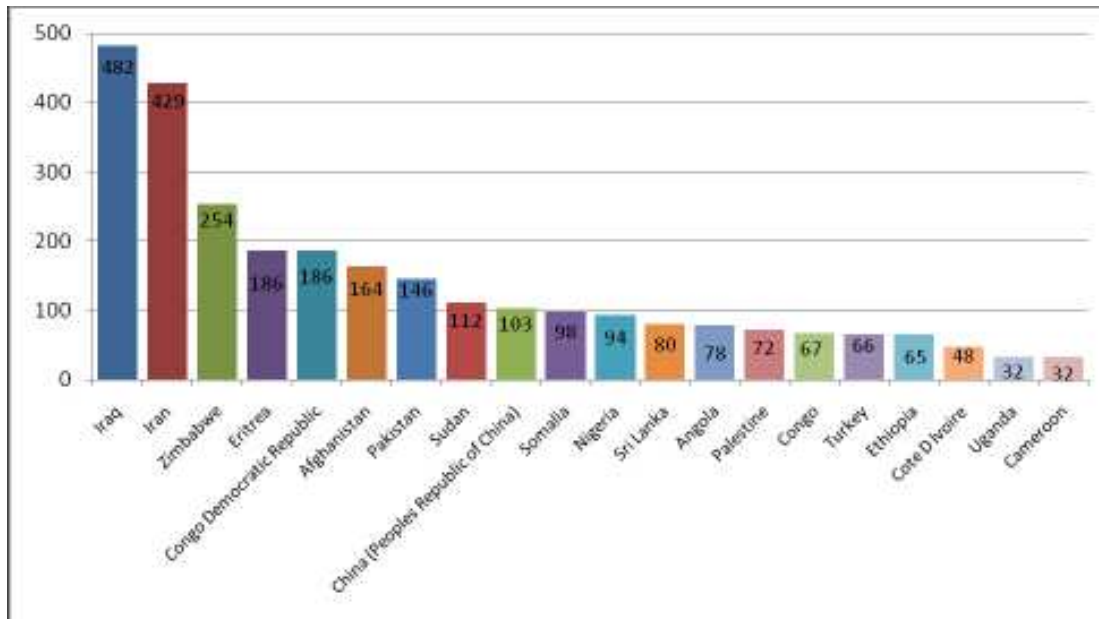
- 6.5 In September 2011 the number of asylum seekers in the city was 170. There were 100 single households and 24 families. The country of origin for families is as follows:

Country	Number
Pakistan	5
China	3
Nigeria	3
Democratic Republic of Congo	2
India	2
Sri Lanka	2
Afghanistan	1
Chad	1

Eritrea	1
Libya	1
Sudan	1
Uganda	1
Zimbabwe	1
Total	24

Source: Jomast, 2011

6.6 In 2008 the North East Refugee Service produced the latest report for the country of origin for all household types in the North East. It shows that largest number of refugees were from Iraq, Iran and Zimbabwe.



Source: North East Refugee Service, 2008

6.7 There are a number of former failed asylum seekers living in the city who are supported by voluntary/ charitable agencies. Although these cases should be considering returning to their place of origin there may be a hidden population that needs identifying. A number of asylum seekers have medical issues, such as post traumatic stress disorder and physical issues.

7. CURRENT SERVICES IN RELATION TO NEED

Homelessness

7.1 The Council's Access to Housing Service provides advice and help to 3,400 households per year. In addition there are some specialised roles within the team working with Substance Misuse Clients, Offenders, considering financial assistance and also a successful floating support scheme that supports on average 100 cases.

Supported Housing & Hostels

7.2 In December 2010 Sunderland council had contracts to provide 117 types of services under the old Supporting People contracts. The largest number of services was provided to older people with support needs;

Client Type	Number of Services
Older people with support needs	57
People with Learning Disabilities	18
People with Mental Health Problems	13
Young People at Risk	8
Single Homeless with Support Needs	4
Women at Risk of Domestic Violence	3
People with a Physical or Sensory Disability	3
Young People Leaving Care	2
Teenage Parents	2
People with Drug Problems	2
Offenders or People at risk of Offending	2
Homeless Families with Support Needs	2
Generic	1
Total number of services	117

- 7.3 Within the city there are a number of accommodation based services and hostel provision. Overall there are 407 bed spaces in the city, 214 of which are in private hostels that provide minimal support to clients.

