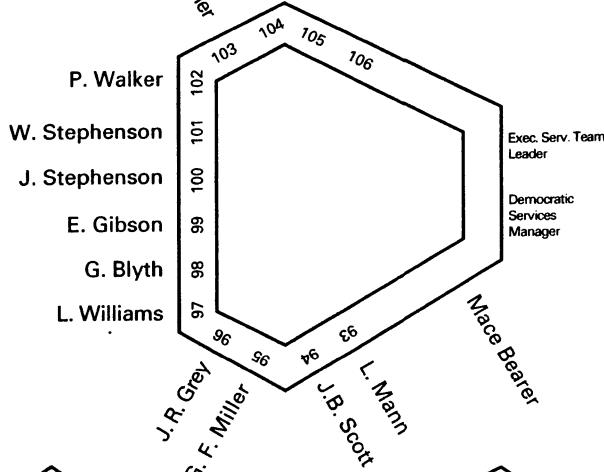
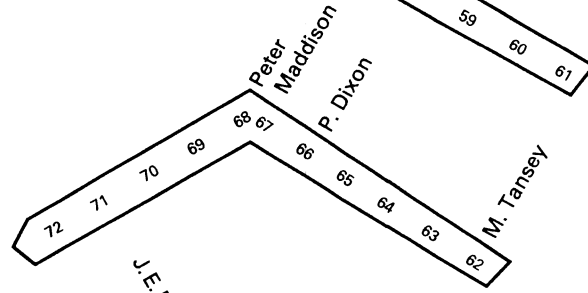
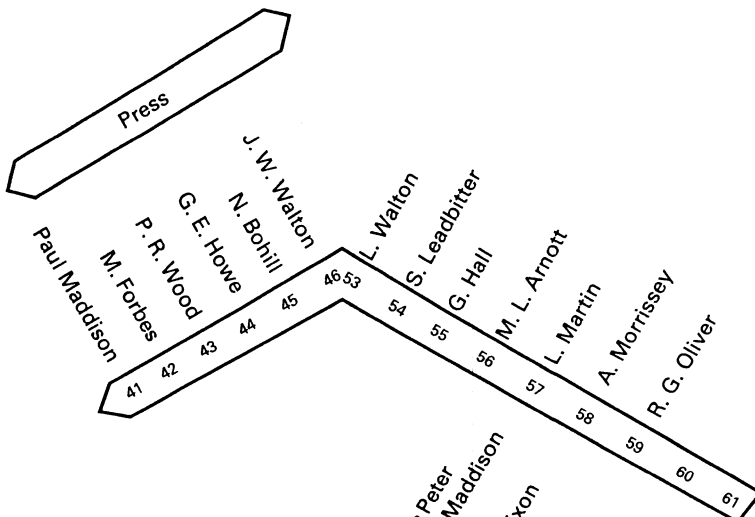
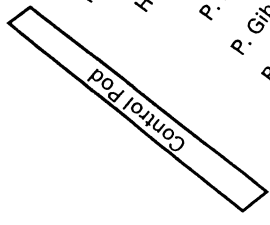
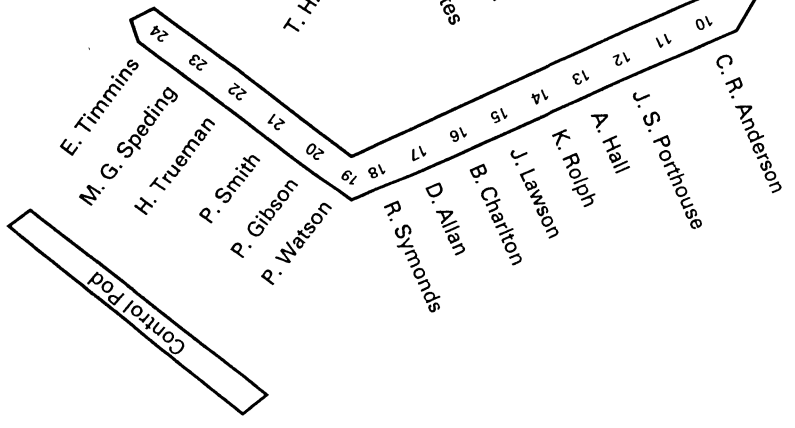
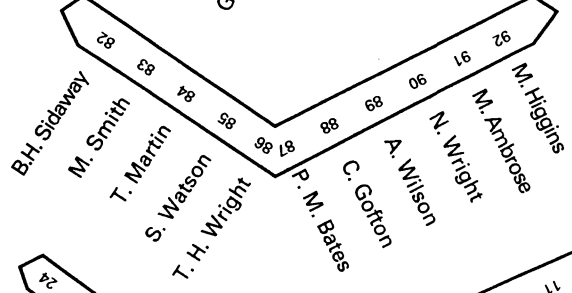


- R. Bell 40
- P. Stewart 39
- D. Richardson 38
- J. Scott 37
- D. Whalen 36
- D. Sleightholme 35
- J. Carthy 34
- R. Heron 33
- J. Heron 32
- D. Tate 31
- J. Blackburn 30
- F. Anderson 29

- J. Walker 73
- P. M. Tye 74
- D. Forbes 75
- A. A. Handy 76
- R. Wares 77
- R. Bainbridge 78
- P. Young 79
- N. MacKnight 80
- B. Williams 81



- Deputy Mayor Councillor L. Scott
- Chief Executive G. Fitzgerald
- Mayor Councillor T. Foster
- City Solicitor R. C. Rayner



CIVIC CENTRE,
SUNDERLAND
20th June 2006

TO THE MEMBERS OF SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL

YOU ARE SUMMONED TO ATTEND A MEETING of Sunderland City Council to be held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Sunderland, on **WEDNESDAY, 28th June 2006 at 6.00 p.m.**, at which it is proposed to consider and transact the following business, viz:-

- 1. To read the Notice convening the meeting.**
- 2. To approve the minutes of the:-**
 - (i) annual meeting of the Council held on 17th May 2006 (copy herewith),
 - (ii) extraordinary meeting of the Council held on 6th June 2006 (copy herewith), and
 - (iii) extraordinary meeting of the Council held on the 22nd June 2006 (copy to follow)
- 3. Receipt of Declarations of Interest (if any).**
- 4. Announcements (if any) under Rule 2(iv).**
- 5. Reception of Petitions.**
- 6. Apologies.**
- 7. Report of the Cabinet.**
- 8. Written Questions (if any) under Rule 8.2.**

9. To receive a report on action taken on petitions.

10. To consider the undermentioned Annual Reports of the Review Committees:-

- (i) Culture and Leisure Review Committee – End of Year Report 2005/06 – report of the City Solicitor.
- (ii) Children’s Services Review Committee – End of Year Report 2005/06 – report of the City Solicitor.
- (iii) Environmental and Planning Review Committee – End of Year Report 2005/06 – report of the City Solicitor.
- (iv) Policy and Co-ordination Review Committee – End of Year Report 2005/06 – report of the City Solicitor.
- (v) Regeneration and Community Review Committee – End of Year Report 2005/06 – report of the City Solicitor.
- (vi) Health and Well-Being Review Committee – End of Year Report 2005/06 - report of the City Solicitor.

10. To consider the undermentioned report:-

- (i) Quarterly Report on Special Urgency Decisions – report of the Leader of the Council.

Seo Ingeew

CHIEF EXECUTIVE.

Minutes

Sunderland City Council

At the ANNUAL MEETING of SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL held in the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on WEDNESDAY, 17TH MAY, 2006 at 6.00 p.m.

Present - The Mayor (Councillor W.F. Stephenson) in the Chair
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Foster)

Councillor	Allan	Grey	Porthouse	J. Walker
	Bainbridge	A. Hall	Richardson	P. Walker
	Bates	G. Hall	Rolph	J. W. Walton
	Bell	R. Heron	J. B. Scott	L. Walton
	Blackburn	Howe	L. Scott	Wares
	Bohill	Lawson	Sleightholme	P. Watson
	Carthy	Leadbitter	P. Smith	S. Watson
	Charlton	Paul Maddison	Speding	Whalen
	Dixon	Peter Maddison	J. Stephenson	L. Williams
	Fletcher	Miller	Stewart	Wilson
	D. Forbes	Mann	Symonds	Wood
	M. Forbes	L. Martin	Tate	T. H. Wright
	E. Gibson	T. Martin	Timmins	
	P. Gibson	Morrisey	Trueman	
	Gofton	Oliver	P. M. Tye	

The Notice convening the Meeting was read.

ELECTION OF MAYOR

The Council proceeded to the election of a Mayor for the ensuing year when it was:-

RESOLVED that, on the motion of Councillor Mann duly seconded by Councillor Symonds, Councillor Thomas Foster be appointed Mayor of the City for the ensuing year.

Councillor Foster then made and subscribed the Declaration required on his acceptance of the Office of Mayor and took the Chair.

MAYOR'S CHAPLAIN

The Chief Executive reported that the Mayor had notified him of the appointment of the Deacon John Hills during his term of office.

VOTE OF THANKS TO RETIRING MAYOR

On a motion by Councillor Trueman, duly seconded by Councillor Charlton and supported by Councillor Wood, it was:-

RESOLVED that the thanks of the Council be accorded to the retiring Mayor, Councillor W. F. Stephenson, for the charming and able manner in which he had discharged his duties of Mayor and also to Mrs. Jean Stephenson for the excellent support she had given as Mayoress.

Councillor Stephenson responded appropriately.

ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

The Council then proceeded to the election of Deputy Mayor for the ensuing year when it was:-

RESOLVED that, on the motion of Councillor Porthouse duly seconded by Councillor P. Gibson, Councillor Leslie Scott be appointed to the office of Deputy Mayor for the ensuing year.

Councillor L. Scott then made and subscribed the Declaration required on his acceptance of the Office of Deputy Mayor.

PRESENTATION OF BADGES AND FLOWERS

The Mayor presented badges to Councillor W. F. Stephenson and to Mrs. Jean Stephenson.

Bouquets of flowers were then presented to the Mayoress, Mrs. Brenda Foster, to the Deputy Mayoress, Mrs. Ann Scott and to the retiring Mayoress, Mrs. Jean Stephenson.

MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last ordinary meeting of the Council held on 29th March, 2006 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Ambrose, C. R. Anderson, F. Anderson, Arnott, Blyth, Handy, J. Heron, Higgins, MacKnight, J. Scott, Sidaway, M. Smith, Tansey, B. Williams, N. Wright and Young.

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Civic Service**

The Mayor announced that a Civic Service would take place in Castletown Methodist Church on 9th July, 2006 at 10.45 a.m. with Members and Officers of the Council and representatives of local public bodies invited to accompany him on the occasion.

- **Mayoress "At Home"**

The Mayor announced that the Mayoress, Mrs. Brenda Foster, would be "At Home" in the Civic Centre from 3.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. on Thursday, 6th July, 2006.

- **State of the City Debate**

The Mayor announced that the Council would hold its annual State of the City Debate at Crowtree Leisure Centre on 22nd June, 2006 at 6.00 p.m.

- **Civic Charity Ball**

The Mayor informed the meeting that the date for the Civic Charity Ball would be Friday, 10th November, 2006.

- **Mayor's Charities**

The Mayor announced that the Charities he would give support to during his term of office would be "The Grace House Children's Hospice Appeal" and "The Samaritans".

ELECTION OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

The Council then proceeded to the election of a Leader of the Council for the ensuing year when it was:-

RESOLVED that, on the motion of Councillor Charlton duly seconded by Councillor P. Watson, Councillor Symonds be elected as Leader of the Council for the ensuing year.

ELECTION OF LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER, APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN, APPOINTMENTS TO CABINET AND COMMITTEES AND FIXING THE COUNCIL DIARY

- (a) **Election of Deputy Leader of the Council for the ensuing Council Year and to appoint the Members of the Cabinet,**
- (b) **To approve the Cabinet's recommendations for revised arrangements for the Council's Audit Committee Functions as set out in the Cabinet report (copy circulated) and as noted by Policy and Coordinating Committee,**
- (c) **To appoint all Council Committees and Sub-Committees and Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen thereof,**
- (d) **To appoint Joint Committees, Joint Authorities, Outside Bodies and Working Groups except where appointment to those Joint Committees is exercisable only by the Cabinet,**

(A full copy of the nominations in respect of (c) and (d) above including those of the Majority Group in Opposition together with some minor amendments were circulated around the Chamber).

- (e) **To fix dates and times of meetings of the Council, the Cabinet and Committees etc., and**
- (f) **To authorise the City Solicitor, in consultation with the respective Chairmen, to make such changes as may be deemed necessary or expedient in connection with (e) above.**

It was moved by Councillor Symonds and seconded by Councillor P. Watson that the items of business (a), (b), (c), (d) (e) and (f) above be approved and adopted.

The motion having been put to the Council, it was:-

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) **Councillor P. Watson be elected as Deputy Leader of the Council for the ensuing year,**

- (ii) the Cabinet's recommendations for revised arrangements for the Council's Audit Committee Functions as set out in the Cabinet report (copy circulated) and as noted by Policy and Coordinating Committee, be approved,
- (iii) the undermentioned Councillors be appointed to the Cabinet with Portfolios as respectively indicated:-

PORTFOLIOS	EXECUTIVE MEMBER
Resources	Councillor Allan
Children's Services	Councillor P. Smith
Adult Services	Councillor Timmins
Planning and Transportation	Councillor Lawson
Housing and Public Health	Councillor Trueman
Neighbourhood and Street Services	Councillor Rolph
Regeneration and Community Cohesion	Councillor Charlton
Culture and Leisure	Councillor Speding

- (iv) the following appointments in respect of all Council Committees and Sub-Committees and Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen thereof be approved and adopted:-

COMMITTEES, SUB – COMMITTEES AND CHAIRMEN AND VICE - CHAIRMEN

EMERGENCY COMMITTEE OF CABINET

Leader of the Council, Deputy Leader of the Council and one Cabinet Member
or either Leader of the Council or Deputy Leader of the Council and 2 Cabinet Members
nominated by the Leader of the Council / Deputy Leader of the Council

MEMBER DEVELOPMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

5 Members

Councillor	Leader of the Council Cabinet Member with Resources Portfolio Chair of Personnel Committee Vice-Chair of Personnel Committee	Councillor	Howe
	Chairman	-	Chair of Personnel Committee

REVIEW COMMITTEES

POLICY AND CO-ORDINATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

12 Members

Councillor	F. Anderson D. Forbes R. Heron Porthouse Tate J. Walker P. Walker Whalen L. Williams Young	Councillor	Howe Wood
	Chairman Vice-Chairman		Councillor Tate Councillor P. Walker

CHILDREN'S SERVICES REVIEW COMMITTEE

12 Members

Councillor	Bell Fletcher Gofton Handy R. Heron Miller W. Stephenson Stewart L. Williams T. Wright	Councillor	Morrissey Oliver
------------	---	------------	---------------------

Co-opted Members Viz:-

Voting Representatives:-

- 1 Rep. of the Church of England diocese (Mr. R. Thorndyke)
- 1 Rep. of the Roman Catholic diocese (Mr. M. Frank)
- 1 Rep. of the Free Churches' Council (Mrs. C. Smith)
- Five Parent Governors of schools maintained by the Council of the City of Sunderland and who are not employed as teachers:-
 - 1 Rep. of the Community Secondary School Sector (Mrs. D. Snowdon)
 - 1 Rep. of the Community Special School Sector (Vacancy)
 - 1 Rep. of the Community Primary School Sector (Vacancy)
 - 1 Rep. of the Voluntary Aided School Sector (Vacancy)
 - 1 Rep. of the Nursery School Sector (Vacancy)

Non-Voting Representatives:-

- 2 Teacher representatives comprising one Primary (Mrs. M. Harrop) and one Secondary (Mr. H. Brown) holding appointments under the Local Education Authority
- 1 Rep. from the City of Sunderland College (Mr. C. Craig)
- 1 Rep. from the University of Sunderland (Professor G. Holmes)
- 1 Rep. of Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust (Vacancy)
- 1 Person who is a Chairman of Governors of a school maintained by the Council of the City of Sunderland Education Authority (Mrs. D. Butler)
- 1 Rep. of the Sunderland Community Matters (Mrs. P. Burn)
- 1 Rep. of non-teaching employees in schools (Vacancy)

Chairman
Vice-Chairman

Councillor Stewart
Councillor T. Wright

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING REVIEW COMMITTEE

12 Members

Councillor	Bainbridge Blyth J. Heron Richardson M. Smith W. Stephenson S. Watson Wilson N. Wright	Councillor	Leadbitter Paul Maddison Dixon
	Chairman Vice-Chairman		Councillor Bainbridge Councillor Richardson

ENVIRONMENTAL AND PLANNING SERVICES REVIEW COMMITTEE

12 Members

Councillor	C. Anderson Blackburn Fletcher Higgins MacKnight L. Scott Tye Wares Whalen	Councillor	Paul Maddison Wood Dixon
	Chairman Vice-Chairman		Councillor Blackburn Councillor Whalen

REGENERATION AND COMMUNITY REVIEW COMMITTEE

12 Members

Councillor	F. Anderson Bates Carthy E. Gibson A. Hall Mann T. Martin J. Scott Sleightholme	Councillor	Arnott M. Forbes Peter Maddison
	Chairman Vice-Chairman		Councillor Carthy Councillor J. Scott

CULTURE AND LEISURE REVIEW COMMITTEE

12 Members

Councillor	Ambrose Foster P. Gibson Grey Mann J.B. Scott Sidaway P. Walker Wares B. Williams	Councillor	Bohill L. Walton
	Chairman Vice-Chairman		Councillor J.B. Scott Councillor Ambrose

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

(N.B. At least one Councillor from each political group other than the Leader, not more than one Member of the Executive)

Councillor	Charlton Mann L. Scott	Councillor	M. Forbes Peter Maddison
Independent Members Member of Hetton Town Council			Mr. G.N. Cook and Mr. J.P. Paterson Councillor G. Wandless
	Chairman Vice-Chairman		Mr. G.N. Cook Mr. J. P. Paterson

PLANNING AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

25 Members

Councillor	Bates Bell D. Forbes E. Gibson R. Heron Higgins Lawson Mann Porthouse J.B. Scott J. Scott Sidaway Sleightholme J. Stephenson Tate Tye J. Walker Wares S. Watson Young	Councillor	Arnott G. Hall Howe Paul Maddison Dixon
	Chairman Vice-Chairman		Councillor Porthouse Councillor D. Forbes

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL (NORTH SUNDERLAND) SUB-COMMITTEE

(Comprising Castle, Fulwell, Redhill, St. Peter's and Southwick Wards)

10 Members

Councillor	Bell D. Forbes E. Gibson Higgins Lawson Mann Porthouse J. Walker	Councillor	G. Hall Howe
------------	---	------------	-----------------

Chairman
Vice-Chairman

Councillor R. Bell
Councillor Mann

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL (SOUTH SUNDERLAND) SUB-COMMITTEE

**(Comprising Barnes, Doxford, Hendon, Millfield, Pallion, Ryhope, Sandhill,
Silksworth, St. Anne's St. Chad's and St. Michael's)**

17 Members

Councillor	C. Anderson Bates Bell D. Forbes E. Gibson Lawson Porthouse J.B. Scott Sidaway J. Walker Wares S. Watson Tye	Councillor	Arnott Paul Maddison Morrissey Dixon
------------	--	------------	---

Chairman
Vice-Chairman

Councillor E. Gibson
Councillor C. Anderson

**DEVELOPMENT CONTROL (HETTON, HOUGHTON AND WASHINGTON)
SUB-COMMITTEE**

**(Comprising Hetton, Copthill, Houghton, Shiney Row and Washington Central,
North, South, East and West Wards)**

14 Members

Councillor	Bell E. Gibson R. Heron Lawson Porthouse J. Scott Sleightholme J. Stephenson Tate J. Walker Young	Councillor	Morrissey J. Walton Peter Maddison
------------	---	------------	--

Chairman
Vice-Chairman

Councillor J. Walker
Councillor R. Heron

LICENSING COMMITTEE

15 Members

Councillor	P. Gibson Gofton Grey J. Heron Higgins T. Martin Richardson J.B. Scott Trueman Whalen Wilson	Councillor	Bohill Howe J. Walton Peter Maddison
------------	--	------------	---

Chairman
Vice-Chairman

Councillor Higgins
Councillor J. Heron

LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEES

Panels of 3 Members from Licensing Committee – Rotation system to operate

REGULATORY COMMITTEE

15 Members

Councillor	P. Gibson Gofton Grey J. Heron Higgins T. Martin Richardson J.B. Scott M. Smith Trueman Whalen Wilson	Councillor	Bohill J. Walton Peter Maddison
------------	--	------------	---

Chairman	Councillor Higgins
Vice-Chairman	Councillor J. Heron

HOMELESSNESS APPEALS PANEL

10 Members

Councillor	Ambrose E. Gibson A. Hall Handy R. Heron J. Scott J. Stephenson Trueman	Councillor	M. Forbes L. Walton
------------	--	------------	------------------------

Chairman	Councillor R. Heron
----------	---------------------

SOCIAL SERVICES COMPLAINTS PANEL

10 Members

Councillor	Bell J. Heron T. Martin Porthouse Rolph Sidaway M. Smith N. Wright	Councillor	Arnott Bohill
------------	---	------------	------------------

N.B. Panel to consist of 2 Members and 1 Independent Chairman.

EDUCATION COMPLAINTS PANEL

10 Members

Councillor	F. Anderson Bell D. Forbes Handy Miller P. Smith Stewart Whalen	Councillor	Arnott Bohill
------------	--	------------	------------------

EDUCATION (APPOINTMENT OF GOVERNORS) PANEL

10 Members

Councillor	Bell Bates J. Heron Porthouse Richardson M. Smith Whalen T. Wright *D. Elliott	Councillor	Morrissey Oliver
------------	--	------------	---------------------

N.B. * = Co-opted non-voting

Chairman

Councillor J. Heron

DISCIPLINARY APPEALS PANEL

Chairman

Councillor L. Scott

A Panel will comprise 3 Members, 2 majority and 1 minority, drawn from Personnel Committee.

N.B. Should not be Members of Cabinet

GRADING APPEALS PANEL

10 Members

Councillor

Blyth
D. Forbes
A. Hall
J. Heron
Tate
P. Walker
B. Williams
N. Wright

Councillor

M. Forbes
J. Walton

Substitutes:- Councillors G. Hall and Miller

Chairman (non-voting)

Councillor D. Forbes

A Panel will comprise 3 Members, 2 majority and 1 minority drawn from the above Members plus the non-voting Chairman and should not be Members of Personnel Committee.

N.B. Should not be Members of Cabinet

JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

8 Members

Councillor

Allan
L. Scott
Symonds
P. Watson
S. Watson
T. Wright

Councillor

Howe
Wood

Chairman*

Councillor L. Scott

* N.B. Chairmanship alternates annually with Trade Union Side.

