

NORTH SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE

21st November 2011

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

COMMUNITY ACTION IN SUNDERLAND NORTH – PROGRESS REVIEW Workplan 2011/2012 – Attractive and Cared for Environment

1. Why has it come to Committee?

1.1 The report provides an update of progress against agreed actions in the current years (2011/2012) workplan, **ANNEX 1**.

2. Fulwell Quarry

2.1 The Task and Finish Group met and discussed and agreed developments to support local and area improvements for the North

2.2 A site visit was undertaken earlier in the year to Fulwell Quarry to understand the issues of the area and how Committee may support overall improvements to the area and encourage more people to visit the area.

2.3 The area is a site of special scientific interest due to the limestone and a site of nature and conservation interest due to the natural habitat and wildlife onsite.

2.4 Some funding has been allocated through the Limestone Landscapes to support improvements to the Acoustic Mirror which has heritage value to the area, particularly so with the 100 year anniversary of the First World War approaching and further funding is being sought.

2.5 Further plans have been developed around the current natural habitat and improvements that can be made in the area. A scheme has been developed to improve the natural environment and wildlife habitat in the area. This scheme would see works completed to undertake some clearance works improve the current tree planting areas to remove and improve the dead, diseased and existing trees in the area. This will also include replacement planting of native trees with the particular inclusion of fruit trees.

2.6 This work could be further enhanced with future development of new planting area for which funding is being sourced with support from Groundwork to the Big Tree's fund.

2.7 It is anticipated that initial improvement works to current planting areas will not require additional maintenance other than what is currently being provided.

2.8 However, to support the initial works and a long term improvement Scheme the VCS network will work with local people to establish a Friends group for the area who can become involved in the development, maintenance, and sourcing funding.

2.9 The initial works have been costed at £29,000 to complete the improvement and replanting works in existing areas, it is proposed that

an allocation of SIB funding is made to support these works and will be evidenced as match funding when sourcing additional funding.

3. Responsive Local Services

- 3.1 In addition to the day to day services the team are undertaking improvement works with the local community financially supported with Community Chest and SIP funding.
- 3.2 The following schemes are currently in the process of being completed or developed:
- Tree and bulb planting scheme to the land next to the Colliery Tavern and roundabout.
 - Bulb planting scheme at Dene Lane, Southwick.
 - Bulb planting scheme at Dene Lane, Fulwell.
 - Bulb planting scheme at the former Grosvenor Park site.
 - Fisherman's Cottages on the seafront.
 - Additional maintenance improvements in the St Peter's area to support the Heritage bid and address issues raised by local residents.

4. Sunderland North Community Sports Complex

- 4.1 The project is moving forward with the area and pond having been cleared this included the participation of 40 volunteers as part of the love where you live campaign.
- 4.2 600 plants lesser pond sedge and marsh marigold have been planted as part of the programme and Bishop Harland primary school have been engaged in the programme and are currently designing the pond dipping equipment.
- 4.3 As part of the project a number of issues relating to anti social behaviour in the area have been identified and have been referred to LMAPS to be addressed.

5. St Margaret's Court

- 5.1 A two phase project was developed for the St Margaret's Court area in Castletown, the aim of the project was to address anti social behaviour in a particular area as well as physically improve the environment for the local community.
- 5.2 The project was split into 2 phases the first of which included the establishment and engagement of a community group, schools and the local people, undertaking the physical improvements and landscaping of the area.
- 5.3 Phase 2 included the progression of a stopping up order for the area to prevent vehicle access, which was one of the main causes of anti social behaviour.
- 5.4 A number of funding sources were accessed to develop the scheme and community engagement, including SIP, Gentoo and Community Spaces. The first phase of the programme is well underway with significant community engagement and activity. The expenditure against phase one of the project has significantly underspent with £10,000 Community Spaces funding remaining.

- 5.5 Community Spaces have confirmed that the funding of £10,000 can be carried over for phase 2 if match funding of £10,000 can be sourced to complete the project. If match funding is not achieved then the funding will need to be returned and the full £20,000 for phase 2 be sourced elsewhere.
- 5.6 The Task and Finish Group proposed match funding of £10,000 SIB be Allocated to secure the Community Spaces funding for the area subject to Groundwork sourcing other funding in the meantime which may reduce the SIB allocation.

6. Recommendations

- i) Note the progress made against greening programmes in the North.
- ii) Agree the development of the environmental improvements at Fulwell Quarry.
- iii) Agree the establishment of a Friends of Fulwell Quarry Group.
- iv) Agree the allocation of £29,000 SIB funding for the environmental works at Fulwell Quarry, subject to full application, consultation and appraisal.
- v) Agree the allocation of £10,000 SIB funding as a match funding for the St Margaret's Court programme, subject to full application, consultation and appraisal and with conditions of other funding being sourced.

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