Hostel/Supported Housing Scheme	Number of bed spaces	Private or Council contracted
Norfolk Hotel	44	Private
Camrex House	79	Private
Tatham House	26	Private
Tatham Lodge	15	Private
Abbeyfield	15	Private
17 – 20 Murton Street	35	Private
Norcare	18	Council contracted
TZ Project	12	Council contracted
YMCA Toward Road	24	Council contracted
Mental Health Matters	12	Council contracted
Salvation Army hostel	65	Council contracted
Centrepoint	15	Council contracted
Ashkirk	16	Council contracted
Holmewood	32	Council contracted
Beechwood	5	Council contracted
Cherry Tree Lodge	6	Council contracted
Total	407	

Asylum Seekers

- 7.4 Asylum seekers are supported by the North East Refugee Service, the Council education department and Children’s Service, the PCT and police.

8. PROJECTED SERVICE USE AND OUTCOMES IN 3-5 YEARS AND 5-10 YEARS

Homelessness

- 8.1 National trends indicate that homelessness is beginning to increase for the first time since 2003, although this has not occurred locally. This may in part be explained by the fact that those most likely to be impacted by the recession are in a better position to benefit from the prevention initiatives that have expanded in recent years. A contraction in public finance and, in particular, the Area Based Grant is likely to result in a reduction in the types and number of services available in the city and this may result in increased levels of homelessness if replacements can not be found.
- 8.2 A refocusing of service and improved performance with regard to homeless prevention has reduced the level (and proportion) of those with low needs from entering the temporary accommodation system. All indications are that this trend will continue into the future. The lack of suitable move-on accommodation however has meant that households that do enter temporary accommodation are staying for longer periods of time. In March 2009 the average number of weeks in temporary accommodation was 3.5 weeks for homeless households. In March 2011 this had risen to 6.3 weeks, although the main reason for this is that those living in temporary accommodation are excluded from mainstream housing due past issues with their previous tenancies and are therefore difficult to place.
- 8.3 The number of applicants approaching the service depends upon the availability and accessibility of housing in the wider housing market. Current conditions suggest that availability is likely to remain constrained, if not becoming more difficult to acquire in future. The level of new affordable housing provision within the next five years is likely to be very low, although the majority of neighbourhood clearance in the social housing sector has occurred so numbers should remain fairly static.
- 8.4 Changes to housing benefits & local housing allowance (LHA) rates may reduce the level of affordable housing in the private and socially rented sector in 2012. Local housing allowance rates will be set to the 30th percentile of local rates, down from the 50th percentile. On average this change alone will cause LHA rates to fall by £5.64/week for the 1 room/shared room rate, £7.73 for a 1 bed property, £9.60 for a 2 bed, £13.33 for a 3 bed and £24.26 for a 4 bed.
- 8.5 48% of people on LHA already face shortfalls between their benefit and their rent nationally, with the average shortfall £23/week. As these changes will come in abruptly rather than being phased in, many tenants will suddenly find that their rent is now unaffordable. Many more people will face shortfalls and/or find it very difficult to find and sustain a tenancy.
- 8.6 The changes to local housing allowance rates also have an impact on the local authorities' ability to prevent people from becoming homeless. In 2010/11 146 households were prevented from becoming homeless by finding alternative accommodation in the private rented sector. If the private rented sector becomes less affordable due to reductions in local housing allowance then more households may be accepted as homeless and there may be a corresponding increase in the use of temporary accommodation.