SOUTH SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE

(Ward Councillors for Doxford, St. Chad's and Silksworth)

Councillor Blyth
E. Gibson
P. Gibson
Oliver
Porthouse
L. Scott
P. Smith
Tansey
Tye

Chairman
Vice-Chairman

Councillor Tye
Councillor Blyth

COALFIELD AREA COMMITTEE

(Ward Councillors for Copthill, Hetton, Houghton and Shiney Row)

Councillor F. Anderson
Blackburn
Carthy
A. Hall
J. Heron
R. Heron
Lawson
Richardson
Rolph
J. Scott
Speding
Tate

Chairman
Vice-Chairman

Councillor A. Hall
Councillor J. Heron

WEST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE

(Ward Councillors for St. Anne's, Pallion, Sandhill and Barnes)

Councillor Allan
Arnott
Bates
D. Forbes
Gofton
L. Martin
Morrissey
J. B. Scott
P. Watson
S. Watson
Wilson
T. Wright

Chairman
Vice-Chairman

Councillor D. Forbes
Councillor S. Watson

EAST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE

(Ward Councillors for Hendon, Millfield, St. Michael's and Ryhope)

Councillor C. Anderson
Bainbridge
Dixon
M. Forbes
Handy
Paul Maddison
Peter Maddison
T. Martin
Sidaway
M. Smith
Wares
Wood

Chairman
Vice-Chairman

Councillor Wares
Councillor Sidaway

NORTH SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE

(Ward Councillors for Castle, Fulwell, Redhill, St. Peter's and Southwick)

Councillor Ambrose
Bell
Bohill
Charlton
Foster
G. Hall
Higgins
Howe
Leadbitter
Mann
Stewart
Symonds
J. Walton
L. Walton
N. Wright

Chairman
Vice-Chairman

Councillor Mann
Councillor Bell

WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE

**(Ward Councillors for Washington Central, Washington East,
Washington North, Washington South and Washington West)**

Councillor Fletcher
Grey
MacKnight
Miller
Sleightholme
J. Stephenson
W. Stephenson
Timmins
Trueman
J. Walker
P. Walker
Whalen
B. Williams
L. Williams
Young

Chairman
Vice-Chairman

Councillor Sleightholme
Councillor L. Williams

- (v) the following appointments in respect of Joint Committees, Joint Authorities, Outside Bodies and Working Groups except where appointment to those Joint Committees is exercisable only by the Cabinet, be approved:-

**JOINT COMMITTEES, JOINT AUTHORITIES, OUTSIDE BODIES AND
WORKING GROUPS**

ADOPTION AND PERMANENCY PANEL

Councillor M. Smith

AGE CONCERN, SUNDERLAND

Councillor W. Stephenson

**AGED MERCHANT SEAMEN'S HOMES AND THE SUNDERLAND DISTRESSED
MARINER'S FUND**

Councillors C. Anderson, T. Martin and Sidaway

ART STUDIO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Councillor Handy

ASSOCIATION OF CIVIC HOSTS

Councillor D. Forbes

ASSOCIATION OF NORTH EAST COUNCILS

Councillors Allan, Charlton, D. Forbes, E. Gibson, Symonds* and P. Watson

* Executive Committee

BEDE'S WORLD

The Culture and Leisure Portfolio Holder and
The Head of Culture and Tourism

BOWES RAILWAY COMPANY LIMITED

Councillor Richardson

BRITISH RESORTS ASSOCIATION - POLICY COMMITTEE

Councillor Mann

BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE (BSF) (PROJECT BOARD)

Leader of the Council and the Lead Member for Children's Services

CASTLE VIEW CENTRE

Councillors Bell, Mann and Stewart

CHARLES BALDWIN CHARITY

Councillors C. Anderson, T. Martin and M. Smith

CHILDREN'S TRUST

Leader of the Council,
The Lead Members for Children's Services and Adult Services

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

Lead Members for Children's Services and Adult Services,
Housing and Public Health Portfolio Holder,
Culture and Leisure Portfolio Holder
Councillors A. Hall, D. Forbes, P. Gibson, Mann, Oliver,
M. Smith, L. Walton and L. Williams

CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU, WASHINGTON - MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Councillor Sleightholme

CITY ACADEMY WORKING GROUP

Leader of the Council together with the Chief Executive

**CITY OF SUNDERLAND COLLEGE
BOARD OF CORPORATION**

Lead Member for Adult Services
Director of Adult Services

SUNDERLAND PARTNERSHIP

Leader of the Council and Deputy Leader and the
Chief Executive

COALFIELD COMMUNITIES CAMPAIGN

Councillor R. Heron Substitute – Councillor Richardson

CONNEXIONS LOCAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Councillors P. Smith and T. Wright

DEAF/BLIND CORE GROUP MEETING

Councillors Bell, W. Stephenson and N. Wright

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FORUM

Councillor Rolph

EARLY YEARS AND CHILDCARE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Councillors P. Smith and L. Williams

**EAST DURHAM AND HOUGHALL COMMUNITY
COLLEGE FOUNDATION**

Councillor Speding

EDUCATION ACTION ZONE FORUM

Councillors P. Smith and Stewart

**ELIZABETH DONNISON EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION
(BENEFICIARY ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL)**

Councillors Sidaway and M. Smith

**ENCAMS
(FORMERLY TIDY NORTH - REGIONAL COMMITTEE OF
KEEP BRITAIN TIDY GROUP)**

Councillors Higgins and Trueman and
Director of Community and Cultural Services

FARRINGDON JUBILEE CENTRE

Councillor Porthouse

FOSTERING PANEL

Councillor Timmins

GREEN TERRACE PRIMARY SCHOOL TRUST

Councillors C. Anderson, T. Martin and M. Smith

HETTON TOWN TRUST

Councillors F. Anderson and J. Heron

HOUGHTON FEAST STEERING COMMITTEE

Councillors Carthy, A. Hall, Lawson, Rolph and Speding

JOHN TEMPEST CHARITY

Councillor Richardson

JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL PARKING ADJUDICATION SERVICE

The Cabinet Member with Planning and Transportation Portfolio

Substitute – Councillor Bell

**KEPIER ALMSHOUSES CHARITY
HOUGHTON LE SPRING RELIEF IN NEED CHARITY**

Mr. R. Toy, 13 Gilpin Street, Houghton le Spring

KEPIER EXHIBITION TRUST

Councillor J. Heron

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION - GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Leader of the Council, Deputy Leader of the Council,
Councillors Allan and P. Gibson

Substitutes – Councillors Charlton, A. Hall, Lawson and L. Scott

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION – RURAL COMMISSION

Councillors MacKnight and P. Walker

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION – URBAN COMMISSION

Councillor Charlton and the Director of Development and Regeneration

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION – SIGOMA

Leader of the Council

MAYOR'S FUND FOR NECESSITOUS CHILDREN

The Right Worshipful The Mayor for the time being
The Lead Member for Children's Services
The Lead Member for Adult Services
Councillor Paul Maddison

MILLFIELD/ST. MARK'S COMMUNITY PROGRAMME

Councillors C. Anderson and Gofton

MUSEUMS, LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES (MLA) [FORMERLY NEMLAC]

Councillor Speding

MOTOR INDUSTRY LOCAL AUTHORITY NETWORK (MILAN)

Councillor Whalen

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILLORS

Councillors Blackburn, M. Forbes and J. Stephenson

**NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR CLEAN AIR
(INCLUDING NORTHERN DIVISION)**

The Cabinet Member with
Neighbourhood and Street Portfolio and the
Cabinet Member with Housing and Public Health Portfolio
Councillors D. Forbes and Porthouse
and the Director of Community and Cultural Services (not on Committee)

NEWCASTLE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT LIMITED

Alternate Director – Councillor Symonds

NEWCASTLE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT LOCAL AUTHORITY HOLDING COMPANY

Directors		Alternate Directors
Councillor Symonds	-	Councillor Tate
Councillor L. Scott	-	Councillor Rolph

NO LIMITS THEATRE COMPANY

Director – Councillor Timmins

NORTH EAST COMMUNITY FORESTS LIMITED

Cabinet Member with Planning and Transportation Portfolio

**NORTH EAST CONSORTIUM FOR ASYLUM SEEKER
SUPPORT SERVICES – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Cabinet Member with Housing and Public Health Portfolio

NORTH EAST CHILDREN’S SERVICES MEMBER NETWORK

The Lead Members for Children’s Services and
Adult Services

NORTH EAST ASSEMBLY

*Leader of the Council and Deputy Leader

* Executive Committee

NORTH EAST REGIONAL EMPLOYERS’ ORGANISATION

Councillors Allan, L. Scott, Symonds and S. Watson

NORTH EAST REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Councillor Lawson
(appointed by the Association of North East Councils)

NORTH EASTERN SEA FISHERIES COMMITTEE

Councillor Bell

NORTH REGIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR SENSORY SUPPORT

General Council – Councillors Bainbridge * and W. Stephenson
* Also a Member of the Executive Committee

NORTHERN ARTS COMPANY

Councillors E. Gibson, Grey, Morrissey and Speding

NORTHERN ARTS LOCAL AUTHORITY FORUM

Councillors E. Gibson and Speding

NORTHERN COUNCIL OF EDUCATION AUTHORITIES

Councillors P. Smith, Stewart, T. Wright and the
Director of Children's Services

NORTHERN HOUSING CONSORTIUM LIMITED

The Cabinet Member with Housing and Public Health Portfolio
and Councillor L. Scott

NORTHERN REGIONAL BRASS BAND TRUST

Councillor J. Scott

NORTHERN SPORT

Councillors Foster, Speding, P. Walker and L. Williams

NORTHUMBRIA CENTRE SPORTS TRUST

The Cabinet Member with Culture, and Leisure Portfolio

NORTHUMBRIA POLICE AUTHORITY

Councillor Foster for the four year period from 1st April 2003 to 31st March 2007.

**NORTHUMBRIA POLICE AUTHORITY - JOINT COMMITTEE FOR
APPOINTMENT OF COUNCILLORS TO POLICE AUTHORITY**

Councillor Symonds
Substitute - Councillor P. Watson

NORTHUMBRIA POLICE AUTHORITY - POLICE AND COMMUNITY FORUMS

- (i) Washington Area - Councillor MacKnight
- (ii) Sunderland Central – Councillor T. Martin
- (iii) Sunderland West - Councillor P. Gibson
- (iv) Sunderland North – Councillor Ambrose

NORTHUMBRIA REGIONAL FLOOD DEFENCE COMMITTEE

Councillor Lawson
Substitute - Councillor Porthouse

OLD SUNDERLAND DEVELOPMENT TRUST

Councillor C. Anderson

PALLION ACTION GROUP

Councillor P. Watson

PARKER MEMORIAL HOME - MANAGING TRUSTEES

Councillors Mann, MacKnight, M. Smith, Timmins,
J. Walker and Young together with Mr. N. Harper

PUPIL REFERRAL UNIT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Councillor R. Heron

RAICH CARTER SPORTS CENTRE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Councillors C. Anderson, T. Martin, Speding, Wares and T. Wright

ROKER REGATTA COMBINED CLUBS COMMITTEE

Councillors Stewart and Young

SAFER SUNDERLAND PARTNERSHIP

Leader of the Council together with the Chief Executive

SAMUEL DOBSON TRUST

Councillors F. Anderson, Blackburn, Peter Maddison,
Richardson, Rolph and Speding

SCHOOL ORGANISATION COMMITTEE

Councillors F. Anderson, Peter Maddison, Morrissey,
J.B. Scott, P. Smith, Stewart and T. Wright

SHERBURN HOUSE CHARITY

Councillor D. Forbes

SOUTH HYLTON SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Councillors Bates and S. Watson

SOUTHWICK NEIGHBOURHOOD YOUTH PROJECT

Councillor Ambrose

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Councillors Dixon, Oliver, P. Smith, Stewart and T. Wright

ST. LUKE'S NEIGHBOURHOOD PROJECT

Councillor Wilson

SUNDERLAND ARC AND URBAN REGENERATION COMPANY

Leader of the Council

SUNDERLAND BOYS INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL FUND

Councillors Bainbridge and M. Smith
together with Mr. I. Galbraith and Mr. J.E. Wynn

SUNDERLAND COMMON PURPOSE

Vacancy

SUNDERLAND COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

Councillor J. Scott

SUNDERLAND EMPIRE THEATRE TRUST

Councillors Bainbridge, Bohill, Dixon, P. Gibson, J.Heron,
Mann, J. Scott, Speding, P. Walker, S. Watson,
Whalen and L. Williams

Nominated Co-opted Members

V. Brydon, Mr. J. Mawston, Mr. G. Rowley, Mr. C.H. Slater,
Mr. S. Wilson

SUNDERLAND FEDERATION OF COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS

Councillor F. Anderson

**SUNDERLAND AND NORTH DURHAM ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Councillors Foster and Miller

SUNDERLAND HIGH SCHOOL

Councillor P. Gibson

SUNDERLAND HOUSING COMPANY LIMITED

Councillors Blackburn, D. Forbes, Higgins, L. Scott and W. Stephenson

North Sunderland Housing Company Limited

Councillors Higgins, Mann, N. Wright and
1 Majority Group in Opposition Vacancy

Central Sunderland Housing Company Limited

Councillors Bates, D. Forbes, T. Wright
and 1 Majority Group in Opposition Vacancy

South Sunderland Housing Company Limited

Councillors P. Gibson, L. Scott, Wares
and 1 Majority Group in Opposition Vacancy

Washington Housing Company Limited

Councillors Grey, W. Stephenson, J. Walker and
1 Majority Group in Opposition Vacancy

Houghton and Hetton Housing Company Limited

Councillors Blackburn, A. Hall, J. Heron and Richardson

SUNDERLAND INDUSTRIAL AND REFORMATORY SCHOOL FUND

Councillor Paul Maddison and Stewart

SUNDERLAND NORTH COMMUNITY BUSINESS CENTRE

Councillor Mann

SUNDERLAND ORPHANAGE AND EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Councillors C. Anderson, Paul Maddison, M. Smith and T. Martin

SUNDERLAND SPORTS COUNCIL

Councillors J.B. Scott and Speding

**SUNDERLAND TEACHING PRIMARY CARE TRUST CONTINUING
INPATIENT CARE REVIEW PANEL**

Councillor M. Smith
Substitute – Councillor J. Scott

SUNDERLAND YOUTH ENTERPRISE TRUST

Councillor P. Gibson

SUNNISIDE PARTNERSHIP

Leader of the Council, Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Community Cohesion
and the Director of Development and Regeneration

**THORNEY CLOSE ACTION AND ENTERPRISE CENTRE
MANAGEMENT BOARD**

Councillors Allan, D. Forbes, J.B. Scott
and Tye

TRIPLETT CHARITY

Councillors Fletcher, P. Walker and B. Williams

TYNE AND WEAR ANTI FASCIST ASSOCIATION

Councillor Allan - non-voting

TYNE & WEAR AUTISTIC SOCIETY

Director of Adult Services

TYNE AND WEAR BUILDING PRESERVATION TRUST LTD

Councillor Porthouse

TYNE AND WEAR CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

Leader of the Council
Deputy Leader of the Council
Councillor P. Gibson
Councillor Wood

**TYNE AND WEAR DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED
(BOARD OF DIRECTORS)**

Leader of the Council*+
Deputy Leader of the Council*
Councillor P. Gibson

*also nominated as members of the Company
+also nominated as a member of the Executive Committee

Alternate Directors

Councillors Allan, L. Scott and Wood

TYNE AND WEAR FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

Councillors Fletcher, M. Forbes, P. Gibson and R. Heron

TYNE AND WEAR JOINT LEAD MEMBERS (TRANSPORTATION) GROUP

Cabinet Member with Planning and Transportation Portfolio
and Councillor Porthouse

TYNE AND WEAR LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Councillor W. Stephenson

TYNE AND WEAR PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

Councillors Lawson, Sleightholme, S. Watson and Wood

**TYNE AND WEAR PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY
SCRUTINY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Councillors Ambrose and D. Forbes

TYNE AND WEAR PENSION FUND

Councillor J. Heron
Substitute – Councillor Young

TYNE AND WEAR VALUATION TRIBUNALS PANEL

(a) To 31st March, 2007

Mr. C.E. Bate, 60 Carlton Crescent, Sunderland
Mr. A.O. Fulton, 3 Alexander Drive, Hetton-le-Hole
Mr. W.L. Glover, 7 Alexander Drive, Hetton-le-Hole
Mr. D.S. Robinson, 8 Floralia Avenue, Ryhope, Sunderland
Mr. A. Wilkinson, 3 Woodlea Close, Hetton-le-Hole

(b) To 31st March, 2010

Mr. A. Falconer, 9 West Lea, New Herrington, Houghton-le-Spring
Mr. I. Galbraith, 124 Durham Road, Sunderland
Mr. W.I. McCarron, 125 Dairy Lane, Houghton-le-Spring
Mr. C. Nairns, 23 North Road, Hetton-le-Hole

TYNEWEAR PARTNERSHIP BOARD

The Cabinet Member with Regeneration and Community Cohesion Portfolio
Named Substitute: Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate Policy)

UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN - STEERING GROUP

The Cabinet Member with
Planning and Transportation Portfolio and
Councillor Sleightholme

UNIVERSITY OF SUNDERLAND : BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The Lead Member for Adult Services

VICTORIA HOUSE CHARITY

Councillor Whalen
Mrs. M.E. Porter

WEAR SIDE WOMEN IN NEED

Councillor Bates

WEARDALE HOUSE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Councillors Allan, D. Forbes, Grey, Howe, Whalen and N. Wright

WEAR SIDE MONEY ADVICE CENTRE

Councillor Richardson and Sidaway

WELLESLEY C.H.E. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Councillors Bainbridge, J. Heron, MacKnight, J.B. Scott,
M. Smith, L. Walton, N. Wright and Young

WOODCOCK AND BOWES CHARITY

Councillors Bates and B. Williams

**WORKERS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
DISTRICT COMMITTEE**

Councillor Bell

YMCA, FENCEHOUSES

Councillor D. Richardson

**COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS - YOUTH ORGANISATIONS (IN RECEIPT OF GRANT
AID EXCEEDING £500 P.A.), LOCAL AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES**

(i)	<u>Community Associations</u>	Councillor(s)
	Columbia C.A.	Whalen
	Easington Lane Community Access Point	F. Anderson
	East C.A.	T. Martin
	Deptford and Pallion C.A.	Wilson
	Doxford Park C.A.	E. Gibson
	Fulwell C.A.	J. Walton
	Grangetown C.A.	Paul Maddison
	Grindon C.A.	J. B. Scott
	Houghton Racecourse Community Access Point	R. Heron
	Houghton Racecourse C.A.	R. Heron
	Pennywell C.A.	Bates and S. Watson
	Penshaw C.A.	J. Scott
	Ryhope C.A.	Bainbridge

Shiney Row C.A.
Southwick C.A.
Springwell Village Hall C.A.
St. Matthew's C.A., Newbottle

Speding
Ambrose
W. Stephenson
R. Heron

(ii) **Youth and Community Organisations**

Blue Watch Project (Ryhope)
Commercial Road Youth and Community Project
Flatts Youth Centre
Grindon Young People's Centre
Hendon Young People's Project
Herrington Burn Y.M.C.A.

Wares
T. Martin
Tate
J.B. Scott
T. Martin
Rolph and
Speding

Hylton Castle & Town End Farm Boys and Girls Club
Lambton Street Fellowship Centre
Oxclose and District Young People's Project
Pitstop Youth Project (Washington)
Pennywell Youth Project
Southwick Neighbourhood Youth Project
St. Marks Youth Club
Sunderland Catholic Youth Centre
Young Asian Voices
The Box Youth Project
Sandhill View Youth Project (A690)

Mann
P. Watson
L. Williams
Whalen
J.B. Scott
Charlton
C. Anderson
T. Martin
Sidaway
Blyth
Allan

GOVERNORS OF SCHOOLS

Cllr. Allan - Hasting Hill Primary, Sandhill View

Cllr. Ambrose - Southwick Primary

Cllr. F. Anderson – Hetton-le-Hole Nursery, Hetton Primary

Cllr. Bainbridge - St. Aidan's R.C. Voluntary Aided School, Ryhope Infant

Cllr. Bates – South Hylton Primary

Cllr. Bell – Castle View, Castlegreen Community School

Cllr. Blackburn – Easington Lane Primary, Hetton Lyons Primary

Cllr. Blyth – Mill Hill Primary, Mill Hill Nursery

Cllr. Bohill – Seaburn Dene Primary

Cllr. Carthy – Houghton Kepier, St Michael's R C Voluntary Aided Primary

Cllr. Charlton - Hylton Red House
Cllr. D. Forbes – Grindon Infant, Pennywell
Cllr. M. Forbes - St. Anthony's Catholic Girls School
Cllr. Foster - Castletown Primary
Cllr. E. Gibson – Mill Hill Primary
Cllr. P. Gibson Farringdon
Cllr. Grey – Oxclose Village Primary
Cllr. A. Hall – New Penshaw Primary, Our Lady Queen of Peace R.C. Primary
Cllr. J. Heron – Eppleton Primary
Cllr. R. Heron – Bernard Gilpin Primary
Cllr. Howe – Monkwearmouth, Fulwell Junior
Cllr. Lawson – Burnside Primary, Columbia Grange
Cllr. MacKnight – John F Kennedy Primary
Cllr. Mann - Bexhill Primary, Castle View School
Cllr. T. Martin – Southmoor, Valley Road Community Primary
Cllr. Porthouse – Farringdon Primary
Cllr. Richardson – Dubmire Primary
Cllr. Rolph – Houghton Kepier
Cllr. J.B. Scott – Pennywell, Grindon Infant, Hasting Hill Primary
Cllr. J. Scott – New Penshaw Primary
Cllr. Sidaway – Grangetown Primary School, Southmoor School
Cllr. M. Smith - Barnes Infant
Cllr. P. Smith - St. Leonard's R.C. Voluntary Aided Primary,
Cllr. Speding – Barnwell Primary

Cllr. W. Stephenson – George Washington Primary

Cllr. Stewart - Witherwack Primary, St. Hilda's R.C. Voluntary Aided Primary

Cllr. Symonds - Bexhill Primary, Town End Primary
Cllr. R.D. Tate - Hetton, Hetton Primary

Cllr. Trueman – Blackfell Primary, Columbia Grange

Cllr. J. Walker - St. Bede's R.C. Voluntary Aided Primary

Cllr. P. Walker – Albany Village Primary

Cllr. Wares – St. Patrick's R.C. Voluntary Aided Primary, Venerable Bede Church of England Voluntary Aided School

Cllr. P. Watson - St. Anne's R.C. Primary, Quarry View Primary

Cllr. S. Watson – South Hylton Primary

Cllr. B. Williams - Holly Park Primary, Lambton Primary

Cllr. L. Williams – Lambton Primary, Oxclose

Cllr. Wood - St. Aidan's R.C. Voluntary Aided School

Cllr. N. Wright – Grange Park Primary

Cllr. Young - Fatfield Primary

(vi) the dates and times of meetings of the Council, the Cabinet and Committees, etc., be fixed in accordance with the Council Diary,

(vii) the City Solicitor, in consultation with the respective Chairman, be authorised to make such changes as may be deemed necessary or expedient with item (vi) above, and

**(Signed) Councillor T. Foster,
Mayor.**

Sunderland City Council

At an EXTRAORDINARY MEETING of SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL held in the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND, on TUESDAY, 6TH JUNE, 2006 at 2.30 p.m.

Present - The Mayor (Councillor T. Foster) in the Chair
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor L. Scott)

Councillor	Allan	C. Gofton	Mann	Timmins
	F. Anderson	Grey	L. Martin	P. Walker
	Bainbridge	A. Hall	T. Martin	J. W. Walton
	Bates	G. Hall	Morrissey	L. Walton
	Bell	J. Heron	Porthouse	Wares
	Blyth	R. Heron	Rolph	P. Watson
	Bohill	Higgins	J. Scott	S. Watson
	Carthy	Howe	J. B. Scott	Whalen
	Charlton	Lawson	M. Smith	L. Williams
	Fletcher	Leadbitter	Speding	Wilson
	D. Forbes	Paul Maddison	Symonds	Wood
	M. Forbes	Peter Maddison	Tansey	T Wright
	P. Gibson	Miller	Tate	

The Notice convening the Meeting was read.

The Mayor's Chaplain, Deacon John Hill, offered prayers on behalf of those present.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Ambrose, C. R. Anderson, Dixon, MacKnight, Oliver, Sidaway, Sleightholme, P. Smith, Stewart, J. Walker, B. Williams, N. Wright and Young.

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

FREEDOM OF THE CITY – MR RAM K. BANERJEE, SIR TOM COWIE OBE AND DENISE ROBERTSON.