- 8.7 In addition there are also plans to lower the Shared Accommodation Rate (SAR) to households under the age of 35. Currently the rate applies to single people aged under 25 on housing benefit in the private rented sector. These claimants are restricted to the rate for a single room in a shared house, rather than the rate for a self contained one bedroom property.
- 8.8 For vulnerable people who have been homeless, are leaving supported accommodation, care or prison, even if a property is available and affordable, sharing is often inappropriate and can be particularly detrimental to their well being.
- 8.9 The Department of Work and Pensions estimate that 62,500 people will be affected by this change nationally, with the average loss being £41 per week and some people seeing their benefit entitlement halved. In July 2011 the Government announced two limited exemptions to the SAR extension. Those aged 25-34 who have lived for three months in a homeless hostel and received resettlement support will be entitled to Housing Benefit to cover a self contained flat. This will also be the case for offenders who pose a risk to others and who are aged 25-34

Migration and Asylum Seekers

- 8.10 The level of asylum seekers in the area is difficult to predict due to the unpredictable nature of the number of asylum seekers entering the country. Currently, the numbers are falling nationally, but due to the dispersal process this may not lead to a reduction in the number of asylum seekers coming to the area. In 2012 the contracts between the Home Office and providers will be renegotiated which may increase or reduce the number of asylum seekers in a given area. It is likely that in the North East that the contract will go to a consortium from Yorkshire & Humberside, and then be sub-contracted out to local providers.

9. EVIDENCE OF WHAT WORKS

- 9.1 Early intervention in preventing homeless has been proven to reduce the threat of homeless. Examples of this include a high number of prevention cases due to early contact linked to Mortgage Rescue / Financial assistance, which resulted in 75 households being able to remain in their existing home in 2010/11. In addition, the greater use of the private rented sector by working in partnerships with private landlords resulted in 146 households finding alternative accommodation in 2010/11.
- 9.2 Evaluation undertaken on behalf of DCLG (2008) suggested that reducing the number of rough sleepers successfully is largely down to a very focused and targeted approach, such as assertive and constant outreach work by trained officers as well as investment in accommodation specifically for former rough sleepers, such as those developed by the places of change programmes
- 9.3 Places of Changes – now the Homelessness Change Programme - funding was introduced to try to improve the physical quality of buildings and the type of support available in private hostels. Places of Change hostels are designed to be centres of engagement and empowerment with a focus on activity, employment, education or training, or meaningful activity as is more

commonly known. The idea is that the buildings themselves will be places that support people to make positive changes in their lives and move on to independent or more appropriate supported accommodation. Another key feature of any place of change accommodation is that it should be a welcoming building with motivated staff and where service users can and do engage with the local community. The new accommodation for young people in Dundas Street, to be managed by Centrepoin, has been funded by Places of Change funding. Due to open in January 2012, the building is an excellent example of how supported accommodation should be designed and is a fantastic addition to the city's supported housing portfolio.

9.4 A staged approach, floating support, independent living and a multi agency approach in reach.

10. USER VIEWS

10.1 User views have been listed below:-

- Some good engagement about housing options for people with disabilities, but continue to be issues with engagement with those with mental illness in the city across a range of services;
- Some concerns from 2010 MORI Survey about reduction in proportion of residents aware of housing options function compared to 2008; – with +7% net satisfaction (=satisfied – dissatisfied);
- Although this reduction may be associated with differences between customer expectations & experience of Housing Options, there's a need to more consistently manage expectations at the first point of contact;
- Satisfaction levels higher amongst targeted groups – 16 – 24 years (+16%) & aware of function;
- Satisfaction with homelessness/housing advice high among residents in deprived areas (28% v. 16% for city); deprived residents more likely to have opinion, suggesting successfully targeted approach; same general trend true of satisfaction levels with debt management & advice services;
- RSL tenants more likely to be satisfied than owner-occupiers or private residents (+6%);
- Geographical variation in results needs to be explored further with Team, e.g. West Sunderland and (particularly) Washington have lower satisfaction with homelessness than city. Yet, satisfaction with debt management higher in these areas (& lower in East Sunderland). This supports observation of limited evidence of effective integration of housing-related advice in strategic advice;
- Some evidence individuals satisfied with advice & information they receive, and this is true for some disadvantaged groups, e.g. those with substance misuse problems. However, other groups, such as those with learning disabilities and their carers, report less satisfactory outcomes;
- Through the research done with clients who had previously used the service and some choice based lettings consultation with young people, it was also suggested that partner organisations should have some information on signposting to help with Housing Options Advice;
- Research in to the quality of private sector hostels and the level of support provided showed that many residents considered themselves homeless. Many felt abandoned and discarded, that the council don't care and that they don't help. Despite the fact that there is council funded support worker that

goes into private hostels, he was not very well known. (*Living in a Hostel: Do Homeless Hostels Meet the Housing and Related Needs of Homeless People in Sunderland*, May 2011, McGowan); and