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) inviting the Council to formally confer the Honorary Freedom of the City upon Mr Ram k. Banerjee, Sir Tom Cowie OBE and Denise Robertson.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Mayor extended a warm welcome to all present at the meeting

It was then moved by Councillor Symonds, and duly seconded by Councillor P. Gibson, that the Council formally confer the Honorary Freedom of the City upon Mr Ram K. Banerjee. On being put to the meeting the motion was unanimously agreed and it was:-

RESOLVED that in pursuance of the provisions of Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 the Council do confer the Honorary Freedom of the City on Mr Ram K. Banerjee TD OBE, as a token of the honour and esteem in which he is held by the citizens of the City and in recognition of his outstanding contributions to medical services in the City and his service to the Country.

Mr Ram K Banerjee then signed the Roll of Honorary Freemen of the City.

The Mayor then presented Ram K Banerjee with a sealed and illuminated copy of the Council's Resolution inscribed on vellum together with a gift.

Ram K Banerjee responded appropriately.

It was then moved by Councillor Symonds, and duly seconded by Councillor P. Wood, that the Council formally confer the Honorary Freedom of the City upon Sir Tom Cowie OBE. On being put to the meeting the motion was unanimously agreed and it was:-

RESOLVED that in pursuance of the provisions of Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 the Council do confer the Honorary Freedom of the City on Sir Tom Cowie OBE, as a token of the honour and esteem in which he is held by the citizens of the City and in recognition of his outstanding contributions to economic development and education in the City.

Sir Tom Cowie OBE then signed the Roll of Honorary Freemen of the City.

The Mayor then presented Sir Tom Cowie OBE with a sealed and illuminated copy of the Council's Resolution inscribed on vellum together with a gift.

Sir Tom Cowie OBE responded appropriately.

It was then moved by Councillor Symonds, and duly seconded by Councillor L. Scott, that the Council formally confer the Honorary Freedom of the City upon Denise Robertson. On being put to the meeting the motion was unanimously agreed and it was:-

RESOLVED that in pursuance of the provisions of Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 the Council do confer the Honorary Freedom of the City on Denise Robertson, as a token of the honour and esteem in which she is held by the citizens of the City and in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the City through her writing, charitable works and her promotion of Sunderland as a City Ambassador.

Denise Robertson then signed the Roll of Honorary Freemen of the City.

The Mayor then presented Denise Robertson with a sealed and illuminated copy of the Council's Resolution inscribed on vellum together with a gift.

Denise Robertson responded appropriately.

(Signed) T. FOSTER,
Mayor.

Footnote:

Loyal Greeting

Following the meeting the Mayor received a response to loyal greetings to The Queen which he had sent on the occasion of the conferment upon Mr Ram K. Banerjee, Sir Tom Cowie OBE and Denise Robertson of the Honorary Freedom of the City.

In a letter from the Special Assistant to The Queen's Private Secretary the Mayor was advised that "Her Majesty values your continued support and sends her best wishes to all concerned for a memorable and happy occasion".

Report of the Cabinet

THE CABINET reports as follows:-

1. The Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP)

That they have given consideration to a report of the Director of Children's Services (copy attached) presenting the final draft of the Children and Young People's Plan 2006-2009.

They also referred the report to the Children's Services Review Committee for advice and consideration and it had agreed to endorse the Children and Young People's Plan. It was also noted that a Statutory Instrument to be made in March 2006 would require the Plan to be approved by Council as well as the Executive in due course.

Accordingly the Cabinet now recommends that the Children and Young People's Plan be approved by full Council.

N.B. Members are requested to bring their copies of The Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) which have been circulated separately.

2. Preparing for Inspection : Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) Corporate Assessment Road Map, Use of Resources Action Plan and CPA Key Milestones 2006/07

That they have given consideration to a joint report of the Deputy Chief Executive and the City Treasurer (copy attached) outlining how the Council, through its performance management framework was taking action to secure improvement and maintain its 4 star (previously 'Excellent') status and direction of travel judgement in respect of which the Council was currently judged as "improving well".

This report also requested approval for the CPA Corporate Assessment Road Map and Use of Resources Action Plan (including the updated Value for Money Framework entitled 'Driving Service Improvement and Value for Money') and outlined the Key CPA Milestones during 2006/07 that would contribute to the Council's CPA Rating in 2006 and 2007 (including inspection activity, self-assessments, and the submission of performance information).

They also referred the report to the Policy and Co-ordination Review Committee for advice and consideration. The Review Committee noted the Performance Management Framework to secure and maintain the Council's 4-star status and direction of travel judgement, and the CPA Corporate Assessment Road Map and Use of Resources Action Plan, including the updated Value for Money Framework.

Accordingly the Cabinet recommends that the Council to approve the CPA Corporate Assessment Road Map, as detailed in Appendix A, and Use of Resources Action Plan, as detailed in Appendix B, including the updated Value for Money Framework 'Driving Service Improvement and Value for Money', which would contribute to the Council securing improvements in those themes and issues identified in the Summary CPA Road Map.

3. Sunderland Youth Justice Plan

That they have given consideration to a report of the Director of Children's Services (copy attached) to:-

- (a) advise on the performance of Sunderland Youth Offending Service during the last year,
- (b) seek the approval of the business plan for 2006-07, in particular the delivery plan against key performance indicators, and
- (c) advise of the YOS inspection in November 2006 and the links to the Joint Area Review and the Council's CPA rating.

They also referred the report to the Children's Services Review Committee for further advice and consideration. The Review Committee noted the report.

Accordingly the Cabinet recommends the Council to:-

- (i) endorse the excellent performance of the YOS in 2005-06, both for its key performance and its grading by the Youth Justice Board against its breadth of performance,
- (ii) endorse the innovation and positive engagement with the local media resulting in a significant number of positive news stories,
- (iii) approve the financial planning for 2006-07,
- (iv) approve the delivery plan for 2006-07, and
- (v) approve the priorities determined by the YOS management board.

N.B. Members are requested to bring their copies of Sunderland Youth Justice Plan which have been circulated separately.

4. Hetton Downs Area Action Plan : Report on Options and Issues for Consultation

That they have given consideration to a report of the Director of Development and Regeneration (copy attached) on the consultants' Report on Options and Issues for Development in the Hetton Downs area and to seek that the report on Options and Issues be approved as the basis of public consultation to identify a preferred option to be taken forward in the preparation of an Area Action Plan for the area.

A report on the matter was also considered by the Environmental and Planning Review Committee and the Cabinet referred the report to the Regeneration and Community Review Committee and the Planning and Highways Committee for further advice and consideration. The Environmental and Planning Review Committee felt that it was important that the public were consulted at all times and aware of any developments that were happening. The Review Committee then noted the report. The comments of the other Committees will be reported to the meeting.

Accordingly the Cabinet recommends to Council that the Report on Options and Issues be approved as the basis for public consultation.

N.B. Item 4 is included in the Cabinet report subject to being approved by Cabinet at its meeting on 21st June, 2006. Any variations to the recommendations will be reported at the meeting.

THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN (CYPP)

Report of the City Solicitor

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To inform the Cabinet of the views of the Review Committee on the final draft of the Children and Young People's Plan 2006-2009.

2. Description of decision (Recommendations)

- 2.1 To note that the Children's Services Review Committee agreed to endorse the Children and Young People's Plan.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Cabinet, at its meeting held on 15th March, 2006 gave consideration to the report of the Director of Children's Services, presenting the final draft of the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP).
- 3.2 The report was referred to the Children's Services Review Committee for its views at its meeting held on 16th March, 2006.
- 3.3 The Review Committee agreed to endorse the Children and Young People's Plan.
- 3.4 A Statutory Instrument to be made later this month will require the Plan to be approved by Council as well as the Executive. This will be done in due course.

4 Reasons for the decision.

- 4.1 The first plan must be in place by 1st April, 2006 [*'Excellent' local authorities are exempt from submitting a plan for April 2006 but it has been agreed that it is good practice for a Sunderland Children and Young People Plan to be prepared*].

5 Alternative options

- 5.1 None identified.

6 Background Papers

Report from Cabinet, 15th March, 2006.

Minutes of the Children's Services Review Committee 16th March, 2006.

Cabinet – 12th April 2006

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and City Treasurer

**Preparing For Inspection: Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA)
Corporate Assessment Road Map, Use of Resources Action Plan & CPA Key
Milestones 2006/07**

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report outlines how the Council, through its performance management framework is taking action to secure improvement and maintain our 4 star (previously 'Excellent') status and direction of travel judgement in respect of which we are currently judged as "improving well".
- 1.2 The report requests Cabinet approval for the CPA Corporate Assessment Road Map and Use of Resources Action Plan including the updated Value for Money Framework entitled 'Driving Service Improvement and Value for Money'.
- 1.3 The report outlines the Key CPA Milestones during 2006/07 that will contribute to the Council's CPA Rating in 2006 and 2007, including inspection activity, self assessments, and the submission of performance information.

2. Description of Decision

- 2.1 Cabinet is requested to recommend to Council to approve:
 - the CPA Corporate Assessment Road Map (attached as **Appendix A**);
 - the Use of Resources Action Plan including the updated Value for Money Framework entitled 'Driving Service Improvement and Value for Money' (attached as **Appendix B**);

which will contribute to the Council securing improvements in those themes and issues identified in the Summary CPA Road Map.

3. Background

3.1 Inspection Programme 2006/07

- 3.1.1 Between January 2007 and May 2007 the Council will receive its first corporate assessment using the Audit Commission's tougher CPA framework (i.e. CPA, The Harder Test). This will coincide with the first Joint Area Review (JAR) of Children's Services.
- 3.1.2 The Council has been informed that the on-site element of the Inspections should take place in the weeks commencing 22nd and 29th January 2007. The Inspectorates will also be on-site for 1 week in either December 2006 or January 2007 to undertake analysis in advance of the inspection.

3.1.3 The Youth Offending Service will also be inspected during 2006/07. The on-site element of the Inspection will take place in the week commencing 27th November 2006, the findings of which will feed directly into the JAR.

3.2 CPA Road Map

3.2.1 Work has already commenced to ensure that the Council is performing at the required standards to achieve a high score in each of the three inspections during 2006/07.

3.2.2 A Draft Summary CPA Road Map was provided to the Audit Commission in September 2005 as an appendix to the Council's Direction of Travel Statement. This was reported to Cabinet on 12th October 2005.

3.2.3 The Road Map identified a series of improvement themes and issues which would improve performance and enable the Council to have the best chance of maintaining our 4 star (previously 'Excellent') status and the judgement that we are improving well.

3.2.4 'Going beyond excellence' has always been a key theme for the Council. The Draft Summary CPA Road Map identified the key improvement priorities against the new 2005 CPA guidance and should ensure that good practice is fully embedded. It is the intention that the CPA Road Map will be reviewed following our corporate assessment inspection after January 2007.

3.2.5 Alongside this, revisions and improvements have been made to our performance management arrangements to ensure that we monitor all Key Performance Indicators and enhance our arrangements for target setting.

3.2.6 Since September 2005 the Performance Improvement Team has been liaising with directorates to further develop and refine the corporate improvement framework ensuring that improvement themes and issues identified in the draft Summary CPA Road Map are picked up, as well as those which have been subsequently identified.

3.2.7 In addition, during this time the draft Use of Resources Action Plan, initially prepared as part of the self assessment in August 2005, has been updated by staff within the City Treasurer's Department, in liaison with staff within Directorates, and the Value for Money Framework entitled 'Driving Service Improvement and Value for Money' has also been updated.

3.2.8 This report sets out how the various improvement priorities identified in the Draft Summary CPA Road Map are being taken forward.

3.3 CPA Key Milestones

3.3.1 The Corporate Assessment, JAR and Youth Offending Team Inspection will contribute towards the Council's overall CPA rating in 2007 and the Children and Young People's Service Block Score.

3.3.2 In addition to the above, the Council will also be subject to the ongoing requirements of external regulation, for example to provide the Audit Commission and other Inspectorates (e.g. Ofsted, CSCI and BFI) with annual self assessments and performance information to produce the Council's 2006 CPA Star Rating, Direction of Travel judgement, Scorecard and individual Service Block scores.

3.3.3 In order to ensure the Council can identify the key inputs at both a corporate and service level, a series of Key Milestones have been developed which will enable the Council to identify key activities and efficiently and effectively meet the requirements which will be placed upon it by the Audit Commission and other Inspectorates during 2006/07 prior to, during and after the Corporate Assessment, JAR and Youth Offending Service Inspection.

4. Current Position

4.1 CPA Road Map

4.1.1 The Draft Summary CPA Road Map provided to the Audit Commission in September 2005 as an appendix to the Council's Direction of Travel Statement (which was reported to Cabinet on 12th October 2005) detailed key improvement themes and issues identified through internal and external evaluation, i.e.

- One Council' approach
- Working as 'One City'
- Consultation
- Performance and evaluation
- Resources
- Human Resource issues
- Efficiency
- Value for Money
- Strategic Housing role
- Equalities
- Stronger Communities
- Section 17 Crime & Disorder Strategy
- Recycling
- Planning
- Library Standards
- Teenage pregnancy
- Numbers of Looked after Children
- KS3 performance especially boys' attainment
- Looked after Children offending
- Outcomes for Care Leavers
- Outcomes for Children with Disabilities
- Extra Care
- Independence- learning disability
- Fair access -diversity

4.1.2 Since September 2005 the Council has also received further external feedback, for example the Annual Audit and Inspection Letter. Improvement themes and issues identified through these activities have also been incorporated into the framework.

4.1.3 These improvement themes and issues have been developed into actions that have subsequently been integrated into a range of planning documents either in existence or currently under development. These are detailed in Table 1 below.

Table 1: CPA Road Map – Supporting Action Plans & Reporting Dates

CPA Linkage	Internal / External Evaluation	Primary Action Plan	Date reported to Cabinet
Corporate Assessment	Corporate Assessment Challenge Workshops	CPA Corporate Assessment Road Map (Attached as Appendix A)	April 2006
	Annual Audit and Inspection Letter	Annual Audit and Inspection Letter Action Plan	February 2006
Adult Social Care Service Block	Adult Social Care Delivery & Improvement Statement (DIS)	Directorate Performance Management Framework (e.g. Performance Agreements)	N/A (Areas for improvement reported to Cabinet in January 2006 as part of the DIS)
Benefits Service Block	HB/CTB Performance Standards Self Assessment	City Treasurer's Business Plan	N/A
Children & Young People Service Block	Children's Services Annual Performance Assessment (APA)	Children & Young People's Plan	March 2006 (Areas for improvement were previously reported to Cabinet in December 2005)
	YOT Challenge Workshops	Programme of development work will be included in Youth Justice Plan at the request of Board	June 2006 (Provisional)
Culture, Environment & Housing Service Blocks	Performance Indicators in relation to the Service Block Assessments	Corporate Improvement Plan	February 2006
Use of Resources Service Block	Use of Resources Challenge Workshops	Use of Resources Action Plan (attached at Appendix B)	April 2006
	Value for Money Self Assessment	Updated Value for Money Framework and Action Plan (attached at Appendix B)	
	Annual Efficiency Statement	Annual Efficiency Statement – Forward Looking	June 2005 June 2006

4.1.4 Individually these plans provide the framework for service priority improvement activity as identified by self-assessment and external feedback, and collectively represents the Council's overall CPA Road Map. Key Performance Indicators arising from the collective framework will be reported through to EMT and Cabinet.

4.1.5 This approach ensures that the improvement activity is identified within the appropriate service plan and is actioned, monitored and reviewed at the appropriate level. Taken collectively these plans ensure that improvement priorities are systematically embedded within the corporate performance management framework. This approach is to minimise the production of separate additional improvement plans or processes that would require additional reporting or monitoring.

4.1.6 The approach supports the reporting of key CPA improvement outputs and outcomes at service level within existing reporting frameworks and supports high level reporting and monitoring of risk-based areas corporately to EMT and Cabinet.

4.2 CPA Corporate Assessment Road Map & Use of Resources Action Plan

4.2.1 During summer 2005, the Council undertook a series of workshops to assess the Council's position against the Audit Commission's Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOE) for the Corporate Assessment and Use of Resources Service Block. The workshops provided the scope to 'risk assess' ourselves against the KLOE and determine what actions needed to be undertaken to ensure that we are continuously improving and have the best chance of maintaining our '4 star' (previously 'Excellent') status.

4.2.2 Since then the Performance Improvement Team and staff in the City Treasurer's Department have been working with Directorates to develop actions to address the themes and issues identified as requiring improvement.

4.2.3 As Table 1 above describes, the CPA Corporate Assessment Road Map (which is attached at **Appendix A**) picks up on those themes and issues identified as requiring improvement at the Corporate Assessment Challenge Workshops.

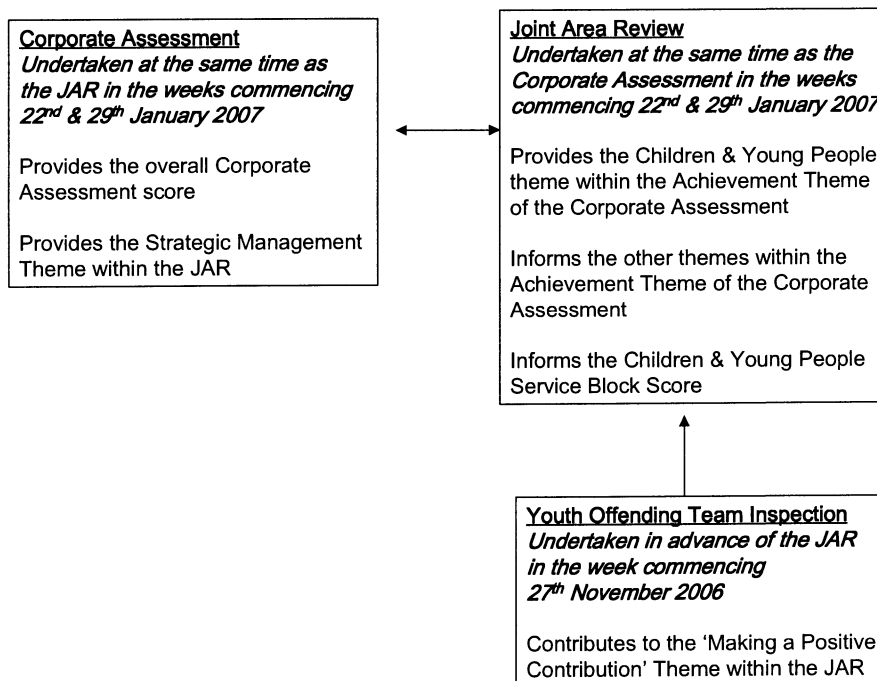
4.2.4 The CPA Corporate Assessment Road Map has been set out to not only identify the outcome that will be achieved in terms of the CPA Corporate Assessment Key Lines of Enquiry, but also what contribution that will make to the City of Sunderland Local Strategic Partnership's Strategic Priorities and to the Council's Corporate Improvement Objectives, with particular emphasis on user focus, diversity and value for money.

4.2.5 The Use Of Resources Action Plan (which is attached at **Appendix B**) picks up on those themes and issues identified as requiring improvement at the Use of Resources Challenge Workshops. In addition, it provides an updated Value for Money Framework entitled 'Driving Service Improvement and Value for Money' which sat alongside the Council's Value for Money Self Assessment. Whilst the Audit Commission are not proposing to ask Councils to complete another self assessment where they have scored level 2 or more (the Council scored level 3), those Councils are required to update their self assessment and show progress made since the original self assessment was undertaken.

4.2.6 Progress in implementing the overall CPA Road Map, the planning documents which feed it, and the Use of Resources Action Plan will be monitored through the Council's performance management framework and will be co-ordinated via the CPA Key Contact Meetings (see section 4.3.9 below). Reports on progress will be published for Elected Members, alongside Key Performance Indicator data.

4.3 CPA Key Milestones

4.3.1 As mentioned in section 2.1 above, the Council will be subject to three inspections during 2006/07 that will inform the overall CPA rating and the Children and Young People's Service Block Score for 2007 and subsequent years i.e.



4.3.2 In advance of the on-site element of each of the Corporate Assessment, JAR and YOT inspections the Council will be required to produce a Self Assessment and provide supporting evidence (e.g. key documents, a sample of case files, a series of case studies). During the on-site inspections the Inspectorates will consult a range of stakeholders including officers, staff, Elected Members, partners, service users and residents. They will also expect to see examples of work on the ground. This will then culminate in a draft report for agreement with the Council.

4.3.3 In the case of the aligned Corporate Assessment and JAR, this is a 24-week process spanning the initial Set-up Meeting (referred to as week 1 minus 6) to publication of the final report (week 18). The Council has been informed of the on-site inspection and report publication dates. From this the broader CPA timetable can be predicted.

Table 2: Aligned Corporate Assessment & JAR Milestones

Milestone	AC's Indicative Timing	Timescale
Set-up meeting held between Council and Inspectorates	Week 1 minus 6	October 2006
Self Assessment & supporting evidence submitted to Inspectorates	Week 1	December 2006
Information Gathering by Inspectorates (e.g. stakeholder surveys)	Week 1-3	December 2006
On-site analysis including Tour of the City & Pre-Inspection Challenge Meeting	Week 3	December 2006 / January 2007
On-site inspection (Fieldwork)	Weeks 6 & 7	W/c 22 nd January 2007 W/c 29 th January 2007
Draft report received by Council	End of Week 11	February / March 2007
Written comments sent to Inspectorates	End of Week 13	March 2007
Reports finalised by Inspectorates & feedback provided to the Council	End of Week 15	April 2007
Report publication by Inspectorates	Week 18	14 th May 2007 *

*This date is not in line with the AC's 'indicative timing to publish the report in week 18.

4.3.4 The on-site inspections for the Corporate Assessment and JAR, which are scheduled to take place in the weeks commencing 22nd and 29th January 2007, will place a number of demands upon the Council. This will also be the case, albeit to a lesser extent, for the on-site analysis week, scheduled for sometime in December 2006 or January 2007.

4.3.5 The YOT Inspection will take place in the week commencing 27th November 2006.

4.3.6 In addition to the above, the Council will also be subject to the ongoing requirements of external regulation, for example to provide the Audit Commission and other Inspectorates (e.g. Ofsted, CSCI and BFI) with annual self assessments and performance information to produce the Council's 2006 CPA Star Rating, Direction of Travel judgement, Scorecard and individual Service Block scores. As in previous years performance information needs to be verified and submitted to the relevant agencies by the end of June. The Self Assessment requirements are detailed in Table 3 below.

Table 3: 2006 Self Assessment Requirements

CPA Area	Requirement	Deadline
Use of Resources Service Block	Annual Efficiency Statement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forward • Backward • Mid-Year Estimates 	Mid April Mid June Mid October
	Value for Money Updated Self Assessment	End of July
	Use of Resources Self Assessment	End of August
Adult Social Care Service Block	Delivery and Improvement Statement (DIS) Self Assessment	31 st May 2006
Benefits Service Block	Self Assessment against the HB/CTB Performance Standards	31 st May 2006
	Submission of performance against the 19 Performance Measures for the first quarter of 2006/07	28 th July 2006
Children & Young People Service Block	Annual Performance Assessment (APA) Self Assessment [NB The Council will not be required to produce a full APA in 2007, rather it will be given the opportunity to update the JAR self-assessment in May with any significant new evidence]	31 st May 2006
Direction of Travel	Direction of Travel Statement	End of September

4.3.7 CPA Key Milestones have therefore been developed which will enable the Council to efficiently and effectively meet all of the above requirements. Not only do they detail the stages that will be gone through to produce the various self assessments and involve the relevant stakeholders, they also detail how awareness of the inspection process will be raised across stakeholders (e.g. officers, staff, Elected Members, partners and the public) and any key messages contained within the self assessments shared.

4.3.8 The CPA Key Milestones have been informed by:

- Lessons learned from the Council's first corporate assessment against the old CPA framework in September 2002, and other more recent inspections (e.g. Ofsted). For example ensuring that all staff, Elected Members and partners are aware of the inspection and that all stakeholders that will come into contact with the inspectors are fully briefed in advance.
- The experiences of other Councils that have already been through the tougher Corporate Assessment and Joint Area Review at the same time (i.e. during the first year of its introduction). For example, the Audit Commission expects the Council to have been inclusive in its production of the Self Assessment for the Corporate Assessment and to have involved and consulted Elected Members, partners and the public.

- 4.3.9 The 'virtual' group of CPA Key Contacts comprising representatives from all Directorates will meet throughout 2006/07 to ensure the CPA Key Milestones are implemented to timescale and that opportunities to join resources are maximised (e.g. shared stakeholder briefings), thus achieving multiple outputs from single inputs. The group will be expanded to include officers overseeing the Joint Area Review and YOT Inspection to ensure processes are aligned and that common messages are provided to Inspectorates.

5. Reasons for the Decision

- 5.1 Delivery of the improvements detailed within the CPA Corporate Assessment Road Map and Use of Resources Action Plan will contribute to the Council securing improvements in those themes and issues identified in the Summary CPA Road Map. This will in turn contribute to the Council maintaining our 4 star (previously 'Excellent') status and direction of travel judgement that we are currently judged as "improving well".

6. Alternative Options

- 6.1 There are no alternative options recommended at this stage.

7. List of Appendices

Appendix A CPA Corporate Assessment Road Map
Appendix B Use of Resources Action Plan

8. Background Papers

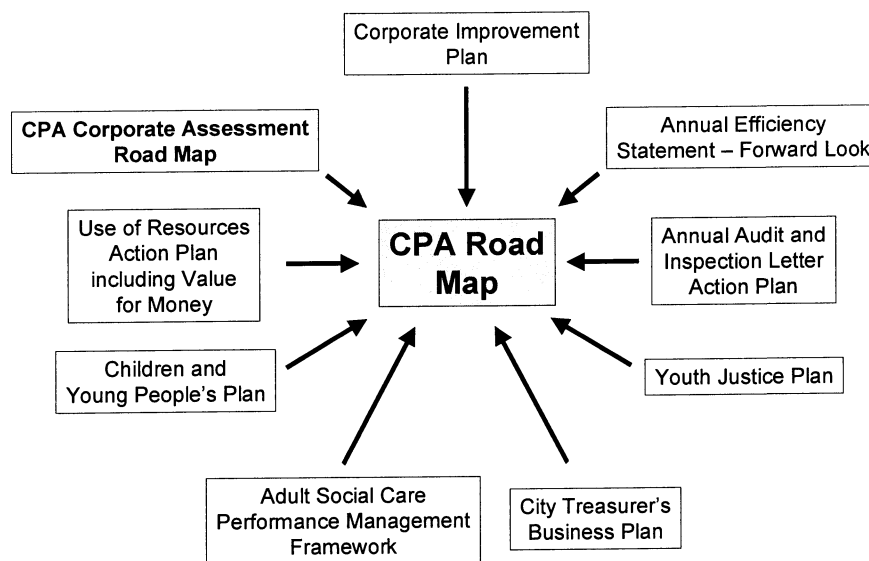
- Direction of Travel Statement 2005 (including Draft Summary CPA Road Map)
- CPA The Harder Test (Audit Commission)
- CPA Key Milestones 2006/07

CPA Corporate Assessment Road Map

The **Summary CPA Road Map** was provided to the Audit Commission in September 2005 as an appendix to the Council's Direction of Travel Statement and was reported to Cabinet in October 2005. The Road Map detailed key improvement themes and issues identified through internal and external evaluation.

Since September the Council has also received further external feedback, for example the Annual Audit and Inspection Letter. Improvement themes and issues identified through these activities have also been incorporated into the framework.

These improvement themes and issues have been developed into actions that have subsequently been integrated into a range of planning documents either in existence or currently under development i.e.



Individually these plans provide the framework for service priority improvement activity as identified by self-assessment and external feedback, and collectively represents the Council's overall **CPA Road Map**.

CPA Corporate Assessment Road Map

Development & Scope

During summer 2005, the Council undertook a series of workshops to assess the Council's position against the Audit Commission's Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOE) for the

Corporate Assessment and Use of Resources Service Block. The workshops provided the scope to 'risk assess' ourselves against the KLOE and determine what actions needed to be undertaken to ensure that we are continuously improving and have the best chance of maintaining our '4 star' (previously 'Excellent') status.

The CPA Corporate Assessment Road Map picks up on those themes and issues identified as requiring improvement at the Corporate Assessment Challenge Workshops.

Structure & Layout

The CPA Corporate Assessment Road Map is structured around the 5 Themes and Sub Themes within the Corporate Assessment (as at September 2005):

- Ambition for the Community
- Prioritisation
- Capacity
- Performance Management
- Achievement
 - Sustainable communities & transport
 - Safer & stronger communities
 - Healthier communities
 - Older people
 - Children & young people

As well as identifying the accountable officers and timescales, the CPA Corporate Assessment Road Map also identifies the outcome that will be achieved in terms of the CPA Corporate Assessment Key Lines of Enquiry, the City of Sunderland Local Strategic Partnership's Strategic Priorities and the Council's Corporate Improvement Objectives i.e.

- CPA Criteria: This column details the Audit Commission's Criteria for Judgement to which the action will contribute, as described within the Corporate Assessment Key Lines of Enquiry. Delivery of this action alone will not solely achieve the criteria; rather it will contribute to its achievement along with a series of other activities already in place, under development or planned.
- Strategic Priority / Corporate Improvement Objective (SP/CIO): This column details the City of Sunderland Local Strategic Partnership's Strategic Priorities and / or the Council's Corporate Improvement Objectives to which the action will contribute. Delivery of this action will again not solely achieve the priority or objective; rather it will contribute to its achievement along with a series of other activities already in place, under development or planned.

Monitoring & Reporting

Progress in implementing the overall CPA Road Map and the planning documents which feed it will be monitored through the Council's performance management framework and will be co-ordinated via the cross-directorate CPA Key Contact Meetings. Reports on progress will be provided to EMT on a quarterly basis, alongside Key Performance Indicators for ensuring the overall CPA Road Map is on target.

Ambition

Outcome			
Action	Lead Officer	Timescale	CPA Criteria
1	Assistant Chief Executive / City Treasurer / Strategic Programme & European Team Manager / Director of Development and Regeneration	April 2006	Members and managers are willing to tackle difficult problems and to take (and stick to) tough decisions to resolve these. These decisions show clearly how and why balances have been struck between competing demands and expectations in the light of available resources. This includes achieving a balance between levels of council tax and the expenditure necessary to enable the council to achieve its ambitions and deliver its statutory functions. Level 3.
2	Head of Corporate Communications	April 2006	The council has articulated a strategic approach to its principles and aspirations for its own culture and values, and has communicated this approach to staff and partners. As a result, the majority of staff and partners are clear what are the culture and values of the council. Level 3
3	Head of Corporate Communications	March 2007	
4	Corporate Head of Personnel	April 2006 Review quarterly	The council's leadership sets the tone of the authority by creating a climate of openness, transparency and mutual respect where members and staff are supported to perform to the best of their abilities. Members and senior officers consciously adopt a range of leadership and management styles appropriate to the complex community and organizational environments in which they operate and devolve responsibility and decision-making to officers and staff where appropriate. Level 3

Prioritisation

Outcome			
Action	Lead Officer	Timescale	CPA Criteria
5	Head of Corporate Policy	Quarterly review of progress and impact. April 2006 quarterly review of progress	The council understands the national and local policy frameworks that impact on the council's business but can do more to balance the competing demands and expectations that these impose. Level 2

6	Develop a framework for the management and reduction of poverty throughout the City	Policy & Development Manager	October 2006	Ambitions link across clearly to delivery of the council's priorities as set out in the Community Strategy. These are cascaded into robust plans and strategies for delivering the council's priorities for promoting the economic vitality of localities, community cohesion, civil renewal, transforming the local environment, race equality, tackling disadvantage, community safety and addressing the interests of groups like older people, children and young people. Level 3	SP1 - SP8
7	Improve and implement streamlined reporting for both LSP and council (incorporate LAA and LPSA)	Head of Corporate Policy / Head of Performance Improvement	April 2006 Review on a quarterly basis.	Review mechanisms are in place but are not consistently applied across the council and its partners as part of the overall priority setting process. As a result there is scope to follow shifting priorities and there is a gap between community needs and the council's services and responsiveness to user-expectations. Level 2	CIO3 / CIO4
8	Implementation of findings from the corporate awards group and staff survey. Continual improvement to meet IIP standards	Corporate Head of Personnel	April 2006 Monitor quarterly April 2006 Monitor quarterly	Members and senior officers maintain their focus and are not distracted by minor operational matters or crises. Specific initiatives are only undertaken where there is a clear purpose which fits with council priorities, and the council sustains its focus on these to ensure the desired impact is achieved. Staff are encouraged to contribute to development and there is a climate of enthusiasm for change leading to improvement and sustainability in priority areas. Level 3	CIO2

Capacity

		Outcome			
		Action	Lead Officer	Timescale	CPA Criteria
9	Publication of New code of practice for new partnerships and review the effectiveness of key partnerships.	Assistant City Treasurer (Audit & Procurement)	March 2006 and quarterly review	The council has ensured that its key partnerships have adopted an appropriate form of governing or working document. These set out accountabilities, roles and responsibilities with effective procedures for resolving disputes. Level 2	SP / CIO CIO3
10	Publication of New Code of Practice for Partnerships including the finalisation of a Partnership Register	Assistant City Treasurer (Audit & Procurement)	March 2006 and quarterly review	The council ensures that partnerships review and update their governing documents, and follow procedures for dispute resolution. Accountability in resolving problems or complaints is clear and individual partners take responsibility for joint activities. Level 3	
11	Built in review for future partnerships through new Code of Practice				
12	Review workforce development plan informed by partnership discussions and HR comments.	Corporate Head of Personnel	Quarterly monitoring from August 2006.	The council has undertaken workforce planning exercise. Level 2	CIO2
13	Implement recommendations from flexible working pilot and strategic property review.	Corporate Head of Personnel	September 2006 onwards	The council supports staff initiatives to be flexible and innovative in meeting service needs. Level 2	CIO2

		Outcome			SP / CIO
Action		Lead Officer	Timescale	CPA Criteria	
14	Improve Members participation in HR and train and develop.	Corporate Head of Personnel	April 2006 and quarterly monitoring	HR strategies and practices, including training and development for councillors and staff, are regularly reviewed and linked to corporate strategies and priorities. Strategies address risks to capacity such as levels of absenteeism or turnover. Training and development for councillors and staff is evaluated and clearly linked to delivering improvement. Staff understand how their work contributes to the delivery of strategic and community objectives. Level 3.	
15	Roll out of Corporate Induction process – link to liP action plan by March 2006.	Corporate Head of Personnel	April 2006 and quarterly monitoring		
16	Implement recommendations from the Management of Attendance Case Study (Policy Committee)	Corporate Head of Personnel	September 2006		
17	Update Corporate Procurement Strategy and Action Plan	Assistant City Treasurer (Audit & Procurement / Corporate Procurement Manager)	June 2006	The council's procurement strategy is used effectively to support or deliver priorities and is in line with national and European legislation, including Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000. Procurement acts as a driver for efficiency, service improvements and innovation and is effectively risk managed. Skills in procurement are widespread among officers and councillors. Contracts are reviewed regularly to protect the council from risks. The council uses long-term partnerships and joint working with other authorities to deliver key services and improvements. The council has improved capacity amongst voluntary and community organisations and can demonstrate improved efficiencies or effectiveness through pooled budgets or joint commissioning. Level 3	CIO3
18	Develop and implement the Customer Services Strategy including the roll out of the Business Transformation Programme.	Assistant Head of Strategic Change	CRM Strategy & Action Plan by April 2006. Agree Business Transformation Programme by October 2006.	The council provides integrated information about its and its partner's services for the community. The council is implementing a published service and access strategy that addresses diversity, human rights and the needs of its users and customers, including vulnerable people. Key council services are supported outside standard hours of working via the internet or telephone contact centres. Level 3	
19	Implementation of the level 3 equalities standard including plan to improve	Assistant Chief Executive	September 2006	In most areas, the council has the people, skills and capability it needs to deliver its priorities. The council is taking steps to ensure that councillors, and staff are representative of local communities. Level 2	CIO2
20	Monitoring of IEG – required good and excellent outcomes and development of other benchmarking data.	Corporate Head of ICT	Quarterly monitoring	The council has sufficient ICT resources to deliver its priorities. There is progress towards realising the benefits from e-government. Competencies for e-government-based change are embedded in the organisation. The council uses ICT to improve access to services. It has achieved the required priority outcomes for e-government, including the availability of online facilities at all times. Level 2	CIO1

Performance Management

		Outcome			
	Action	Lead Officer	Timescale	CPA Criteria	SP / CIO
21	Further Implement cultural improvements to the performance management framework to maintain a culture of challenge and continuous improvement. Strengthen accountability via the introduction of formal performance agreements for Strategic Directors and Heads of Service. Revise current communication mechanisms to ensure performance monitoring information is used to challenge and inform resource allocation and required improvements to service delivery.	Head of Performance Improvement	Quarterly review	There is systematic monitoring and review so that the council stays on track. There is a culture of open debate and constructive challenge, with a focus on solving problems rather than blaming individuals. Level 3	CIO3
22	Further develop the LSP performance management framework to develop Area Regeneration Framework action plans that will provide an area focus in terms of our citywide targets.	Head of Performance Improvement / Head of Corporate Policy	Quarterly review	There are strong mechanisms to help sustain the focus on priority issues, such as agendas, forward planning and monitoring/analysis of performance information on priorities. This can be tracked through for priority areas, including shared priorities, and the council has a track record of using performance management to help secure outcomes for the community that reflect its ambitions and priorities. Level 3	CIO3
23	Further embed the value for money / efficiency requirements into a coherent and balanced framework for performance monitoring and reporting purposes.	City Treasurer / Head of Performance Improvement	End of June 2006 onwards	Performance management is integrated with the management of resources (finance, people and IT) so that resources follow priorities whilst retaining the flexibility to move resources around to respond to performance issues. This happens within an annual cycle that is regularly reviewed and improved. Level 3	CIO3
24	Embedding quarterly reporting of complaints from members of the public to EMT.	Principal Lawyer	End of year report April 2006 and quarterly thereafter.	There is well publicised, user friendly and supportive system for service users and staff to submit complaints, grievances or representations. Responding to staff grievances and to complaints, compliments or other representations about service delivery is taken seriously at all levels in the organisation and dealt with in a timely way. User focus is well understood and is a central driver of the organisational culture. Level 3	CIO1
25	Consolidate available performance information into a profile document for each Head of Service that encompasses key outcomes, resource management, satisfaction levels and statutory indicators the monitoring of which will be used to inform performance reports and service planning. Develop target setting guidance and associated training to improve data management.	Head of Performance Improvement Head of Performance Improvement	July 2006 April 2006	The council's performance management is well embedded across the whole organisation and managers and staff at all levels focus on the performance of what is important, especially where that performance is not meeting the council's own targets. Performance management is seen as part of how people work with a focus on proactive, day-to-day 'management' rather than just monitoring. A strong example for this is set by the most senior officers and is cascaded through the organisation. Level 3	CIO3
26	Embed LAA performance monitoring requirements into the overarching LSP performance management framework. Refresh action plans for those strategic priorities not covered by the LAA blocks. Incorporate key outcomes from other supporting partnership arrangements. Provide quarterly monitoring reports.	Head of Corporate Policy	On annual basis	The council has been instrumental in helping to develop performance management for its key strategic partnerships and this is robust, systematic and sustainable and is helping to deliver outcomes for partnership working. Level 3	CIO3

		Outcome		
	Action	Lead Officer	Timescale	CPA Criteria
27	Implement a computerised Performance Management System to provide efficiencies in the collection and accuracy of performance data and enhance access to 'live' performance information.	Head of Performance Improvement	Roll out during 2006 (inked to SAP programme)	The council is self-aware about the strengths and weaknesses of its approach to performance management, and actively learns both internally and from others how it might improve. It targets particular aspects of its performance management approach for further development, leading to improvements in the capacity of the council to effectively deliver its priorities. Level 3
28	Evaluate the effectiveness of current benchmarking and evaluation and consolidate into formal monitoring arrangements.	Head of Performance Improvement / Chief Accountant	April 2006 and quarterly monitoring	The council understands the benefits of working with others to compare and evaluate processes, costs and outcomes but the approach is at times piecemeal with results not fully considered or consistently used to inform improvement planning. Level 2
29	Review of performance information communicated to customers including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publication of user friendly performance report outlining progress towards Sunderland Strategy targets to inform the State of the City debate Year end report incorporating management of resources in addition to key performance information. Review the extent to which performance information is easily accessible electronically (via web pages) to both council employees and external use by the public (linked to implementation of electronic performance management system) 	City Treasurer/ Head of Performance Improvement / Head of Corporate Policy	April 2006	People who use council services, staff and other stakeholders are given some opportunities to influence how performance is measured and have access to service standards and targets but there is scope for more consistency. Level 2
30	Enhance performance analysis across directorates through improved data management and use of benchmarking information to inform more accurate target setting.	Head of Performance Improvement	April 2006 and quarterly review	Targets for improvement in performance are set and generally these are stretching, realistic and focus on issues of highest priority but there is room for more consistent quality. Mechanisms for measuring and monitoring progress against targets tend to lead to necessary remedial action being taken in cases of under-performance but on occasion responses tend to be reactive more than pro-active. Level 2

Achievement

Economy and Labour Market

		Outcome		
	Action	Lead Officer	Timescale	CPA Criteria
31	Development towards single point of contact for business.	Corporate Head of ICT / Senior Partnership & Policy Officer	March 2007	Recognising the importance of business growth, the council understands the needs of businesses but it is only just beginning to use regulatory functions to enhance competitiveness. Level 2

65

Outcome					
	Action	Lead Officer	Timescale	CPA Criteria	SP / CIO
32	Adoption of relevant economic development performance indicators (Audit Commission and local) for Economic Prosperity Thematic Partnership.	Head of City Business & Investment Team	March 2007	There is scope for improving the review and evaluation of progress and in using available data to establish the impact of policies and partnerships. Level 2	SP1

Housing

Outcome					
	Action	Lead Officer	Timetable	CPA Criteria	SP / CIO
33	Reduce use of B&B (BV183a) by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing temporary accommodation to reduce B&B use Implement LPSA target Implement B&B action plan 	Head of Housing	Quarterly Review	There is scope for further reducing the use of bed and breakfast. The council and its partners are meeting the supply of appropriate housing in areas of high demand. More can be done to impact on the revival of the market in areas of low demand and to provide greater choice for all and security for vulnerable people as supporting people services. Level 2	SP3
34	Develop affordable Housing Strategy	Housing Strategic Manager	March 2007	There has been an increase in the supply of appropriate housing in areas of high demand, including social housing, as well as affordable homes particularly for key workers. There has been progress in reviving the market in areas of low demand. Level 3	SP3
35	Consider development of Home Improvement Agency	Head of Housing	April 2006	The council and its partners have a coherent package of measures that are leading to demonstrable increases in the proportion of homes that are decent, for council tenants and vulnerable households in private sector accommodation. These measures address among other things estate environment and designing-out crime initiatives. Level 3	SP3

Environment

Outcome					
	Action	Lead Officer	Timetable	CPA Criteria	SP / CIO
36	Undertake marketing campaign to promote resource management programmes (energy, waste and water) to public and private sector organisations.	Sustainability Co-ordinator	March 2007	The council has a clear policy on influencing commercial and industrial waste producers to shift their waste management up the hierarchy. Level 3	SP7
37	Local Authority Carbon Management Programme will begin in May 2006, and over 9 months develop baselines and an action plan to reduce the council's own energy and fuel consumption. Implementation of the Action Plan will begin from April 2007.	Sustainability Co-ordinator	May 2006 Implementation from April 2007.	The council has reduced its own resource consumption significantly and is able to quantify the cost and / or environmental impact these policies have had. Level 3	SP7

		Outcome		
		CPA Criteria	SP / CIO	
38	As a signatory to the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change, a Climate Change Action Plan to limit both the causes and impacts of Climate Change will be developed for consultation during 2006/07.	Sustainability Co-ordinator	March 2007.	The council is effectively addressing significant local and global environment issues and actively communicating environmental issues to the wider community.
39	Further development of local Multi-Agency problem Solving Groups (LMAPS) to improve area based problem solving.	Safer Communities Manager	June 2006 Quarterly Review	The council can demonstrate benefits at having made linkages to the other shared priority areas. For example, tackling graffiti and the quality of open public space as a contributor to the reduction of the fear of crime, as part of safer and stronger communities, and targeting environmental improvements in the most deprived neighbourhoods as part of healthier communities. Level 3

Transport

		Outcome		
		CPA Criteria	SP / CIO	
40	Discuss with Nexus development of quality contracts for Bus Operators to get certainty and cross subsidy of bus operators Develop Travel Plans for key sites within the City and support transport implications where appropriate. Develop the Tackling Social Exclusion Through Transport (TSETT) action plan to performance manage	Head of Transport & Engineering Head of Transport & Engineering Neighbourhood Renewal Co-ordinator	March 2007 March 2007 April 2006	The council understands the links between social exclusion and transport in its area, and uses this understanding to inform its own work with partners. It is encouraging modes of transport other than the car across a range of user groups. It is increasing public transport patronage and the use of community transport for access to work and important services such as education, healthcare, leisure and shopping. There is also an increased proportion of children travelling to school on foot, bike or by bus. There has been an increase in walking and cycling to access work and services including education and healthcare, and increased car sharing where cars are used. Level 3

Crime, Anti-Social Behaviour and Drugs

		Outcome		
		CPA Criteria	SP / CIO	
41	Development of a Section 17 Corporate Strategy framework and improvement plan for Council.	Safer Communities Manager	May 2006	Section 17 is acknowledged in principle, including a council-wide approach to tackling domestic violence, but is inconsistently delivered and not embedded. Level 2
42	Development of a Night Time Economy Strategy	Safer Communities Manager	End March 2006	The council recognises the need to manage the night time economy. Level 2

Accidents

		Outcome			
	Action	Lead Officer	Timescale	CPA Criteria	SP / CIO
43	Act on recommendations of Review Committee Report on accidents	Head of Transport & Engineering	March 2007	Local people's views are sought and used to monitor progress and help future plans. Level 3	SP7

Emergencies

		Outcome			
	Action	Lead Officer	Timescale	CPA Criteria	SP / CIO
44	Local Resilience Forum (LRF) establishing a Community Risk Register which can be made available to the public	Emergency Planning District Liaison Officer	June 2006 with ongoing updating of register	The council, in conjunction with its partners, informs the public about identified risks and the authority's plans and provides advice on business continuity. Level 3	CIO3
45	Identification of issues specific to Sunderland and ensuring plans are in place to address any emergency issues arising.	Emergency Planning District Liaison Officer	June 2006 and ongoing identification	The council has a good understanding of local data. Level 3	CIO3

Stronger Communities

		Outcome			
	Action	Lead Officer	Timescale	CPA Criteria	SP / CIO
46	Development of Revised Programme and Service Plan for 2006/07	Assistant Chief Executive	March 2006	The council has policies and procedures for community cohesion and addressing disadvantage but there is scope for more effectively communicating these across the council and the community. Level 2	SP8
47	The Library Service will engage with young people via focus groups in order to establish their needs in relation to the library service. Information gained will be used to ensure the policy and planning of the service reflects the needs of young people	Assistant Head of Culture and Tourism	September 2006 March 2007	The council involves the local community and the voluntary and community sector in policy and planning and in service delivery. Level 3	CIO3 / CIO2 / SP2