- In addition, many of those surveyed felt that had no involvement or say in how hostels were run, the activities provided or even the type of food provided. Living in a hostel – whether private or not for profit – does have a negative impact on people’s health and increases the risk of depression and low self-esteem amongst other issues. Sharing facilities such as toilets and bathrooms with a lot of other residents makes some people feel dirty and they cannot relax in the facilities. People in private hostels in particular do not feel safe, even when they are in their own room and despite the size of hostel and number of residents, many people experience loneliness and boredom.

11. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

11.1 Equality impact assessments undertaken by the council have revealed that;

- Individually tailored service exists to support those needing re-housing – often those socially disadvantaged – & includes home visits. Customers reported Service was “good” or “excellent”;
- Evidence of good outcomes with specific groups for people engaged with Housing Options, including those leaving care, ex-offenders, those with substance misuse & domestic violence;
- CQC & CLG both identified significant concerns about quality of support – and safeguarding-related issues - for vulnerable people living in hostel and poor quality B&B accommodation;
- Support for people with mental illness remains an issue in the city, including in terms of their accommodation needs – Mental Health Teams focussed on those with severe, psychotic mental illness, and practitioners remain unsure about pathways for these individuals;
- In particular, issues identified with housing and debt/financial management weren’t as significant as one would expect (12% of their cases). This highlights the nature of MH caseload – dominated by individuals in supported accommodation rather than living independently in the community;
- Black & ethnic minority groups, including asylum seekers, and other groups are well supported in the Housing Options Team, including in terms of communication needs. However, there is anecdotal evidence of over-crowding in specific areas of the city with high levels of BME populations; and
- The new proposed allocations scheme will be focused on need to assist the most vulnerable in Sunderland. As part of the process in creating the policy extensive consultation was undertaken with a number of different client groups. A full INRA was carried out and the identified actions will be incorporated with the monitoring and early review of the scheme.

12. UNMET NEEDS AND SERVICE GAPS

12.1 Although many improvements have been made in relation to homelessness in Sunderland one of the key issues continues to be that of access, not of only access to front line services but that of access to supported accommodation within the City – based upon locally identified need.

- 12.2 Sunderland, when the Supporting People programme was on-going, had a third less of accommodation based and floating support services than in Newcastle, which has a similar sized population.
- 12.3 Sunderland was always a 'net exporter' of vulnerable service users due to the lack of services provided within the city and it still does not have the required level of accommodation based and floating / outreach services for vulnerable people for the size of the city.
- 12.4 In relation to accommodation provision for women and children at risk of domestic violence, which is one of the key reasons for homelessness, there is still a need to develop at least one new refuge within Sunderland as to achieve the 1974 baseline figure of 1 unit of accommodation per 10,000 head of population as detailed in 1975 at the first Government Select Committee on 'Violence and Marriage'.
- 12.5 Sunderland has embarked upon an ambitious programme in relation to hostel accommodation and is proactively working with the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) in developing exemplar Homelessness Change Programme immediate access project for homeless young people aged 16-21. The need within the City is to develop at least a further 2 projects in line with the Homelessness Change Programme criteria. This should then begin to address the acute and chronic needs of residents in inappropriate private sector hostels where no support is provided and there are serious concerns about safeguarding vulnerable people:-
- Chronic exclusion service for the most entrenched homeless clients;
 - Evidence emerged that single homeless people who may be entitled to accommodation are deterred from applying, many are misinformed about their entitlements, not all are given the opportunity to make a homelessness application, local authorities do not always fulfil their duty to 'advise and assist' homeless people, and that when advice or signposting is offered it is of little or no use;
 - Alternative hostel provision meeting the Homelessness Change Programme;
 - Increased family supported accommodation to remove the need of temporary accommodation use; and
 - The partners work closely together to ensure areas of support are provided, these include move-on advice and support once refugee status has been recognised.