Healthier Communities

		Outcome			
	Action	Lead Officer	Timescale	CPA Criteria	SP / CIO
48	Develop links with work undertaken by service providers e.g. measurement of indicators – Public Health Forum	TPCT	April 2006 – Quarterly monitoring	There is evidence that the health of these communities the council serves is improving as a direct result of the strategy the council has in place. The council is clear about how improving short term indicators will deliver long term improvements in health and increases in life expectancy. There is systematic monitoring of the impact of all initiatives with a health improvement dimension. Level 3	SP4
49	To embed the World Health organisation network actions into the work of the council and its partners	Policy & Strategy Controller (Health)	March 2007	The council shares information with, and uses information from, its partnerships, to obtain a comprehensive picture of local health inequalities issues. These partnerships include the voluntary sector and representatives from hard to reach groups as well as traditional partners. The council can demonstrate that its processes for engagement with these groups are relevant and appropriate. Access to services which require partners to work together has improved for vulnerable groups and for the most deprived communities. Level 3	SP4
50	Implementation of the local action plan on mental health and social exclusion Effectiveness of Health Thematic Partnership Group Co-ordinate response in relation to adults with Mental Health	TPCT	March 2007	The council targets information and services to different areas and groups in different ways, recognising that not everyone accesses these in the same way. Initiatives designed to improve access include plans for the activities to be mainstreamed over time. The council has implemented the local action plan on mental health and social exclusion and this is making a difference in outcomes for people with mental health problems. Level 3	SP4
51	Further Investigate childcare arrangements for the council's own workforce	Early Years & Childcare Manager	March 2007	Good quality, flexible childcare is widely available, including provision for the council's own workforce. Level 3	SP4
52	Implementation of a consistent approach around hard to reach groups linking of communications and hard to reach strategy. Develop Community Development strategy final draft	Assistant Chief Executive / Head of Performance Improvement Head of Community Services	September 2006 November 2006	Engagement with a wide range of community groups – identified as priority groups – can be demonstrated and there is good evidence of successful engagement with hard- to-reach groups. Level 3	CIO2 / SP8

		Outcome		
	Action	Lead Officer	Timescale	CPA Criteria SP / CIO
53	Broaden scope of modern apprenticeship programme	Employment & Delivery Manager / Employee Development Manager / Head of Service (Adult & Community)	September 2006	The council has a recruitment strategy which is linked to the DWP/Job Centre Plus and is designed to increase the recruitment of people from disadvantaged areas and vulnerable groups. Level 3
54	A Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) bid will be submitted in order to obtain funding for a Smoke Free Places Officer. Officer will lead initiative both internally and externally with employers, business and the public to increase the number of schools and businesses within Sunderland that are smoke free and to promote smoking cessation and healthy lifestyles.	Assistant Head of Environmental Services / Children & young peoples strategic co-ordinator TPCT	February 2006	The council can demonstrate a systematic approach to addressing health through smoking cessation, diet, nutrition and exercise. In relation to smoking cessation, in particular, it can demonstrate a sustained, successful initiative both internally and externally with employers, business and the public. Level 3

Older People

		Outcome		
	Action	Lead Officer	Timescale	CPA Criteria SP / CIO
55	Reflect and respond to White paper Adult Services to work with TPCT colleagues to develop consistent approach to White Paper. Cabinet report to be presented in June outlining work programme in relation to White Paper. Further paper in July to put forward any proposed service re-configurations. Adults Board to be established as working party to look at the Council's overall approach to Adult Services.	Head of Service (Adults Services)	June – July 2006	The council is developing a strategic approach that goes beyond care services and encompasses aspects of Standard 8 of the NSF for older people. This may take the form of a strategy on older people that involves key council departments, partners and older people. Level 3
56	Develop a resource directory for all clients including Older People	Head of Service (Adults Services) / Service Development Officer	April 2006	The council and its partners make written information available to older people on service provision, but this is fragmented and is not drawn together in one publication. Level 2

Driving Improvement in Services and Value For Money (Updated March 2006)

Introduction

- 1.1 The City Council is committed to providing services which provide Value for Money (VfM) for its citizens. The VfM approach forms a key element of 'realizing our vision for the city', through ensuring that services are delivered in the most efficient and economical ways, within available resource and, wherever practicable, with independent validation of performance by service users and the wider community.

It recognizes that VfM is not something that stands still and once it is achieved and demonstrated can be regarded as an issue duly attended to, but rather that VfM can always be improved through investment, development and challenge. VfM forms a key part of the Council's framework to continually improve its services.

- 1.2 The duty to continually examine, evaluate and realise efficiency gains is embedded within the Council's approach to:

Corporate Strategies and Plans;
Service Strategies and Plans;
Cross Council Processes;
Partnership Arrangements.

with the express aim of putting customers at the centre of everything that we do.

The Council uses its financial and performance management arrangements to ensure that VfM is embedded in the ethos and culture of the Council's activities and arrangements with partners.

- 1.3 Set out below are the principal features of how the Council secures, demonstrates and improves VfM.

2. Corporate Strategies and Plans

- 2.1 VfM is secured both by ensuring what is delivered is what is required and has the necessary level of priority, and also through ensuring how a service or activity is delivered in the most appropriate way to ensure that the best possible VfM is achieved.

Our Corporate Strategies and Plans ensure that we use our resources on the highest priority areas taking due account of the

views of all stakeholders. The Corporate Strategies and Plans are summarized below:

- Consultation Strategy;
- Sunderland Strategy;
- Corporate Improvement Plan;
- Medium Term Financial Strategy;
- Workforce Development Plan;
- Capital Strategy and Asset Management Plan;
- Corporate Procurement Strategy.

Each is detailed below:

Consultation Strategy

- 2.2 What the Council and it's partners should provide by way of services, starts with the citizen or the consumer of the service provided. Consultation is at the heart of policy formulation and is recognised as an essential component in informing the planning and delivery of services to meet people's needs.

Consultation activity is crucial to improving Council services by helping the Council make more informed and better decisions. Consultation is critical in delivering VfM by ensuring that the services delivered are relevant and delivered equitably in the most effective and efficient way. This includes consulting specific hard to reach groups and targeting scarce resources to where they are most needed.

The Council has in place a Corporate Consultation Framework which contains a variety of corporate and service based mechanisms to elicit feedback from stakeholders, clients and consumers of services. Examples of the corporate approach include: the annual MORI Survey of local residents, a comprehensive budget consultation strategy; and the use of the citizen's panel, Community Spirit.

Service based consultation is also widespread and includes the use of Multi Agency Modernisation and Review Groups for discreet services provided in the Social Care sector, and individual service surveys such as the Benefits User Satisfaction Survey, the views of local citizens on the provision of customer service centres, satisfaction with footpaths, and uptake of school meals.

Sunderland Strategy

- 2.3 The Sunderland Strategy sets out those overarching priorities for the City, which the Council, together with its partners, is seeking to address. Being clear about where there is unmet need and priorities for future investment, of itself, seeks to ensure that maximum value is secured from available resources.

The Council and its partners have developed a Phase 2 Local Area Agreement (LAA) which will seek to further improve performance, reduce bureaucracy and streamline funding regimes – this will build upon the Council's successful approach to Local Public Service Agreements (LPSA). These initiatives have a clear objective of joining up disparate funding streams to improve outputs and outcomes for local people through service integration and maximizing economies of scale, which have at their heart the improvement of VfM.

Corporate Improvement Plan

- 2.4 The Corporate Improvement Plan sets out the planned inputs, outputs, and outcomes in relation to each of the services it provides and includes medium term priorities, actions for the year ahead, performance targets and indicators and most importantly the contribution to be made towards implementing and achieving the Sunderland Strategy. It reflects the contributions made to the achievement of the Council's corporate improvement objective - 'securing an efficient and effective Council'. In particular previous years performance and planned actions for securing value for money and efficiency are outlined for each service area.

Medium Term Financial Strategy and Resource Allocation Process

- 2.5 The Medium Term Financial Strategy covers all sources of funding including mainstream capital and revenue, and external funding streams. It has clear objectives which include identifying and addressing priorities for new or increased investment. The process includes:
- detailed consultation in a two stage process with the Citizens Panel, Trade Unions, Chamber of Commerce and other stakeholders on these areas, and both officer and political challenge, thus ensuring that the value from each proposed investment is considered and understood, in terms of expected outputs and outcomes, before resource allocation decisions are taken;
 - consideration of performance information in terms of cost, quality and satisfaction levels in determining priorities for investment;
 - ordering and prioritising services for varying resources including identifying the need for, and exploration of, efficiency savings and reductions to service levels.

External funding is maximised, consistent with addressing the priorities, and the approach to leveraging in external funding, managing the impact of time limited funding, including identifying mainstream funding for the highest priority areas, is clearly set out and understood.

Workforce Development Plan

- 2.6 The Council recognises that a well motivated and skilled workforce is essential to deliver quality services. This applies equally whether services are provided internally, externally or in partnership. The Council's Workforce Development Plan and action plan seek to secure value for money in use of people resources through
- enhancing leadership capacity at all levels within the Council;
 - developing skills and capacity by raising performance and skills at all levels in key areas and developing a workforce that is innovative, committed, flexible, and that can support the continuous improvement agenda;
 - Developing the organisation to ensure that the Council is successful in continually improving the productivity and performance of all of it's services;
 - Resourcing the plan to ensure the right people are in the right place at the right time;
 - Modernising local pay and reward structures to.....support high performance and a highly skilled and flexible workforce;

Some concrete examples of the Plan include:

- plans to increase flexible working including homeworking, hot desking, flexible hours etc.
- development of generic job profiles to increase flexibility;
- streamlining of recruitment and selection for certain categories of job;

The Plan will be regularly reviewed.

Capital Strategy and Asset Management Plan

- 2.7 The Council has a clear and detailed Capital Strategy and Asset Management Plan which aims to provide a coherent framework which will guide investment decisions and maximise the benefits of capital resources, including the use of assets of the Council, but is also intended to help influence the decisions of its key partners.

The strategy is central to the Strategic Planning Processes of the Council and covers all capital expenditure on Council assets including land, buildings, plant, equipment, ICT infrastructure, vehicles, roads and highways and all grants made for capital purposes.

The strategy:

- shows how the investment of capital resources contributes to the achievement of the Council's key objectives and priorities as set out in the Corporate Improvement Plan and the Sunderland Strategy;
- sets out for the benefit of partners the Council's strategy on asset use, development and condition as the basis for complementary capital planning and partnership;
- manages the effective conversion of the Council's capital assets into opportunities for service and quality improvements in support of the Sunderland Strategy;
- helps determine priorities between the various services and look for opportunities for cross cutting and joined up investment;
- provides a framework for the management and monitoring of the capital programme and the operational work of asset management, including the role of Members;
- informs bidding for additional funding and the management of any resources that are won;
- outlines the Council's approach to alternative funding such as PPP and PFI;
- demonstrates how the revenue implications of capital investment will be taken into account in deciding priorities;
- shows how schemes that generate revenue savings may be given priority.

Corporate Procurement Strategy

- 2.8 The Council has put in place and regularly reviews it's Corporate Procurement Strategy which has clear objectives all of which centre on VfM and continuous improvement. The Strategy is accompanied by an Action Plan which is being implemented and is designed to ensure the Council implements best procurement practice.

Key elements include:

- a requirement to periodically explore alternative methods of service delivery across the whole range of the Council's services and that opportunities be taken to utilize alternative methods where there is value in doing so;
- ensuring maximum value is obtained through collaboration and bulk purchasing;
- ensuring that the economic benefits arising from the buying power of the Council, in conjunction with its partners, are maximised.

The Constitution contains Contract Procedure Rules which provide for the acceptance of the most economically advantageous tender rather than the lowest. This is consistent with achieving best VfM because qualitative considerations can be given greater weighting than cost where appropriate.

The Council is the lead authority in Tyne and Wear for the New Approaches to Public Procurement (NAPP) project which will assess all procurements for the opportunity to deliver community benefits including local employment opportunities and re-skilling of the local workforce.

An approval process for all procurements over £50,000 in value is in place which ensures VfM is explicitly considered at the start of each procurement process and duly recorded at the conclusion.

Integrated Planning and Performance Management

- 2.9 The Council's integrated strategic planning and performance management framework ensures that the Council is accountable for the economic, efficient and effective achievement of outcomes through the appropriate planning frameworks e.g. Sunderland Strategy, Corporate Improvement Plan, Service and Business Plans. The framework has been updated and developed further to encompass an approach designed to ensure best use of resources with the results of performance information feeding into planning and appraisal processes. These ensure inputs such as financial, staffing and physical resources, are aligned to priority target outputs and outcomes.

There is a structured approach to performance management which enables the Council to:

- Set objectives and targets;
- Develop action plans;
- Resource and implement objectives;
- Monitor performance;
- Review and report performance at different levels e.g. Sunderland Strategy, Corporate Improvement Plan, Business Plans.

Cabinet and Review Committees review performance through quarterly monitoring, performance agreements, and performance improvement reviews.

Clear action plans are developed and implemented with targets and responsibility for action earmarked to individuals. There is regular reporting and review within Directorates, Cabinet and Review Committees. Such reports include progress against actions within the Corporate Improvement Plan and both best value and local performance indicators. Corrective actions are agreed where necessary to achieve better VfM.

The integrated approach allows informed judgments to be made regarding the allocation of resources.

3. Service Strategies and Plans

Service / Business Plans

3.1 Underpinning the Council's Corporate Improvement Plan are a range of detailed service strategies and business plans which set out at a lower more detailed level the service context, inputs, outputs, actions and targets for the year ahead. These plans generally comprise:

- Environment and Trends;
- SWOT analysis;
- Service Standards;
- Performance Management;
- Inputs e.g. Staff, Finance etc.
- Outputs e.g. Activity Levels etc.
- Benchmarking;
- Risk Management;
- Action Plans.

Benchmarking

3.2 Benchmarking is used extensively across services to identify the scope to improve services and VfM. Benchmarking extends to policies, processes, and costs and improvement actions are identified and implemented.

Unit Costs and Comparative Statistics / Profiles

3.3 The embedded approach to learning from others includes the wide availability and review of CIPFA comparative statistics, Best Value Performance Indicators and Audit Commission Profiles which are used by services to identify actions required to improve VfM.

Internal Consultation

3.4 For all internal services, there are clear service level agreements in place which detail quantitative and qualitative measures and costs / charges relevant to each service. Recipients of services are invited to challenge and influence the shape of services where improvement can be achieved.

Client satisfaction and internal support service surveys are periodically completed to assess the level of satisfaction and to improve the performance of services and VfM.

Staff Appraisals / Performance Agreements

3.5 Staff appraisals or performance agreements are in place for all staff. These capture discreet tasks and actions which attend to business

requirements and ongoing development of the potential of the individual employee and for Directors / Chief Officers include targets for achievement of value for money and efficiency

4. Cross Council Processes

Budget Preparation

- 4.1 An annual cash limited approach to budget preparation provides a clear framework and incentive to maximise efficiency gains and savings. These are then reallocated to new priorities, reinvested in existing priority services to enable the development and improvement of services, or used to mitigate the impact on council tax.

Budgetary Control

- 4.2 Robust budgetary control arrangements, including monthly Directorate reporting and quarterly Cabinet reports, ensure resources are directed and reallocated as necessary and ensure planned outputs / outcomes are achieved and maximised. Directorate / Departmental Budget Management Schemes, based on a corporate template, ensure that budget management responsibilities are clear.

Implementation of a range of modules of the new Financial information System (SAP) during 2004/2005 has enabled improved, more timely budget management reporting information. In addition the system provides for more informed decision making through use of intelligent reporting on procurement. Further developments planned for 2006/2007 will improve the Councils ability to secure savings in procurement in the future.

For a wide range of activities, trading accounts are maintained in accordance with the Best Value Accounting Code of Practice. Clear financial targets are set to achieve best value and performance is monitored in Directorates on a monthly basis and Cabinet reviews performance on a quarterly basis.

Capital Programme Preparation

- 4.3 Clear rules govern resource allocation set out in the Capital Strategy and there are clear incentives for the Council and it's Directorates to maximise resources. For each proposed scheme a capital investment appraisal is undertaken including option appraisal. This details the resource implications, expected outputs and outcomes and linkage to the priorities identified in the Sunderland Strategy.

Capital Programme Monitoring and Accountability

- 4.4 Each scheme or project within the Council's Capital Programme has a project sponsor who carries responsibility for it's successful

implementation, including the delivery of outputs and outcomes originally envisaged in the capital investment appraisal. Monthly capital review meetings are held in each Directorate. Quarterly reports are made to Cabinet on implementation of the Programme and the schemes and projects within it.

Project Management

- 4.5 The Council has adopted the principles of the PRINCE 2 project management methodology suitably customised to meet the needs of the Council. This methodology is applied to all major programmes, projects and schemes and includes a key requirement to establish a robust business case at the outset and undertake post implementation reviews to test out whether and to what extent original objectives, outputs and outcomes have been achieved. The outcome informs actions to be taken for the future to improve project management.

Treasury Management

- 4.6 The Council adopts annually a Treasury Management Strategy which is drafted in line with the 2003 Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities. The Prudential Code requires that Authorities have regard to the affordability, sustainability and prudence of its capital spending plans. The Treasury Management Strategy has reference to economic forecasts and the outlook for interest rates and sets out the approach to be taken on decisions for new borrowing and investments. Risk spread and the timing of borrowing and investment decisions ensure that VfM for current and future Council Taxpayers is achieved.

Internal Review and Challenge

- 4.7 As part of its performance management framework the Council utilises a number of internal review functions and processes to ensure services are challenged and areas for improvement highlighted for attention. These include:

- Internal Audit Services;
- Corporate Policy;
- Performance Improvement Team;
- Corporate Risk Management resources;
- All Cabinet Reports are vetted and assessed for VfM by the City Treasurer and City Solicitor. A template and guide to writing Cabinet Reports includes a reference to all relevant matters including financial implications, efficiency gains and savings, and risk assessments;
- Significant proposals with major policy or financial implications are considered by the Executive Management Team.

Constructive recommendations and advice and guidance is given to seek to ensure improved VfM.

Risk Management

- 4.8 A comprehensive approach to Risk Management is in place and outlined in the Council's Risk Management Strategy and Policy Statement.

The overall aim is to manage risk rather than eliminate it. Too little attention to the control of risk will lead to unnecessary losses and poor performance, whilst too zealous an approach can stifle creativity and service delivery.

The Council has established and maintains a systematic framework and process for managing strategic, corporate and operational risks. All members, employees, service providers, partners and stakeholders are expected to play a positive role in embedding the culture, ethos and practice of risk management in all activities.

The Council recognises that risk management is one of the principal elements of corporate governance and a key contributor to ensuring a sound internal control environment, where resources can be effectively used and VfM optimised.

Corporate Governance

- 4.9 A Local Code of Corporate Governance is in place and is reviewed annually. Whilst the five Dimensions of Corporate Governance do not include VfM explicitly, there is congruence with securing, demonstrating and improving VfM. The arrangements in place are being continually improved.

Strategic Change Programmes

- 4.10 There are a range of Strategic Change Programmes designed to modernize and improve services and secure efficiency gains and savings. These include:
- **Peoplefirst** (a key Programme that informs the national Innovation Forum for Excellent Councils);
 - E Government Programme designed to deliver the requirements of IEG 2004 and ODPM Priority Outcomes;
 - Extra Care Elderly Persons Strategy;
 - Children's Placement Strategy;

Corporate Working Groups / Cross Cutting Efficiency Reviews

- 4.11 There are a range of crosscutting reviews being undertaken which are designed to identify how the Council can maximize efficiency. Current examples include:

- Strategic Property Review
- Human Resource reviews e.g. Flexible Working arrangements, Member Development, Change Leadership Programme.

5. External Perspective

External Inspection and Challenge

5.1 External inspection, review and challenge is used to improve council services and achieve maximum value. External findings are welcomed and acted upon in order to secure improvement and VfM. Examples include:

- Annual Audit and Inspection Letter;
- Comprehensive Performance Assessment and Annual Service Block Assessments;
- Responding to the Gershon Efficiency Review requirements;
- Ofsted Inspection;
- Adult Services Inspection;
- Youth Services Inspection;
- Annual Performance Assessment for Children's Services and, Adult Services;
- Use of external consultants.

Partnership Arrangements

5.2 Partnership working is utilised appropriately to maximise efficiencies in service delivery. The Council can demonstrate significant partnership arrangements to provide opportunities for improved delivery of a major project or service. For example, Sunderland Housing Group, Building Schools for the Future, Clear Channel Empire Theatre Partnership, and Street Lighting PFI project The Council has developed sustainable relationships with suppliers in the public, private, social enterprise or voluntary sectors to develop services.

5.3 Under the Local Strategic Partnership a wide range of thematic and area based partnerships are operated. The Council seeks to support these partnerships and ensure their work is maximized in seeking to address the Strategic Priorities within the Sunderland Strategy.

5.4 The following documents seek to ensure our partnership arrangements secure good corporate governance and VfM:

- Partnership Checklist - setting out issues to address and implicit best practice which has been approved by the Executive Management Team;
- A Partnerships Code of Practice, which sets out best practice in relation to procurement issues.

In accordance with those frameworks the following key requirements apply to all major partnerships:

- an underpinning legally binding agreement setting out the scope, nature, relationship, governance and expectations of the partnership;
- a partnership risk register;
- a performance management framework.

The Audit Commission has recently conducted an external audit review of 'Probity in Partnerships'. Once the report has been finalised the recommendations for improvement will be acted upon.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

Member Roles and Responsibilities

6.1 The Member role of setting policy and monitoring performance is strongly embedded both in the constitutional arrangements and in the way in which they are operated in practice. The clear responsibilities of Cabinet and Cabinet Portfolio Holders allow the Executive to be held to account. The Review Committees also continue to play a valuable role in:

- scrutinising the proposals of the Executive;
- performance monitoring and exercising challenge on the development and implementation of established plans;
- conducting policy reviews;
- receiving the results and monitoring progress in relation to best value strategic and operational performance improvement reviews.
- Developing and reviewing the Budget and Policy Framework and indeed last year every Review Committee received a report and presentation on the draft budget proposals and made comments prior to final approval by the full Council.

A recent review by the Audit Commission suggested ways in which the Council's Review Committee function might become even more effective and its findings are being implemented. In addition, a programme of training for Members is developed annually to provide induction training for new Members and refresher training for existing Members across a range of subjects including VfM related topics.

Clear governance arrangements in relation to the Annual Efficiency Statement including the role of Cabinet, the Policy and Co-ordination Review Committee and other Review Committees. These governance arrangements include explicit responsibilities including scrutiny, review and monitoring.

Attention is also drawn to the arrangements proposed for a new Governance Committee elsewhere on this agenda which will include training and development for Members.

Officer Responsibilities

- 6.2 A comprehensive delegation scheme is operated in accordance with the Council's Constitution. In exercising their delegated powers Chief Officers must act within the law, the Council's Constitution and follow the Council's policy framework including the approved budget.

Part 4, Section 6 Introduction ii) state that 'Financial Procedure Rules provide the framework for the financial administration of the City Council with a view to ensuring that the Council's financial affairs are conducted in a sound and proper manner, constitute VfM and minimise the risk of legal challenge to the Council.'

Financial Procedure Rule 1 states 'All elected members and employees of the City Council should strive to achieve VfM and avoid legal challenge to the Council.

There are other relevant references within the Constitution which reinforce the responsibilities of Chief and other officers.

In accordance with the principles of investors in People Performance Agreements / Staff Appraisal arrangements are in place for all staff including Chief Officers and Heads of Service.

7. How do we Monitor and Measure VfM ?

- 7.1 The references throughout this framework provide a range of mechanisms by which the VfM of the Council and its specific services are monitored and measured. This is encapsulated in both our Strategic Partnership and Corporate Performance Management Arrangements. The building blocks include:

- Capital Investment Appraisals and Post Implementation Review;
- Use of Prince 2 project management methodology;
- Benchmarking;
- Best Value and Local Performance Indicators, Unit Cost and comparator analysis;
- Internal Audit findings and recommendations;
- Strategic and Operational Performance Improvement Reviews reported to Review Committees and Executive Management Team;
- Policy Studies by Review Committees;
- Strategic Change and Modernisation Programmes;
- External challenge including the use of external consultants to help develop VfM approaches;
- External inspection e.g. Ofsted.