Recommendations for Commissioning

- 12.6 The following are recommended for future commissioning:-
- Supported Accommodation Gateway;
 - Ensure the inclusion of the homelessness health needs audit with commissioned providers;
 - Chronic exclusion resource for most chaotic cases, targeted at the hostel population;
 - Continuing funding reductions in relation to Supporting People (Area Based Grant) are likely to result in the decommissioning of some accommodation

based provision accessed through the homeless route and/or a reduction in the level of service available;

- Develop contracted supported accommodation for homeless clients – ideally 2 projects for about 10-15 clients in each – one in the east of the city and one in the coalfield area;
- Develop contracted supported accommodation for hostel residents - ideally 2 immediate access units (one for 15 people aged 21+, and one for 8-10 people that is gender specific);
- Develop a citywide outcome focussed move-on scheme for all potentially homeless people; and
- Develop a contracted 12 unit refuge for women and children at risk of domestic violence.

Recommendations for needs assessment work

12.7 The following are recommended for future needs assessment work:-

- Gather further evidence on chronically excluded to understand health & housing needs;
- Look at the impact of whole family approach in relation to homelessness
- Examine the impact of failed asylum seekers on the city;
- Evaluate the benefits of personalised budgets for rough sleepers;
- Implementation of new outcomes framework;
- Evidence gathering in relation to the impact of Welfare Reform; and
- Inform the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) of the known housing needs within the city of this client group and also help inform the SHMA in relation to the overall housing requirements of specific household groups such as families, older people, homeless, gypsies and travellers, black, asian and minority ethnic issues.

13. RECOMMENDATION

13.1 The Committee is recommended to consider the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and comment on the information provided.

14. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment - Homelessness, Hostels, Rough Sleeping and Migration
- Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee Work Programme; Agendas and Minutes

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

**13 DECEMBER
2011**

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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

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

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

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

2. BACKGROUND

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

3. CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 The work programme reflects discussions that have taken place at the 25 October 2011 Scrutiny Committee meeting. The current work programme is attached as an appendix to this report.

4. CONCLUSION

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

5 RECOMMENDATION

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

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SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2011/2012

REASON FOR INCLUSION	JUNE 14.06.11	JULY 26.07.11	SEPTEMBER 13.09.11	OCTOBER 25.10.11	DECEMBER 13.12.11	JANUARY 17.01.12	FEBRUARY 28.02.12	APRIL 17.04.12
Cabinet-Referrals and Responses			Response to the 10/11 Policy Review – Role of Culture in Supporting Sustainable Communities (Cllr Kelly)					
Policy Review	Annual Work Programme and Policy Review 2011/2012 (HL)	Policy Review – Scoping (HL) Scene Setting (JDG/VF)	Approach to the Policy Review (HL)	Active Sunderland Board (VF)	Policy Review Progress Report (HL) Community and Education Facilities (HL) 2012 in Sunderland Update (VF)	Sport and Physical Activity Providers (TBC)	Sport and Physical Activity Mapping Exercise (TBC) Sport England (TBC) Priority Sports/Activities (TBC)	Policy Review: Final Report (HL)
Performance			Performance Q4 (KDP) Policy Review Progress (HL)		Performance (KDP)			Performance Policy Review Progress (HL)
Scrutiny	Housing Allocations Policy (AC) Forward Plan (HL)	Private Sector Enforcement Policy 2010/11 – Update (AC) Work Programme (HW) Forward Plan (HW)	Empty Property Plan (AC) Work Programme (HW) Forward Plan (HW)	Empire Theatre Annual Report (VM) Maudlin St (AC) Low Carbon Social Housing Pilot (AC) Work Programme (SA) Forward Plan (SA)	Annual Heritage Report (VM) Built Heritage (ML) Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (AC) Work Programme (SA) Forward Plan (SA)	Cultural Strategy (CDA) Community Development Service and VCS Annual Report (JDG) Enabling Independence Strategy Update (AC) Work Programme (SA) Forward Plan (SA)	Work Programme (SA) Forward Plan (SA)	Low Carbon Homes (AC) Work Programme (SA) Forward Plan (SA)
CCFA/Members items/Petitions								

**FORWARD PLAN – KEY DECISIONS FOR THE PERIOD 1
DECEMBER 2011 - 31 MARCH 2011**

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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

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

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide members with an opportunity to consider those items on the Executive's Forward Plan for the period 1 December – 31 March 2012.