7.2 We measure the success of implementing a VfM framework by:

- Monitoring reports to the Local Strategic Partnership and the Council on performance management;
- Monitoring of budgets within targets set taking account of efficiency targets;
- Outturn reports of actuals within budgets;
- Gershon target monitoring through regular reports to Cabinet;
- Reporting through the revised Performance Management framework including the use of performance agreements, performance monitoring and regular reporting;
- Consultation with service users including MORI and service based satisfaction surveys;
- Monitoring reports to EMT on the building blocks;
- Use of Prince 2 project management methodology;
- The range and scope of awards, Chartermarks, accreditation and external recognition of good practice.

Partnership working is utilised appropriately to maximise efficiencies in service delivery.

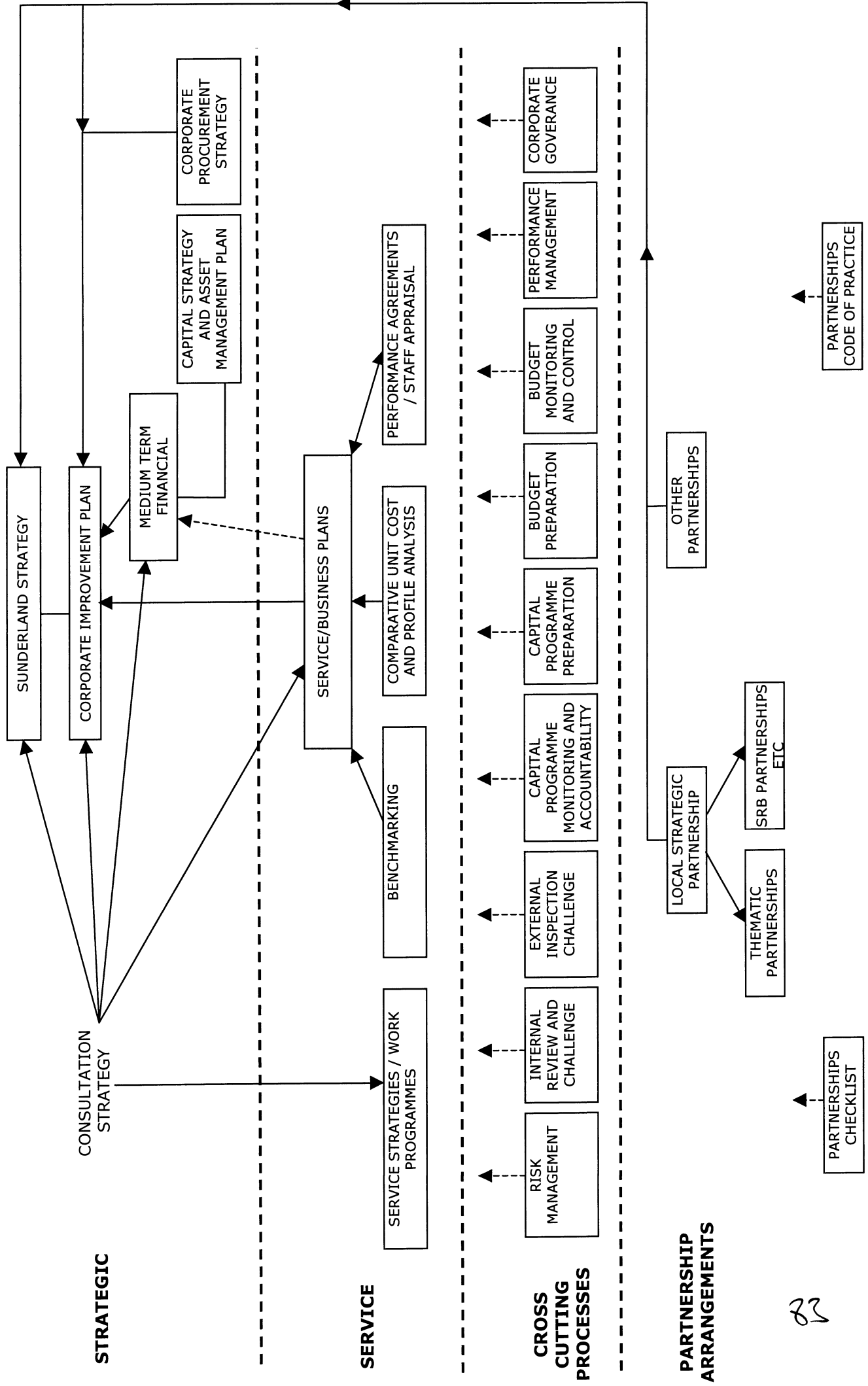
8. Future Improvements to the Framework

8.1 The vast majority of the Strategic Framework set out in this paper is in place and operating. There are a number of development actions set out in the CPA Corporate Assessment Roadmap and Use of Resources Action Plan as reported to April Cabinet which will embed the approach still further in 2006/2007.

9. Future Reviews

9.1 The Value for Money Framework: Driving Improvement in Services and Value for Money will be kept under regular review and updated as necessary.

VFM Framework Driving Improvement in Services and VFM



APPENDIX B - USE OF RESOURCES ACTION PLAN

The initial Use of Resources Action Plan was provided to the Audit Commission in September 2005 as an Appendix to the Council's Self Assessment regarding its Use of Resources Block. The Use of Resources Action Plan addresses each of the Key Lines of Enquiry prescribed by the Audit Commission. The Key Lines of Enquiry are themselves very detailed and whilst an action plan has been put in place to address every area where improvement or development can be achieved, set out below are the main improvement actions which are designed to maintain the Council's performance at Level 3 and hopefully achieve a higher rating in due course.

The Key Lines of Enquiry / Outcomes which are emboldened are mandatory in order to achieve the particular level stated.

Financial Reporting

No.	Action	Lead Officer	Time Scale	Use of Resources Key Line of Enquiry/Outcome
1	Continue with current processes for ensuring major errors do not occur – e.g. regular budget monitoring, understanding and accurate implementation of Financial Reporting Standard Accounting changes. Greater quality assurance during closing of accounts process.	CT /Directorates	Ongoing	The accounts submitted for audit presented fairly and contained: - several non trivial errors (level 2); - a number of trivial errors (level 3); - only errors considered 'clearly trivial'(Level 4).
2	Develop commentary, where appropriate, for 2005/2006 Statement of Accounts. Continue with annual briefing with specialised training for Accounts Committee (proposed Governance Committee) and members and Policy and Co ordination Committee	CT	June 2006 September 2006	The accounts submitted to the council/committee meeting at which they were approved were accompanied by an explanatory paper providing interpretation of the accounts and highlighting key issues for the benefit of members. (Level 3). The accounts were subject to robust member scrutiny/discussion either at the formal approval meeting or at another appropriate forum prior to approval (Level 3).
3	Summary Accounts for 2004/2005 posted on website. Summary Accounts for 2005/2006 posted on the website and in 'Sunrise'.	CT	March 2006 July 2006	* The council publishes summary accounts financial information that meets the needs of a range of stakeholders (now bold) (Level 3).
4	Produce an Annual Report for 2005/2006 in wide variety of formats to meet local needs.	CT / CX / Directorates	July 2006	The council publishes an annual report or similar document which includes summary accounts and an explanation of key financial information/technical terms designed to be understandable by members of the public. (Level 4) in a wide variety of formats to meet local user needs (different languages, large print, speaking version) (Level 4).

Financial Management

No.	Action	Lead Officer	Time Scale	Use of Resources Key Line of Enquiry/Outcome
5	Review 2007/2008 MTFS guidance to develop inclusion of joint plans and partnership arrangements.	CT / CX	May 2006	The medium-term financial strategy describes in financial terms joint plans agreed with partners and other stakeholders (Level 4).
6	Review of current partnership arrangements to ensure appropriate financial performance monitoring.	Directorates / CT	July 2006	The financial performance of significant partnerships is regularly reviewed, linked to outputs, and the results shared with partners and acted upon. (Now bold) (Level 2).
7	Review Member Training Programme in light of consultation with Members to include: - appropriate specialised training e.g. Audit Committee - appropriate mandatory training e.g. risk management; - general financial awareness modules.	CT	May 2006	* There is a regular training programme providing training on financial issues for members and relevant non-finance staff. (now bold) (Level 3).
8	Selected balance sheet items to be incorporated in quarterly budget reviews and further development to be considered.	CT / Directorates	July 2006	The Executive receives accrued financial monitoring reports at appropriate key points during the year, including significant revenue account items and balances (Level 4).
9	Capital Strategy Group to review and develop current processes for appraisal, business plans and affordability tests for policy and capital developments.	CSG/Head of Land and Property/CT	June 2006	There are project appraisals, business plans and affordability tests for new policy and capital developments (Level 3).
10	Updated Capital Strategy to be reported to EMT and Cabinet.	CSG / CT	June 2006	The council has an up to date corporate capital strategy linked to its corporate objectives and medium term financial strategy. (Level 2).
11	Updated Asset Management Plan to be reported to EMT	HoLP	June 2006	The council has an up to date asset register, asset management plan that details existing asset management arrangements and outcomes, and planned action to improve corporate asset use. (Level 2).
12	Update the backlog on Repairs and Renewals – report to EMT and Cabinet initially as part of the Capital Strategy.	HoLP	July 2006	Members are aware of the level of backlog maintenance and have approved a plan to address it as appropriate (Level 3).

88

No.	Action	Lead Officer	Time Scale	Use of Resources Key Line of Enquiry/Outcome
13	Whole life costing and option appraisal to be embedded.	HoLP (assisted by CT as necessary)	July 2006	The Council makes investment and disposal decisions based on thorough option appraisal and whole life costing (Level 3).
14	PIs and benchmarking to be reviewed by the Capital Strategy Group to identify key PIs for performance monitoring purposes.	HoLP / CSG	July 2006	Performance measures and benchmarking are being used to describe and evaluate how the council's asset base contributes to the achievement of corporate and service objectives, including improvement priorities (Level 4).
15	Arrangements for reporting the performance measurement undertaken and benchmarking results to be reviewed by the Capital Strategy Group for input to Annual Report and Corporate Improvement Plan.	HoLP / CSG	July 2006	The results of performance measurement and benchmarking are communicated to stakeholders where relevant (Level 4)

Financial Standing

No.	Action	Lead Officer	Time Scale	Use of Resources Key Line of Enquiry/Outcome
16	Debt Management policy to be reviewed and performance monitoring to be further developed and publicised	CT/Directorates	May 2006	<p>The council sets and monitors targets for all material categories of income collection and recovery of arrears, based on age profile of debt. (now bold) (Level 2).</p> <p>* Monitoring information is available that evaluates the effectiveness of debt recovery actions, associated costs, and the cost of not recovering debt promptly for material categories of income. (Level 3).</p>
17	1st Quarterly Review Reports each year to communicate targets for approval and subsequent reviews used to monitor performance against those targets.	CT	May 2006	Members monitor key financial health indicators and set challenging targets, for example for income collection, levels of variances from budget, prudential framework indicators, capital programme management. (Level 4)
18	The Revenue Outturn 2005/2006 to include the opportunity cost of maintaining reserves and balances where established levels are exceeded.	CT	June 2006	Where target levels for reserves and balances are exceeded, the council has identified and reported to members the opportunity costs of maintaining these levels and compared this to the benefits it accrues. (Level 4)

Internal Control

No.	Action	Lead Officer	Time Scale	Use of Resources Key Line of Enquiry/Outcome
19	<p>To consider revised CIPFA Guidance on Audit Committees and report to Cabinet / Council on recommended changes.</p> <p>Responsibilities to be incorporated in Constitution when revised by City Solicitor.</p> <p>Assess training needs of chair and members of Audit Committee. Prepare and deliver appropriate training.</p>	<p>CT</p> <p>CS</p> <p>CT</p>	<p>April 2006</p> <p>To include in the next review of the Constitution June 2006</p>	<p>The council can demonstrate that it is effectively delivering the core functions of an audit committee, as identified in the CIPFA guidance, that it has provided for the ability to challenge the Executive when required and provide for effective leadership on governance, financial reporting and audit issues. (new) (Level 3)</p> <p>An audit committee has been established that is independent of the executive function, with terms of reference that are consistent with CIPFA's good practice guidance. It provides effective challenge across the council and independent assurance on the risk management framework and associated internal control environment to members and the public, and can demonstrate the impact of its work (new) (Level 4)</p>
20	<p>Include Risk management in Performance Improvement Team quarterly performance reports to Cabinet.</p>	HoPI	July 2006	<p>* The member committee with responsibility for risk management receives reports on a regular basis and takes appropriate action to ensure that corporate business risks are being actively managed, including reporting to full council as appropriate.(level 3)</p> <p>The council can demonstrate that it has embedded risk management in its corporate business processes, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strategic planning • financial planning • policy making and review • performance management <p>(Level 4)</p> <p>All members receive risk management awareness training (Level 4).</p>
21	<p>Consideration of Mandatory training for Members.</p>	CT	April 2006	

No.	Action	Lead Officer	Time Scale	Use of Resources Key Line of Enquiry/Outcome
22	Council wide Business Continuity Plan finalised.	AM	June 2006	The council has a business continuity plan in place which is reviewed on a regular basis Level 2 (new).
23	Review of the outcome of instances of Whistleblowing to be considered by the Governance Committee.	CT	June 2006	The council has a track record for effective action in response to whistleblowing disclosures. There are periodic reviews of the effectiveness of the whistleblowing arrangements, and there are effective arrangements for receiving and acting upon disclosures from members of the public.(Level 4)
24	Corporate Personnel / City Solicitor to develop and include appropriate ethics training to be included as part of a Corporate Induction process / internal induction process.	CHOP / CS	June 2006	The council is proactive in raising the standards of ethical conduct amongst members and staff, including the provision of ethics training (now bold) (Level 3)
25	Carry out Ethical Audit – risk assessment based	CS	June 2006	The council has undertaken an assessment of standards of conduct, including how effectively members are complying with the code of conduct, the number and types of complaints received, and takes action as appropriate (Level 3).
26	Reinforce Counter Fraud activity in Member Training	CT	July 2006	* A strong counter fraud culture is supported and promoted by members and senior officers. (Level 3)
27	Consider specifically risk of fraud in departmental risk management assessments.	CT	June 2006	The risk of fraud and corruption is specifically considered in the council's overall risk management process. (Level 4)

Value for Money

5.1 The council currently achieves good value for money

Evidence that:

- Costs compare well with others allowing for external factors
- Costs are commensurate with service delivery, performance and outcomes achieved
- Costs reflect policy decisions

In addition to general action to require Directorates to provide evidence to update the self assessment using a range of data for June 2006 the following are proposed in response to the revised KLOES (which are subject to consultation).

No.	Action	Lead Officer	Time Scale	Use of Resources Key Line of Enquiry/Outcome
28	<p>Update evidence using VFM profiles, CIPFA Statistics, and benchmarking information to demonstrate for each key service area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - position compared to others in terms of cost, performance (including quality) over 2 years. - reasons for any areas of higher cost compared to others over 2 years and fit with relative Strategic Priorities agreed by the Council. - consideration of actions (if any) to address high costs where high costs linked to higher quality of provision - Report to EMT report and Cabinet? 	PIT/CT/Directors	July 2006	<p>High performance is achieved across a range of priority services whilst costs remain generally low compared to others (Level 4)</p> <p>The council ensures that a range of quality services is delivered appropriate to statutory duties and local needs, whilst maintaining relatively low overall costs including overheads and capital (new) (Level 3).</p> <p>The council ensures that the range of services delivered effectively addresses statutory duties and local needs, and are delivered to high quality standards. Overall spending, including overheads and capital, is consistently below that of comparable councils (new) (Level 4).</p> <p>Areas of higher spending are in line with stated priorities (new) (Level 2).</p> <p>The council can demonstrate a track record for effectively addressing areas of relatively high spending (new) (Level 4).</p>
29	Further development of scope for Invest to Save projects linked to efficiency savings	HoLP/CT	July 2006	There is a sustained track record of investment leading to improved performance and greater long-term efficiency (new) (Level 4).
30	High level post implementation reviews to be considered for all projects. Detailed post implementation reviews to be conducted for a sample of selected projects with reports to EMT to ensure learning is shared across the organisation.	HoLP / CT	July 2006	The council can demonstrate that it evaluates the outcomes from its capital programme and that there are identifiable improvements in service delivery (new) (Level 4).

Value for Money

Key line of enquiry

5.2 The council manages and improves value for money

Audit Focus

Evidence that:

- The council monitors and reviews value for money
- The council has improved value for money and achieved efficiency gains (limited to the last three years)
- Procurement and other spending decisions take account of full long term costs

In addition to general action to update of evidence for self assessment required using a range of data for June 2006 the following are proposed in response to the revised KLOES (which are subject to consultation).

No.	Action	Lead Officer	Time Scale	Use of Resources Key Line of Enquiry/Outcome
31	<p>There are a number of the actions set out in the CPA Corporate Assessment Roadmap contribute directly to the Key Lines of Enquiry within the Value for Money. These will be implemented as part of that Corporate Assessment Action Plan. Relevant Actions are:</p> <p>Action 1 Action 17 Action 21 Action 23 Action 25 Action 28 Action 30</p>	<p>) See Corporate) Assessment) Action Plan))))))</p>	<p>) See Corporate) Assessment) Action Plan))))))</p>	<p>See Corporate Assessment Action Plan</p>
32	<p>Reinforce the consideration of Value for Money during MTFS meetings using benchmarking and financial performance data.</p>	<p>CT / Directors</p>	<p>July - October 2006</p>	<p>The council has a track record of using high quality information and benchmarking on costs and quality to actively manage performance, improve value for money and target resources (new) (Level 4).</p>

94

No.	Action	Lead Officer	Time Scale	Use of Resources Key Line of Enquiry/Outcome
33	Value for Money Framework entitled 'Driving Service Improvement and Value for Money' to be included in Induction for Members and Officers.	All Directorates	May 2006	Achieving and improving value for money is being embedded in the council's culture, for example, through the performance appraisal system (new) (Level 3).
34	Conduct a review of the various mechanisms for undertaking service reviews and ensure approach is holistic	PIT	July 2006	Systematic review and option appraisal has covered all major functions and the findings are acted upon, leading to significant improvements in services and value for money (new) (Level 4)
35	MTFS to review impact of additional investment	CT	July 2006	Significant areas of previous under-performance have been addressed and, where there has been investment, sustained improvements in value for money have been delivered (new) (Level 4)

Cabinet

7th June 2006

Report of Sunderland Youth Justice Plan 2006-07

Report of the Director of Children's Services

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- Update Cabinet on the performance of Sunderland Youth Offending Service during the last year;
- Seek the approval of the Business Plan for 2006-07, in particular the delivery plan against Key Performance Indicators;
- Advise Cabinet of the Youth Offending Service (YOS) inspection in November 2006 and the links to the Joint Area Review and the Council's CPA rating

1.2 The Youth Justice Plan is an Article 4 Plan and therefore requires Cabinet approval.

2. Description of Decision

2.1 To recommend council to:

- Endorse the excellent performance of the YOS in 2005-06, both for its Key performance and it's grading by the Youth Justice Board against its breadth of performance.
- Endorse the innovation and positive engagement with the local media resulting in a significant number of positive news stories.
- Approve the financial planning for 2006-07
- Approve the delivery plan for 2006-07
- Approve the priorities determined by the YOS management board

3. Introduction/ Background.

3.1 Sunderland YOS was formally established in April 2000. It is required to produce a plan each year (Article 4 Plan) outlining contextual information on levels of youth crime in the city, performance against key performance indicators, governance and leadership arrangements and a financial plan for the forthcoming year.

3.2 This year's Youth Justice Plan is particularly important as the service will be inspected in November 2006 and the outturn will feed directly into the Joint Area Review and the Council's CPA.

4. Current position

4.1 The YOS has, for the second year running, become the highest performing in England and Wales for its performance against Key

Performance Indicators. This is a significant achievement in that Sunderland's performance is compared with 155 other services, many of which are in rural areas with low levels of offending and deprivation.

- 4.2 The service has also very recently been judged on the breadth of its performance including ability to improve performance year on year. The service has been awarded top grading of 5 along with only 6 other services in England and Wales.
- 4.3 The YOS has continued to use its robust management performance system to analyse offending data in the City. Once again the service has promoted the fact that out of 30,477 young people aged 10-17 only 1622 offended. 95 % of children and young people in the City do not offend, and this trend has been consistent for the last 4 years.
- 4.4 The YOS and Children's Services have once again worked collaboratively to improve outcomes for looked after children. Work has included the continuation of a Restorative Justice Panel to divert young people from prosecution, and gaining funding for 2 staff to work across the YOS and looked after system to identify children and young people at risk of offending, and provide targeted interventions. This work has recently been quoted by a consultant commissioned by the City to examine Section 17 as " an exemplary approach to corporate parenting " and " we feel we are in a position to judge the work in Sunderland in this regard as excellent"
- 4.5 The service has successfully rolled out its prevention programme across the city for all young people who are at risk of offending. The service now offers comprehensive assessment, and interventions with children and young people from 8 years old, to promote pro social and prevent anti social behaviour. This includes dedicated parenting advice and support.
- 4.6 In addition to excellent performance against indicators and KPI's the service has also been successful in attracting a number of national awards. These include:
 - Howard League for Penal Reform award for outstanding community payback services
 - The Community Care award for its prevention programme run in collaboration with the Sunderland Association Football Club
 - The Youth Justice Board National Press Award for the services excellent engagement with the local media resulting in 26 positive stories about children and young people.
- 4.7 In addition to reporting on performance against the Business plan 2005-06, the Plan sets out key areas for development in 2006-07. These include:
 - sustainability of the budget;

- alignment to a range of specialist programmes and interventions to maximise outcomes for children and young people;
- delivery plan for maintenance/ improvement against KPI's;
- priorities identified by the YOS Management Board;
- Managing the YOS interface between Children's Services and the Criminal Justice Community.

4.8 The YOS continues to have strong governance arrangements in place, and the Director of Children's Services now chairs the Management Board, and provides a direct line of accountability to the Chief Executive of the Council. The Board plays a critical role in ensuring that performance is maintained and that the YOS is prepared for inspection.

4.9 The Board has set a number of priorities for the service. These include:

- joined up management of complex/ high risk cases;
- the identification and assessment of children with learning difficulties;
- alcohol use amongst young people linked to anti social behaviour.

5. Reason for decision

5.1 The Youth Justice Plan is an Article 4 Plan and therefore requires Cabinet approval.

5.2 The plan is particularly significant in 2006-07 as the service will be inspected by a joint inspectorate, (Commission for Social Care, Healthcare Commission, Healthcare Inspectorate Wales, HM inspectorate of Constabularies, Prisons, Probation, Office for Standards in Education and Social Services Inspectorate for Wales).

5.3 The outcome of the YOS inspection will feed directly in the Joint Area Review in January 2007. In addition the YOS APA and Children's services APA – of which the YOS plays a significant role in making a positive contribution will feed directly into the CPA.

6. Alternative options.

6.1 As an Article 4 Plan there is no other option.

7. Relevant Considerations/ Consultations

7.1 Financial Implications - The YOS is funded from a variety of funding sources including significant mainstream funding from the City Council. Since the Youth Justice Plan was prepared funding has been confirmed for 2006/2007 to enable the current level of budgeted expenditure to be maintained. However, as stated in the Plan, a number of funding sources are time limited which requires the medium term financial position to be regularly reviewed. This exercise has and

will continue to be considered as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy. Efforts will continue to secure appropriate contributions from partner agencies as originally planned by government when the Youth Offending Service was established.

7.2 Legal Implications - The City Solicitor is represented on the YOS Management Board. There are no specific legal implications to draw to Members attention.

7.3 Risk analysis - the links of YOS inspections to the Joint Area Review and CPA can pose potential risk in terms of capacity to respond. However the performance of the service over the last 2 years has been excellent, as has the number of awards the service has attracted for creativity and innovation. It is viewed therefore that the YOS inspection will provide valuable input into both processes.

7.4 Reduction in Crime and Disorder - Cohesion/ Social Inclusion -

the review of the Council's obligations under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 has recently been reviewed. The draft report identifies some of the work between the YOS and Children's Service in relation to looked after Children as "excellent" and "exemplary". The service continues to highlight the city as a safe place to live and work-being able to provide comprehensive data on children and young people who offend and highlighting that year on year 95 % of children and young people don't offend.

8. List Of Appendices

Youth Justice Plan 2006-07.

9. Background Papers

Youth Justice Planning Guidance (England and Wales) 2006-07

**HETTON DOWNS AREA ACTION PLAN:
REPORT ON OPTIONS AND ISSUES FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION****Report of the Director of Development and Regeneration****Item No.4****1.0 Purpose of the Report**

1.1 The purpose of this report is:

- i) to present the consultants' Report on Options and Issues for development in the Hetton Downs area; and
- ii) to seek Cabinet's recommendation to Council that the Report on Options and Issues be approved as the basis of public consultation to identify a preferred option to be taken forward in the preparation of an Area Action Plan for the area.

2.0 Description of Decision

2.1 Cabinet is requested to recommend to Council that the Report on Options and Issues be approved as the basis for public consultation.

3.0 Background

3.1 The results of a private sector housing condition survey of the City in 2002 prompted the commissioning in 2003 of a Neighbourhood Renewal Assessment (NRA) of housing on Downs Lane (odd numbers) and Nicholas Street. The NRA found that the properties exhibited the symptoms of rundown housing with high vacancy rates, severe levels of disrepair and unfitness, low demand and low value and an over representation of the private rented sector. They represented some of the poorest quality housing in the City and there was an urgent need for a programme of housing renewal to prevent localised market failure rippling out into the wider Hetton Downs area. The NRA concluded that the downward spiral of decline could only be arrested with direct intervention and that the clearance of these properties would achieve a highly positive impact, sustainable in the long term by creating the opportunity for the provision of new housing.

3.3 As a result of the above findings, the City Council embarked on a programme of property acquisition and demolition in selected streets in an effort to halt the decline of the area, funded and supported by English Partnerships.

3.4 However, it was also apparent from the options generated in the NRA process that such housing renewal must take place in the context of a wider, area-based regeneration programme for the area.

- 3.5 Accordingly, in May 2005, Nathaniel Lichfield and Partners were appointed by the City Council to commence the preparation of an Area Action Plan for the Hetton Downs Area, to be taken forward for formal adoption as part of the City's new Local Development Framework.
- 3.6 An Area Action Plan will provide a robust planning framework for the area, a key mechanism for the area's long-term sustainable regeneration.
- 3.7 An Area Action Plan for the Hetton Downs area is now included as a Development Plan Document in the Council's Local Development Framework Draft Local Development Scheme (April 2006).

4.0 Progress to Date

- 4.1 The consultants have undertaken a comprehensive review of relevant national, regional and local policy and a baseline assessment of the area. Subsequently, a range of front-loaded initial consultations have been undertaken with local residents, stakeholders (including Sunderland Housing Group), service providers and a Community Reference Group to identify those issues considered significant in the local community. These consultations included meetings and workshops in the local community.
- 4.2 Significant issues that were identified have focussed on housing, environmental quality, community facilities and safety, transport and highways, and the local economy.

5.0 The Options and Issues Report

- 5.1 The consultants' Options and Issues Report is attached as an appendix to this report.
- 5.2 Based on the outcome of the above initial consultations, 4 development options for the area have now been produced to address the identified issues. These 'land use visions' are set out in the accompanying consultants' report and seek to provide the framework for a programme of potential development over the next 15 to 20 years.
- 5.3 Each of the options sets out a number of key development elements and indicates how these will address the relevant identified issues to ensure the long term sustainability of the area and its population. The broad proposals in each are as follows.
- 5.4 Option 1 assumes that current interventions in the area will continue and is focused on dealing with the existing areas of poor housing demand, with demolitions and new housing proposed in those areas. It proposes a net loss of about 70 houses in the area. Improvements to Market Street and the support of businesses there are envisaged together with investment in the older housing areas around Regent Street and The Avenue. Elsewhere there would be investment in public open spaces, pedestrian and cycle routes. Eppleton Quarry is seen as

reclaimed and heavily forested around a series of small lakes and ponds to create a mainly passive recreational resource, with Great North Forest planting at appropriate places elsewhere on the periphery of the area.

- 5.5 Option 2 is more ambitious, adding more new housing on sites beyond the current problem areas (together with increased numbers of demolitions providing a net increase of approximately 60 houses in the area). Limited new retail premises are also proposed. The reclaimed quarry is seen as a formal extension to the Hetton Lyons Country Park, providing active recreational opportunities (for example playing pitches and associated facilities). More direct access to this extended Country Park will be required. The upgrading of Hetton Park is also proposed to improve its contribution to the environmental quality of the area.
- 5.6 Option 3A extends proposals for new housing still further, towards the northern boundary of the area (net increase of about 105 houses but also involving higher numbers of demolitions and new houses). Together with the possible re-structuring of the Sunderland Housing Group estate at Broomhill this adds the possibility of creating a new, more direct access to the area from Houghton Road (at present, the area suffers from poor accessibility, involving sometimes tortuous routes). Limited additional commercial premises are also added.
- 5.7 Option 3B builds on Option 3A with alternative configurations of new housing areas (net increase 115) and additional opportunities for Great North Forest planting to emphasise the settlement break between Hetton and Houghton le Spring to the north.
- 5.8 Larger scale plans illustrating the various options will be displayed at the Cabinet meeting.

6.0 Proposed Public Consultation

- 6.1 The preparation of an Area Action Plan to be adopted as a Development Plan Document as part of the City's Local Development Framework must follow the correct statutory procedure under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, associated regulations and government guidance. These include requirements to ensure that the community is able and encouraged to participate throughout the preparation process. Such requirements are reflected in the City Council's Statement of Community Involvement (Submission Stage), recently presented to Government Office North East for independent examination by the Planning Inspectorate. An approved Statement of Community Involvement is a required part of the Local Development Framework.
- 6.2 The early involvement of the community has already been achieved through the initial consultations outlined in Section 4 above.

- 6.3 In further accordance with the above requirements, it is proposed that the Options and Issues will be subject to a 6-week public consultation exercise.
- 6.4 The purpose of the consultation is to identify a community-led preferred option for change, to form the basis of an Area Action Plan. The preferred option may be one of those outlined above or a new option may emerge, possibly amalgamating different elements of each.
- 6.5 The consultation will commence with a 1-day neighbourhood exhibition in July hosted by the consultants. This will be followed by a 6-week period during which the options and issues plans will be displayed in the local community at appropriate locations, with representatives from the City Council present at specified times to deal with queries from members of the public. The public will be given the opportunity to comment on the options and identify the one they prefer.
- 6.6 The responses to the consultation exercise will be analysed and the conclusions reflected in the selection of a preferred option to be taken forward in an Area Action Plan. The Area Action Plan will subsequently be the subject of public consultation and amended if necessary before submission to the Secretary of State for formal examination (the submitted Area Action Plan will be subject to further public consultation at this time). Following the formal examination of the Area Action Plan it must be amended in accordance with the Planning Inspector's legally binding recommendations (if any) before adoption as part of the City of Sunderland Local Development Framework. The anticipated timescale of the process up to the adoption of the Area Action Plan is April 2009, although this process will not necessarily delay the implementation of acceptable development and other improvements, including proposals in the emerging Local Delivery Plans for the Hetton Downs area also being prepared by the consultants.
- 6.7 The delivery of proposals contained in the Area Action Plan will be reliant on the availability of appropriate investment and other resources. Where that delivery requires the Council's investment and resources, proposals will have to be prioritised against other Council projects and programmes.

7.0 Reason for the Decision

- 7.1 The decision will facilitate public consultation and community involvement in the selection of a preferred development option to be taken forward in the preparation of an Area Action Plan for the Hetton Downs area, in accordance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (Submission Stage).

8.0 Alternative Options

- 8.1 The alternative would be to not consult the local community on the development options for the Hetton Downs area. However, this would not comply with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement

(Submission Stage). Consequently, any resulting Area Action Plan would be unlikely to be approved by the Secretary of State as part of the Council's Local Development Framework (i.e. would not be able to demonstrate the support of the local community) and would therefore carry little or no weight in determining planning applications or promoting development in the area.

9.0 Consultations

- 9.1 The City Treasurer and City Solicitor have been consulted and have confirmed there are no significant financial or legal implications for the Council in approving the Options and Issues Report as a basis for public consultation.

10.0 Background Papers

- 10.1 The following background documents are relevant to this report:

City of Sunderland Private Sector Housing Condition Survey (David Adamson & Partners) (2002).
City of Sunderland Neighbourhood Renewal Assessment: Eppleton Ward (David Adamson & Partners)(October 2003).
Consultancy Brief for Development and Implementation of Regeneration Plans: Castletown and Hetton Downs Areas.
Hetton Downs Strategic Context (Nathaniel Lichfield & Partners) (October 2005).
Hetton Downs Area Action Plan: Baseline Assessment Report (Nathaniel Lichfield & Partners) (October 2005).
Hetton Downs Area Action Plan: Sustainability Appraisal - Scoping Report (Nathaniel Lichfield & Partners) (December 2005).
Hetton Downs Area Action Plan Report on Issues and Options (Nathaniel Lichfield & Partners) (May 2006).
Sunderland City Council Local Development Framework: Draft Local Development Scheme (April 2006).

Action on Petitions

ACTION TAKEN ON PETITIONS

Council Members are asked to note the action taken in relation to the undermentioned petitions which had been presented to Council:-

- (i) **Petition to erect 'No Ball Games Allowed' signs on six sites in the Farringdon area. Presented by Councillor S. Porthouse on 28th September, 2005**

The Director of Development and Regeneration forwarded the petition to the Sunderland Housing Group who decided not to erect the 'No Ball Games Allowed' signs as the grassed areas detailed in the petitions serve a useful purpose in providing essential safe playing areas to the children living in Farringdon. The lead petitioner has been notified of the decision.

- (ii) **Petition from the residents of Lakeside Village to protest against the changes to bus services. Presented by Councillor Porthouse on 28th September, 2005**

The Passenger Transport Authority considered the petition and decided that with the continued availability of commercial services, albeit including changing buses in a few cases, to meet residents travel requirements, there was no justification for any action to be taken by NEXUS to secure any additional service. The lead petitioner has been notified of the decision.

*Annual Reports
of Review Committees*

COUNCIL

28 JUNE 2006

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CULTURE & LEISURE REVIEW COMMITTEE
2005/2006**

REPORT OF THE CITY SOLICITOR

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report provides a summary of the work of the Review Committee during 2005-2006.

2. Introduction

This is the fourth Annual Report of the Culture & Leisure Review Committee.

3. Operation of Committee

- 3.1 The Committee met 10 times during 2005-06. On 23 November 2005 Council approved a revised remit for the Committee to reflect best fit. The Review Committee's new remit included the addition of allotments, registrars, licensing policy, play in parks and heritage.

- 3.2 The Committee has investigated topics through formal reports, written and oral evidence, taken evidence from users and by making site visits.

- 3.3 A total of 43 reports and presentations were taken to Committee across the eight categories of the Work Programme as follows:

◆	Policy Review & Development	(14)
◆	Monitoring & Evaluation	(12)
◆	Policy Framework	(2)
◆	Performance Improvement	(5)
◆	Consultation	(2)
◆	Information & Awareness Raising	(8)
◆	Members' Items	(0)
◆	Call In	(0)

- 3.4 The Work Programme was delivered as set out at the start of the Council year with appropriate flexibility to allow for new and emerging issues.

Items considered as set out in the work programme	39
New items of business added to the work programme	4
Items removed or deferred from work programme	3

3.5 Three of the 43 items, (2 being new business) were referrals from Cabinet. Items removed or deferred were either because the item was no longer relevant or further work is to be carried out prior to review. 11 of the 43 reports / presentations were received from external organisations.

3.6 Reports delivered within the 12 service areas of the Committee remit were:

Libraries/ Museums	Arts Development	Culture	Community Associations	Sports Development	Marketing & Tourism	General
3	2	2	1	5	2	22
Leisure (including facilities)	Recreation & Play	Registrars	Allotments	Licensing Policy	Heritage	
2	2	1	0	0	1	

3.7 The 'general' category includes items about the processes and administration of overview and scrutiny, government consultations, performance reports covering all aspects of the Directorates service delivery and other corporate performance data as well as reports and presentations from external organisations.

4. Policy Review & Development

4.1 These reports covered 2 separate policy reviews.

4.2 2005-06 - Volunteering

The main aim of the review was to develop a better understanding of voluntary and community sector organisations and the working relationship as defined by the principles of the Sunderland Compact. The review was not able to investigate the bulk of the Council's involvement with the VCS and was limited to enquiring into the Council's relationship with the VCS specifically in delivering cultural, social, and recreational activities within the community.

Evidence for the review was mainly gathered through monthly meetings using a themed approach. Four recommendations will be put to the Executive.

4.3 2004-05 - Sunderland Seafront

Last year the Committee considered options for the development of the Sunderland's coastline with the aim of increasing attraction for residents and visitors to the City. Progress on implementation of the recommendations will be presented under a separate report on this agenda.

5. Monitoring & Evaluation

5.1 This category allows for overview and evaluation of the implementation of policy, strategy and change management.

5.2 Cultural Programming and Activity

The Committee received two progress reports on the aims of the Cultural Strategy launched in August 2003. The Sunderland Partnership has established a Thematic Partnership for 'Extending Cultural Opportunities' and a number of objectives have been identified as key priorities.

The Committee will continue to seek to evaluate improvement in these areas.

5.3 Play & Urban Games

A Young People's Play and Urban Games Strategy was endorsed in March 2004. The Committee have been informed of the changes and actions since.

A group of young people from the Fullwell area came to the Committee to meet with Members to talk about local provision and to explain their involvement in planning for Wheeled Skate Park facilities. The Committee suggested that the young people visit the facilities at Silksworth skatepark to see what could be achieved and this visit took place in August 2005.

5.4 Sport & Physical Activity

The Review Committee in its review of the Sports Development Service (2003-04) identified recommendations and improvements through its report 'Sport In Sunderland Staying Ahead Of The Game', which was presented to Cabinet on 14 July 2004. The Review has contributed significantly to the development of the Council's Sports and Physical Activity Strategy.

The Strategy is supported by a detailed Action Plan 1 with specific objectives and the Committee will continue to monitor developments and improvements.

5.5 Leisure Facilities

The Committee received an outline of the progress made since October 2004 in tackling issues and developing the proposals of Leisure Facilities Development Action Plan.

5.6 Playing Pitches

Members were provided with a progress report on the current position in relation to the hire of pitches and developments over the last twelve months.

The Committee was notified that further work is required so that when resources are available the priorities for action are clear. Without this approach sustainable development that improves the Council's facilities will not necessarily be achieved. The work will be undertaken over the next year, in the form of a full review, which will consult with key partners and agree the areas and priorities for investment and how they will be reviewed on a bi-annual basis so that the plan continues to be needs driven.

The Committee will seek to monitor developments arising from this review in the 2006-07 Committee cycle.

5.7 PE & School Sports

Through the work of the School Sport Partnership and the Federation initiatives and programmes that contribute towards the objectives set out in the strategy have been delivered. The Committee was informed of revised objectives and actions within the PE & School Sports Strategy to evaluate they are impacting in a positive way.

5.8 Resorts Service

Each year the Committee is provided with a monitoring report from the Resorts Service provided at Roker and Seaburn during the Summer Season. The report provides the Committee with a beach lifeguard incident summary, an events summary and details of training and development for staff.

The figures with regard to advice to dog owners remained consistent with the previous season.

6. Policy Framework

6.1 This category refers to the plans and strategies contained in Article 4 of the Council's constitution. The Review Committee is required to be consulted by Cabinet for advice and consideration on these plans and strategies.

6.2 Library Standards & Impact Measures

Introduced by Government, the Public Library Service Standards monitor performance such as user satisfaction, quality of stock and commitment towards E-government. Standards were revised in 2004 and have now been reduced from 19 to 10.

Impact Measures were introduced in 2005 to complement the standards. The Measures have been selected to demonstrate evidence of the impact public libraries have on people and communities and to be used as a tool for advocating the effectiveness of public libraries in delivering to a wide-ranging agenda.

The current situation regarding PLSS and Impact Measures was reported to the Committee in January and October 2005. The Committee will continue to monitor performance against the standards.

7. Performance Improvement

7.1 The Review Committee is responsible for keeping track of how the Council is actually doing in delivery of services through performance monitoring. The

Council's Performance Improvement reports are taken in this category as well as statutory and local performance indicators.

7.2 Engaging and Delivering Services for Young People

This Performance Improvement review considered engagement with young people, looking at how the Council and partners consult with young people and involve them in the democratic process.

The review also concentrated on the enjoyment aspiration for young people. This takes account of how leisure, play and social and cultural activities, positively impact on young people (i.e. achievement, health and well-being, participation and citizenship, protection, social inclusion and equality).

The Committee was provided with progress on the key achievements.

7.3 Making Sunderland a Greener Place

This Performance Improvement Review includes key objectives of development of outdoor play space to ensure the needs of older children and young adults are addressed and in line with the enhanced government quality and European Safety Standards.

8. **Consultation**

8.1 This category provides opportunity for Cabinet and Directorates to consult with the Committee and also allows consideration of external consultation documents e.g. from the Department for Culture, Media and Sports (DCMS).

8.2 DfES Consultations

Five Government consultation papers were brought to the Committee's attention during the year.

The Committee was particularly interested in the Three-Year Licensing Policy Statement Regulations exploring DCMS current thinking about the Regulations. Sunderland's Three-Year Licensing Policy Statement was approved by Council on 24th November 2004. A review of the Policy Statement will begin this year with new proposals incorporating any changes to the Regulations proposed by DCMS following this current consultation. The Committee will seek to be kept informed of new policy in this area.

The Committee was invited to respond to the DCMS consultation on Share of National Lottery Support to the arts and film, heritage and sport.

9. **Information & Awareness Raising**

9.1 This category provides the Committee with information on new developments and allows flexibility to respond to new and developing issues.

9.2 World Heritage Status

Members received a report on heritage activity, specifically the Council's role in the development of the bid for World Heritage Status (WHS). Sunderland City Council is working closely with South Tyneside Council to support the needs of the World Heritage Site project for the Wearmouth-Jarrow monasteries. A Project Co-ordinator will work on behalf of the two Authorities to bring enhancement to the WHS project.

The Committee was also provided with the Local Heritage Strategy launched in March 2005 with seven key aims.

9.3 Creativity in Arts in Education

Creativity and the Arts in Education is a key priority for both the Culture and Tourism Service and Children's Services.

The Committee received a joint presentation highlighting the collaborative work and how the Strategy ensures that the Council is working inclusively with national, regional and local initiatives and best practice.

Partners involved in implementing the strategy include Community and Cultural Services, Children's Services, specialist art colleges and external agencies, such as The Forge.

Following this presentation the Committee visited one of The Forge's projects at Quarry View Primary School in November 2005. Members were able to observe a practical workshop as part of the Small World Big Dream project.

9.4 Image Strategy

In October 2005 the Committee was informed of the progress made on implementing the Sunderland Image Strategy over the past 12 months.

9.5 Creative Partnerships

The Creative Director for the Durham / Sunderland area attended the Committee to provide a briefing on the work of the Partnership.

Creative Partnerships Durham / Sunderland operates over a large geographical area covering urban and rural schools. To date, work has been done with 110 different artists and cultural partners and long-term collaborations are established with 30 individuals and organisations.

9.6 Community Sports Network

The Committee was notified in January 2006 of a change in organisation to the current approach to the Area Sport and Leisure Forums. The Forums were initially established to identify and build capacity on an area basis. The

Forums were subsequently refocused as a consultation vehicle to tackle issues relating to Sport and Leisure provision within the local communities.

Changes within the national and local context gave rise to a review of the arrangement which resulted in the proposal of a Community Sport Network. The Network will be an interactive database of members who will receive a package of benefits and support. Network members will be asked to provide basic data on their work and progress, and share information. This 'core' support would rely upon a website, which will have the key resources such as funding information, key contacts, examples of good practice and 'directories'. Community Sports Network Events will also be a feature and provide the opportunity to both share information and celebrate success.

9.7 Registration Service

In November 2005 Council approved a revised remit for the Culture and Leisure Review Committee to reflect best fit. This included the addition of the registration service to the Committee's remit and the Committee received a briefing from the Registration Services Manager about key services.

9.8 MORI

Findings from the 2005 MORI Residents Survey were provided to the Committee in March 2006. Key messages emerging from the MORI survey within the Committee's remit include volunteering, facilities for young people, satisfaction levels with beaches, parks and open spaces, play and sport, events and places to go and things to do.

This data will assist the Committee as it establishes its priorities for the 2006-07 Work Programme.

10. New Issues and Future Development

- 10.1 Feedback from Members: During the year Members were invited to provide feedback following meetings. Questions asked were: what do you think went particularly well; what more could have been done to help you contribute; do you need any more information on the issues discussed. 9 feedback forms were completed in total.

Members thought there were some excellent presentations during the year which were concise and well-explained. Particularly, PE and school sports strategy and playing pitches, creativity and the arts in education and the libraries, heritage and museums work with voluntary sector in relation to clarity of the information.

Members thought the conditions of the meeting room occasionally hindered the meeting, particularly the difficulty in being able to hear speakers.

Where specific information was requested in relation to agenda items the requests were pursued with the relevant officer and member outside of the meeting.

- 10.2 Web Page: A web page for overview and scrutiny has been redeveloped and now includes details of members of the Committee and links to all previous policy reviews as well as news of current work programmes.
- 10.3 Scrutiny Room: During 2004-05 the layout and design of the committee room used for overview and scrutiny was re-designed and now provides clarity to the public on the respective roles of those attending and supporting review. Feedback provided from Members during 2005-06 on the practical use of the room suggests improvements are required in presenters being audible and the presentations on screen being visible. Improvements are currently being planned for additional microphones and individual visual display units.

11. Conclusion & Recommendations

- 11.1 Members are asked to note the operation, achievements and impact of the Culture and Leisure Review Committee during 2005-06.

Background Papers

Culture & Leisure Review Committee Reports 2005-06

Contact Officer : Karen Brown 0191 553 1004

karen.brown@sunderland.gov.uk

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES REVIEW COMMITTEE
2005/2006**

REPORT OF THE CITY SOLICITOR

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report is a summary of the work of the Review Committee during 2005-06.

2. Introduction

- 2.1 This is the fourth Annual Report of the Review Committee and the first in its new role as the Children's Services Review Committee.

3. Operation of the Committee

- 3.1 The Committee met 12 times during 2005-06. The first 6 meetings were as the Education Review Committee and thereafter as the Children's Services Review Committee.
- 3.2 On 23 November 2005 Council approved the role for the Committee to reflect the Council's integrated Children's Services responsibilities. The Children's Services Review Committee took forward a revised remit. This transferred responsibility for reviewing adult education to the Health & Well-Being Review Committee which considers adult citizenship and took on responsibility for reviewing children's social care.
- 3.3 The Committee has investigated topics through formal reports, written and oral evidence, and taken evidence from head teachers and teachers.
- 3.4 A total of 68 reports and presentations were taken to Committee across the eight categories of the Work Programme as follows:
- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|------|
| ◆ | Policy Review & Development | (19) |
| ◆ | Monitoring & Evaluation | (14) |
| ◆ | Policy Framework | (4) |
| ◆ | Performance Improvement | (16) |
| ◆ | Consultation | (6) |
| ◆ | Information & Awareness Raising | (8) |
| ◆ | Members' Items | (0) |
| ◆ | Call In | (1) |
- 3.5 The Work Programme was delivered as set out at the start of the Council year with appropriate flexibility to allow for new and emerging issues.