2. Background Information

- 2.1 Holding the Executive to account is one of the main functions of Scrutiny. One of the ways that this can be achieved is by considering the forthcoming decisions of the Executive (as outlined in the Forward Plan) and deciding whether Scrutiny can add value in advance of the decision being made. This does not negate Non-Executive Members ability to call-in a decision after it has been made.
- 2.2 To this end, the most recent version of the Executive's Forward Plan is included on the agenda of each of the council's Scrutiny Committees. The Forward Plan for the period 1 December 2011 – 31 March 2012 is attached at **Appendix A**.

3. Current Position

- 3.1 It should be noted that following member's comments on the Forward Plan, it is presented in its entirety to this Scrutiny Committee. Due to agenda and publication deadlines a revised copy of this information will be circulated at the meeting reflecting any amendments if necessary.
- 3.2 In the event of members having any queries that cannot be dealt with directly in the meeting, a response will be sought from the relevant Directorate.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 To consider the Executive's Forward Plan for the period 1 December 2011 – 31 March 2012.

5. Background Papers

None

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**Forward Plan -
Key Decisions
for the period
01/Dec/2011 to
31/Mar/2012**



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

14 November 2011

Forward Plan: Key Decisions for the next four months - 01/Dec/2011 to 31/Mar/2012

No.	Description of Decision	Decision Taker	Anticipated Date of Decision	Principal Consultees	Means of Consultation	When and how to make representations and appropriate Scrutiny Committee	Documents to be considered	Contact Officer	Tel No
01552	To approve the procurement of specialist grass cutting and horticultural equipment.	Cabinet	07/Dec/2011	Corporate Procurement; Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services; Member with Portfolio for Attractive and Inclusive City	Report; Briefings	Via the Contact Officer by 21 November - Environment and Attractive City Scrutiny Committee	Report	Les Clark	5614501
01548	To agree Community Equipment Service (CES) - Tender for provision of Riser Recliner Chairs	Cabinet	07/Dec/2011	Cabinet, Service Users and Ward Members, Portfolio Holders	Briefings and/or meetings with interested parties	Via the Contact Officer by 21 November 2011 - Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee	Report	Philip Foster	5662042
01553	To Agree appropriation of land for planning purposes at Sunderland Retail Park, Monkwearmouth, Sunderland	Cabinet	07/Dec/2011	None	N/A	Via the Contact Officer by 21 November 2011 - Prosperity and Economic Development Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet Report	Colin Clark	5611502

Forward Plan: Key Decisions for the next four months - 01/Dec/2011 to 31/Mar/2012

No.	Description of Decision	Decision Taker	Anticipated Date of Decision	Principal Consultees	Means of Consultation	When and how to make representations and appropriate Scrutiny Committee	Documents to be considered	Contact Officer	Tel No
01536	To recommend to Council the level of Council Tax Base to be included in the 2012/2013 Budget	Cabinet	11/Jan/2012	None	N/A	Via the Contact Officer by 18 November 2011 - Management Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet Report	Fiona Brown	5611811
01534	To consider any key decisions arising from the Capital Programme and Treasury Management Third Quarterly Review	Cabinet	11/Jan/2012	Directors and third parties affected by the virement proposals	Report will be made available on the Intranet and emailed to Directors	Via the Contact Officer by 16 December 2011 - Management Scrutiny Committee	None	Sonia Tognarelli	5611851
01526	To consider budget proposals for the 2012/2013 Revenue Budget for the Council	Cabinet	11/Jan/2012	Directors, Relevant Portfolio Holders, EMT, Chamber of Commerce, Trade Unions, Citizens Panel and Education Stakeholders	Briefings, Meetings, Presentations	To Contact Officer by 19 December 2011 - Management Scrutiny Committee	Report and Supporting Papers	Sonia Tognarelli	5611851

Forward Plan: Key Decisions for the next four months - 01/Dec/2011 to 31/Mar/2012

No.	Description of Decision	Decision Taker	Anticipated Date of Decision	Principal Consultees	Means of Consultation	When and how to make representations and appropriate Scrutiny Committee	Documents to be considered	Contact Officer	Tel No
01547	To agree the Strategy for Telecare.	Cabinet	11/Jan/2012	Cabinet, Service Users and Ward Members, Portfolio Holders	Briefings and/or meetings with interested parties	Via the Contact Officer by 21 November 2011 - Health and Scrutiny Committee	Full Report	Philip Foster	5662042
01438	To agree the Social Care Contributions Policy for Personalisation	Cabinet	11/Jan/2012	Cabinet, Service Users and Ward Members, Portfolio Holders	Briefings and/or meetings with interested parties	via the Contact Officer by 19 September - Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee	Report	Neil Revely	5661880
01524	To consider any key decisions arising from the Revenue Budget Third Quarterly Review	Cabinet	11/Jan/2012	Directors and third parties affected by the virement proposals	Report will be made available on the Intranet and e-mailed to Directors	Via the Contact Officer by 18 November 2011 - Management Scrutiny Committee	None	Sonia Tognarelli	5611851

Forward Plan: Key Decisions for the next four months - 01/Dec/2011 to 31/Mar/2012

No.	Description of Decision	Decision Taker	Anticipated Date of Decision	Principal Consultees	Means of Consultation	When and how to make representations and appropriate Scrutiny Committee	Documents to be considered	Contact Officer	Tel No
01525	To consider any key decisions arising from the Capital Programme and Treasury Management Third Quarterly Review	Cabinet	11/Jan/2012	Directors and third parties affected by the virement proposals	Report will be made available on the Intranet and e-mailed to Directors	Via the Contact Officer by 16 December 2011 - Management Scrutiny Committee	None	Sonia Tognarelli	5611851
01527	To recommend to Council the level of Council Tax Base to be included in the 2012/2013 Budget	Cabinet	11/Jan/2012	None	N/A	Via the Contact Officer by 18 November 2011 - Management Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet Report	Fiona Brown	5611811
01537	To recommend the Revenue Budget and Proposed Council Tax 2012/2013 to Council	Cabinet	15/Feb/2012	Reps. of Business Ratepayers, Unions, Headteachers, Governors, Youth Parliament, Citizens Panel	Presentations, Meetings, Surveys	At meetings arranged and otherwise in writing to the Contact Officer by the end of January 2012 Management Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet Report	Sonia Tognarelli	5611851

Forward Plan: Key Decisions for the next four months - 01/Dec/2011 to 31/Mar/2012

No.	Description of Decision	Decision Taker	Anticipated Date of Decision	Principal Consultees	Means of Consultation	When and how to make representations and appropriate Scrutiny Committee	Documents to be considered	Contact Officer	Tel No
01538	To recommend the level of Council Tax Collection Fund 2012/2013	Cabinet	15/Feb/2012	None	N/A	In writing to the Contact Officer by the end of January 2012 - Management Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet Report	Sonia Tognarelli	5611851
01540	To recommend the Capital Programme, Prudential Indicators and Treasury Management and Investment Strategy for 2012/2013 to the Council	Cabinet	15/Feb/2012	Representatives of Business Ratepayers and Unions	At Special Meeting in February	At Special Meeting and otherwise in writing to the Contact Officer by end of January 2012 Management Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet Report	Sonia Tognarelli	5611851
01539	To recommend the level of Council Tax to Council	Cabinet	15/Feb/2012	Representatives of Business Ratepayers and Unions	At Special Meeting in February	At Special Meeting and otherwise in writing to the Contact Officer by the end of January 2012 Management Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet Report	Sonia Tognarelli	5611811