Items considered as set out in the work programme	48
New items of business added to the work programme	20
Items removed or deferred from work programme	5

3.6 Five items (4 being new business) were referrals from Cabinet. Items removed or deferred were either because the item was no longer relevant or further work is to be carried out prior to review.

3.7 Reports delivered within the 11 service areas of the Committee remit were as follows:

Schools	Special Education Support	School Governors	Special Units	Youth Services	Citizenship
37	3	0	0	2	3
Youth Parliament	Derwent Hill	Social Care	Youth Offending	Sure Start	General
0	0	2	1	1	19

3.8 It should be noted that the Work Programme was compiled under the remit of the original Education Review Committee. The balance of work is expected to be less school orientated during 2006-07 and more joined-up in its approach to reviewing integrated children's services.

3.9 The 'general' category includes items relating to the processes and administration of overview and scrutiny, government consultations, performance monitoring of all aspects of service delivery and corporate performance data.

4. Policy Review & Development

4.1 Reports covered 3 separate policy reviews.

4.2 2005-06 – Community Use of School Facilities

The Review topic was chosen by Members of the Committee to consider how more use could be made of school buildings and fundamentally was a review of progress across the city. The scope of the review was to some extent overtaken by the emerging Government agenda for extending services from school sites. Six recommendations will be put to the Executive.

4.3 2005-06 - Educational Psychology Service

The Committee commissioned research to evaluate whether schools are receiving the educational psychological support they require. Following the completion of the commissioned research the Committee carried out its own

consultation with schools which indicated broad agreement with the conclusions of the research. This was considered by Children's Services as part of an internal review of the service.

Progress on service delivery will be reported to the Review Committee during 2006-07.

4.4 2004-05 – Out of School Hours Learning (Study Support)

Last year the Committee made seven recommendations following a review of the planning, funding, sustainability, and capacity to deliver study support programmes. Following approval by the Executive of the recommendations a number of measures were put in place to deliver the proposals.

Implementation has been ongoing throughout the year with a Forward Strategy developed. The Forward Strategy is presented separately on this agenda. The Committee will now be able to monitor resulting improvements.

5. Monitoring & Evaluation

5.1 This category allows for overview and ongoing evaluation of the implementation of policy, strategy and change management.

5.2 Monitoring of Racist Incidents in Schools

The monitoring of racist incidents in schools by LEAs started in 2002 and was a requirement of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000.

Since Autumn 2002 an optional proforma for the recording of individual incidents has been in use in schools, together with a compulsory form for termly reports to Children's Services. These termly reports are also considered by the Review Committee.

The Committee has requested a compilation of all incidents recorded to date and details of any research and analysis prepared within Children's Services. This will be provided to a meeting early in the new Work Programme for 2006-07.

5.3 PupilsFirst

The Committee received the 3rd and 4th bi-annual reports detailing the achievements of pupils at Key Stages 2, 3 and 4, the extension of the programme to Phase 2 schools and developments and outcomes within the two strands of Grow Your Own and Junior Intermediate Labour Market.

Following consideration of the Forward Strategy, the Chairman on behalf of the Committee submitted written support for continuation of funding for the project through the next round of the NRF to embed key strands of the project and to develop a new project to target vulnerable young people using the Pupils First methodology.

5.4 School Improvement Partners

The Committee was briefed about government proposals to introduce School Improvement Partners as part of the New Relationship with Schools and potential implications for Sunderland.

5.5 Building Schools for the Future and Academies

The Committee received the outcomes of a city-wide consultation on proposals for Building Schools for the Future (BSF), Sunderland Academies and falling rolls in the secondary sector.

This was followed by consideration of firm proposals for three Sunderland model academies.

The (BSF) Programme is an important issue for the Committee. The programme will result in huge investment in Sunderland's secondary schools. The first stage of the programme required the delivery of a 'Sunderland Model' for secondary education and the Committee made a number of important contributions to the development of this vision. The Committee will continue to be involved in the development of the programme.

5.6 Schools Workforce Remodelling

The statutory framework to deliver the National Agreement on Raising Standards and Tackling Workload and the remodelling agenda was a three-year programme between September 2003 and September 2005. The Committee monitored progress in delivering the programme and was briefed in March 2006 that Sunderland's schools fully comply with the statutory requirements of the National Agreement in terms of all three phases.

6. Policy Framework

6.1 This category refers to the plans and strategies contained in Article 4 of the Council's constitution. The Review Committee is required to be consulted by Cabinet for advice and consideration on these plans and strategies.

6.2 ESP & Post-Ofsted Action Plan

The ESP3 incorporates action plans for improvement in line with the thirteen areas for development identified by Ofsted in the January 2005 inspection. Responding to these recommendations is a statutory requirement with timescales determined nationally.

The Review Committee received an evaluative report in October 2005. The subsequent move to integrated Children's Services will require future performance reporting to be within the priorities of the Children and Young People's Plan.

6.3 Children and Young People's Plan

The Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) is a single, strategic, overarching plan for all services affecting children and young people. The first CYPP was in place by 1 April 2006.

The Committee was consulted early on the draft Plan and endorsed the final version in March 2006. The Review Committee will have the role of evaluating performance against the priorities of the Plan.

7. **Performance Improvement**

7.1 The Review Committee is responsible for keeping track of how the Council is actually doing in delivery of services through performance monitoring.

7.2 Statutory and local performance indicators are received and assessed under this category. External inspection of schools and services is also included here.

7.3 Annual Performance Assessment

In 2005 Sunderland underwent its first Annual Performance Assessment (APA) by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) and the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted). The APA assesses specific contributions to improving outcomes for children and young people, through the development of children's services.

The provisional judgements were reported to Review Committee in October 2005 with final confirmation of judgements, strengths and areas for improvement, made by the inspectors reported in December 2005.

A Joint Area Review (JAR) of services for all children and young people will commence between January and May 2007. A second APA will take place before the JAR in May 2006.

7.4 School Ofsted Inspection Reports

The Review Committee routinely receives all Ofsted school inspection reports. This is in order to discuss the quality and standards of education in individual schools and to examine Children's Services' work with schools requiring support and action plans for improvement.

During 2005-06 the Review Committee received a total of 31 school reports plus the action plans for two schools.

This period of time covered the transition by Ofsted to new school inspection arrangements and the Committee also considered the Council's support to schools in preparing for the new short notice inspections.

The Review Committee amended its own protocol for monitoring and evaluating school Ofsted reports to reflect the new judgements. The Committee also decided to receive feedback from the School Inspection Team on action taken where inspection judgements are grade 3 or lower.

7.5 Annual Report in Figures 2005

This is a key document for Children's Services, Elected Members, Schools, Governors, other directorates and stakeholders.

The report shows performance over a range of indicators and measures, including attainment of pupils in statutory tests, their patterns of attending and exclusions in school, and special needs etc. The report also relates to the education scorecard of targets to be found in the Council's Corporate Plan and the Education Single Plan.

The Review Committee scrutinise the Annual Report in Figures each year.

7.6 Audit Commission Schools' Survey 2005

The Audit Commission (AC) conducts an Annual Survey of schools in England canvassing the opinions of schools about the quality of services provided by Local Education Authorities (LEAs). The survey is voluntary for both schools and LEAs. Sunderland LEA participates every year and schools are positively encouraged to participate.

The survey allows the Committee to judge views of schools in Sunderland and compare the responses to the previous year to measure improvement. This also allows the Committee to benchmark Sunderland's performance with other LEAs.

- 7.7 Other reports under the Performance Improvement category included a detailed report on improvement at Key Stage 3 and the developing whole school approach incorporating KS3 and KS4, the Secondary Strategy. The CPA Direction of Travel Statement was also considered.

8. Consultation

- 8.1 The Executive and Children's Services are able to consult with the Review Committee. This category also allows consideration of external consultation documents e.g. from the DfES.

8.2 DfES Consultations

The Committee was consulted by Children's Services on two major consultation documents relating to early years and childcare issues issued by the DfES (Sure Start Unit).

A further 16 Government consultation papers were brought to the Committee's attention during the year.

8.3 Children's Centre's Phase 2

In September the Committee was briefed on planning guidance for Phase 2 of the Children's Centres and how they relate to Sure Start programmes and extended schools.

8.4 Youth Green Paper

The Youth Green Paper 'Youth Matters' was published on 18 July 2005 and the subsequent consultation ended on 4 November 2005. In October the Committee considered the Council's consultation mechanism in response to the Green Paper. The Green Paper proposed existing services would be reformed to provide a modern system of support for young people, with Local Authorities deciding on structures which best met local need.

The Government response, 'Youth Matters: Next Steps' was published on 8 March 2006. Subject to Parliament, this places a statutory duty on local authorities, in the context of national standards, to ensure that young people have access to a wide range of positive activities.

Funding of £115m will be available over two years through the Youth Opportunity Fund and the Youth Capital Fund – ring fenced money that young people will be able to bid for from the local authority to improve facilities and activities in their neighbourhood. This means that around £500,000 will be available in an average local authority and over £2m in the very largest and where the need is greatest over the next two years.

The Committee will be taking further interest in Sunderland's response to these proposals.

8.5 Children & Young People's Democratic Engagement Strategy

The Children and Young People's Democratic Engagement Strategy 2005-2010 was achieved through consultation with young people, practitioners, managers, officers, elected members and the voluntary sector.

The Committee considered the extent to which the strategy will enhance the engagement of young people in issues of relevance, decision-making processes and governance of services.

9. Information & Awareness Raising

9.1 This category provided the Committee with information on new developments and allowed the Committee flexibility to respond to new and developing issues.

9.2 Future Pupil Numbers

Early in the year the Committee received data on future pupil place planning. These figures were informed by a detailed assessment of current and future demographic trends in Sunderland with particular reference to trends in live births and their effect on pupil number projections.

The Committee will seek further analysis of firm predictions when information is gathered regarding future housing which would then be translated into pupil predictions.

9.3 Every Child Matters

Every Child Matters identifies the five most important outcomes for children and young people as Being Healthy, Staying Safe, Enjoying and Achieving, Making a Positive Contribution, Economic Well-Being.

Following the Council's response to the integration of children's services and the new role for the Review Committee, Members have been receiving regular briefing sessions on the five outcomes.

10. **Call In**

10.1 The Education Review Committee called-in the executive decision published on 29th July 2005 agreeing a consultation exercise on an approach to academy principles.

10.2 The Review Committee met on 10th August 2005 to examine the planned consultation process in detail. Education Officers were present to amplify the details of the consultation process and to take questions from Members.

10.3 The reason for calling in the decision was to review the consultation exercise to consider if the consultation process was sufficiently robust, open and comprehensive to allow full and proper consultation on academy principles with education partners, stakeholders, parents and unions representing school staff.

10.4 The Committee agreed the Position Statement to reflect confidence in the consultation process and to suggest additional enhancements to the process.

11. **New Issues and Future Development**

11.1 Feedback from Members: During the year Members were invited to provide feedback on each meeting of the Committee. Questions asked were: what do you think went particularly well; what more could have been done to help you contribute; do you need any more information on the issues discussed.

18 feedback forms were completed in total.

Members thought meetings went well when there were diverse agenda items, opportunity to discuss wider strategic issues, pace of the meeting kept things

moving, clear and helpful presentations from some officers, plenty of opportunity to ask questions, and honest responses.

Members thought more could have been done in relation to the conditions of the room (can be too cold or too hot), presentations could be brief where there is a comprehensive report, witnesses/officers need to consider that members have read the reports beforehand, presentations should provide further illustration of points, not repeat them and not provide new information, and collectively this will allow more opportunity for members to contribute and ask questions.

Where specific information was requested in relation to agenda items the requests were pursued with the relevant officer and member outside of the meeting.

All feedback is reported to Children's Services immediately following each meeting to allow for continuous improvement.

11.2 Web Page: A web page for overview and scrutiny has been redeveloped and now includes details of members of the Committee and links to all previous policy reviews as well as news of the current work programme.

11.3 Scrutiny Room: During 2004-05 the layout and design of the committee room used for overview and scrutiny was re-designed and now provides clarity to the public on the respective roles of those attending and supporting review. Feedback provided from Members during 2005-06 on the practical use of the room suggests improvements are required in presenters being audible and the presentations on screen being visible. Improvements are currently being planned for additional microphones and individual visual display units.

11.4 Methods of Investigation

The new scope for the Review Committee has potentially increased the pressures on Committee time.

There is a concern that to continue with the same approaches to review and scrutiny raises a possibility of overloading the Committee with large numbers of items with little or no positive benefit.

Consideration has been given, in liaison with the Chairman, into how to manage this wider remit and continue to provide effective overview and scrutiny.

The Committee usually has one major investigation with several standing items and many other single subjects under consideration throughout each year.

Review Committee reports are currently designated with a purpose for inclusion on the agenda. This could be further developed with the agenda being divided into those reports which are for deliberation and review and

those reports which can be taken for information only. The latter will require no discussion but will provide an opportunity for any Member of the Committee to request that the item be listed at the next meeting for discussion.

It is proposed that in preparing the Work Programme for 2006-07 that the Committee considers themes based around the priorities of the Children and Young People's Plan. This should allow for a reasonable level of investigation and scrutiny of a limited number of priority areas. Coupled with the rationalisation of other items where applicable as information only items it is hoped this will allow for meaningful debate on issues of strategic importance. It is also proposed that items for deliberation/review are limited to no more than 3 per meeting.

To further enhance and develop this Member-led approach, Member discussion, development of ideas and preparation for the questioning of witnesses (internal or external) at informal, private meetings of the Review Committee may be beneficial. Experience of operating the call-in procedure for the first time highlighted the greater benefits that could have been achieved with pre-meeting planning involving the whole Committee.

12. Conclusion & Recommendations

- 12.1 Members are asked to consider the operation, achievements and impact of the Committee during 2005-06.

13. Background Papers

Children's Services Review Committee Reports 2005-2006

Contact Officer : Karen Brown 0191 553 1004
karen.brown@sunderland.gov.uk

END OF YEAR REPORT ON THE OPERATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND PLANNING REVIEW COMMITTEE 2005/06**LINK TO WORK PROGRAMME – MONITORING AND EVALUATION****REPORT OF THE CITY SOLICITOR****1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to allow Members the opportunity to review the operation and achievements of the Committee over the last year.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 This has been the Review Committee's fourth full year of operation. The Committee has sought to build on the experience of the previous years and further develop its role as part of the decision making structure of the Council.

3 WORK PROGRAMME - BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Review Committee agreed an annual work programme at its first meeting of the municipal year. The work programme sets out on a month by month basis, the agenda of the Committee for the year ahead. Its contents seek to reflect the remit of the Committee and also balance its role in terms of policy review, policy development, information awareness and scrutiny of the executive.

- 3.2 In drawing up the work programme, it was considered important to retain a degree of flexibility in order to allow the Committee to deal with issues of immediate concern.

- 3.3 The work programme was divided into seven categories:-

- ◆ Policy Framework
- ◆ Monitoring and Evaluation
- ◆ Performance Review
- ◆ Consultation
- ◆ Awareness Raising
- ◆ Members Items
- ◆ Call Ins

4 WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

- 4.1 A summary of the work of the Review Committee across the categories is outlined below: -

Policy Framework

4.2 This category refers to the plans and strategies outlined in Article 4 of the constitution. The Review Committee is required to be consulted by Cabinet for advice and consideration on these plans and strategies.

4.3 The Committee has been consulted on the following Article 4 Plans:-

Local Transport Plan for Tyne and Wear 2006/11

4.4 The Local Development Plan is published on a 5 yearly basis.

4.5 The draft Plan was submitted to this submitted to this Committee on two occasions during the year for advice and comment. The Plan sets out transport policy in the region and is also instrumental in decisions regarding the allocation of funding from Central Government in respect of the five year investment plan for transport in Tyne and Wear. The LTP was broken down into the themes of Road safety, Accessibility, Air Quality, Congestion and Public Transport.

4.6 Members referred to the continuing need to improve the city's cycleway and facilities.

Interim Strategy for Housing Land: Response to Consultation

4.7 The views of the Committee were sought on the finalised version of the Interim Housing Land Strategy (IHLS). The IHLS had been produced in order to take account of changes to Government housing policy since the Council's adoption of its Unitary Development Plan in 1998.

Farrington Row Development Framework

4.8 The views of the Committee were sought on the proposals making up the draft Farrington Row Development Framework which proposed a high quality, attractive and sustainable mixed use development comprising 450 dwellings, offices and a hotel.

Local Development Framework – Core Strategy – Issues and Options

4.9 The views of the Committee were sought on a document which attempted to help improve the involvement of stakeholders and statutory bodies and improve methods of public consultation.

Local Development Framework – Statement of Community Involvement

4.10 The Statement of Community sets out how the Council will involve the community in the preparation, alteration and continuing review of all Local Development Documents (LDD's) and in the process of determining planning applications.

- 4.11 The draft document was submitted to the Committee earlier in the year for advice and consideration. Among the comments made were the importance of consulting with people with disabilities and a number of suggestions for organisations to be added to the list of Consultees.

Sunniside Planning Framework

- 4.12 The views of the Committee were sought on the responses received following a period of consultation on the Draft Sunniside Planning framework.
- 4.13 Members referred to the benefits of returning residential land to the Sunniside area and supported attempts to encourage small businesses and niche retailing to the area.

Southwick Renewal Area Masterplan

- 4.14 During the year the views of the Committee was sought on the proposals set out in the draft Southwick Area Masterplan, together with a later report on the outcome of consultation.
- 4.15 The Committee queried arrangements for the vehicular access to the new primary school.

City of Sunderland Local Development Framework – Annual Monitoring Report

- 4.16 The views of the Committee were sought on the Council's first Local Development Framework Monitoring report.
- 4.17 It was noted that the Council had liased with Government Office North East who had made a number of suggestions regarding content and timescales.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Outcome of Policy Reviews – Development of Cycling Within the City

- 4.18 During the year, the Review Committee received an update on the progress being made by the Executive in implementing the recommendations from the previous year's study into the development of cycling within the city.
- 4.19 The Comments made at this meeting in relation to the report will be incorporated into the final End of Year report.

Waste Management

- 4.20 Throughout the year, the Committee has closely followed the progress being made by the Council in improving its performance on recycling and achieving its statutory local targets.

- 4.21 Details were provided on the progress and expansion of the Council's door to door recycling scheme for garden waste. Members stressed the importance of clearly advising people on the type of waste that was suitable for collection.
- 4.22 With regard to the Kerb It Scheme, the Committee referred to the variations in tonnage collected in different parts of the city and the possibility of improving the rate of collection.
- 4.23 Members were pleased to note that good progress was being made by the Council in achieving its recycling targets.
- 4.24 The Review Committee also undertook a visit to view the waste depot at Beach Street and commented on the improved facilities at the site.

Public Transport Issues in Sunderland

- 4.25 The Committee invited Mr Mike Parker, Nexus Director General to update members on a number of issues including:-
- The proposed refurbishment of Sunderland Rail Station;
 - The reduction in the heavy rail service between Newcastle and Sunderland;
 - The performance of the Metro and changes in service provision.

Drainage Issues

- 4.26 In response to drainage problems experienced by residents in parts of the city during heavy rains, the Committee invited Mr Andrew Blakemore and Mr Geoff Hartis from Northumbria Water to outline the circumstances behind the flooding experienced in parts of the city during the summer and measures being taken to avoid a reoccurrence. Ms Barbara Leech from the Consumer Council for Water also attended the meeting to provide a customer perspective. Several local residents and the ward councillors were also invited to put forward their views and ask questions of the representatives from Northumbria Water.
- 4.27 The Review Committee suggested that the Council and Northumbria Water take action to provide greater publicity to the emergency number for people who experience flooding.

Allocation of Additional Funds for Highway Maintenance

- 4.28 During the year, the Committee received a report on the additional funding that had been secured by the Review Committee for highway maintenance. This first updated the Committee on works completed in 2004/5 and advised of the proposed works for 2005/06.

Progress on Bridge Maintenance

- 4.29 The Committee received a report on the progress being made on the major refurbishment being undertaken of Queen Alexandra Bridge.
- 4.30 The work was the first major repair undertaken for one hundred years and involved stripping the structure to the bare metal to investigate its condition.
- 4.31 The Committee also undertook a visit to the bridge to view at first hand the complexed nature of the work and ask any detailed questions on the condition of the bridge and its progress.

Planning Permission – Monitoring and Enforcement of Conditions

- 4.32 Details were provided on monitoring compliance with conditions attached to planning permissions and the situation with regard to the enforcement of breaches where they occur.

Street Lighting and Highway Signs PFI Contract – Progress Report

- 4.33 Details were provided on the progress of the ongoing Street Lighting and Highway Signs Public Finance Initiative (PFI) contract which the Council has with Aurora Sunderland Streetlighting Ltd.
- 4.34 The report showed that year on year there were fewer street lights within the city that were out of order.
- 4.35 The Review Committee expressed concern that a number of delays being experienced were the result of long-term problems related to cabling which was provided by Northern Electric Distribution Ltd (NEDL).

Parking and Traffic Management

- 4.36 Reports were presented to Members on the position with regard to the Decriminalised Parking Enforcement Regime and the implications of remedial action regarding the parking regime.

Cemeteries and Crematoria – Visit to Sunderland Crematoria

- 4.37 The Review Committee undertook a visit to Sunderland Crematoria. Members were provided with a tour of the building and its grounds. Members were greatly impressed by the high standard of facilities and refurbishment at the Crematoria.
- 4.38 The Committee also received an update report on the major issues facing the city's cemeteries. In particular reference was made to the limited amount of burial space now available in Washington and the potential alternatives.

Private Streets

- 4.39 The Committee considered an item on the situation regarding private roads locally and nationally.

- 4.40 The Review Committee requested that the Cabinet further investigate the options available in relation to private streets.

Winter Maintenance Arrangements

- 4.41 In December 2005, the Committee received details on the arrangements for winter maintenance operations for the forthcoming winter.

Coastal Management

- 4.42 The Committee received for a report setting out the Council's existing Coastal Strategy and the resources available to undertake coastal protection works.

- 4.43 During the year, the Committee also received a consultation report on the preparation of the Shoreline Management Plan 2.

Joe's Pond

- 4.44 Following a referral from the Policy and Coordination Committee, a report was submitted on the current condition of Joe's Pond and the arrangements for its maintenance and supervision.

- 4.45 The Committee agreed to arrange a site visit to review progress at a later date.

Highways and Drainage Surplus

- 4.46 Following a referral from the Policy and Coordination Committee, a report was submitted regarding the circumstances associated with the Highways and Drainage surplus.

Highway Maintenance Works Budgets, Related Performance Indicators and Policy Issues

- 4.47 A detailed report was provided on highways maintenance works within the city including budget spend for footway and carriageway works and the number of third party claims and repudiation rates.

Ryhope Coastal Landfill Site

- 4.48 The Committee received a reports on the potential risks posed by the landfill site at Ryhope and the possibility of contamination of the coastline.

- 4.49 The Committee agreed that a further report be submitted to the Committee following an investigation of the site.

- 4.50 The Committee also received details on other former landfill sited within the City of Sunderland.

Performance Review

Performance Reports

- 4.51 The Committee received two reports setting out the key findings of an analysis of performance against objectives and targets.
- 4.52 The Committee expressed concern as to the Performance Indicator for Disabled Facilities at crossings and why the number “complying” crossings was not higher.
- 4.53 The Review Committee asked for and received a detailed report the present position and the measures proposed for resolving the situation.
- 4.54 The Committee considered the progress made to date on the implementation of the Improvement Plan arising from the Best Value Review – Making Sunderland a Greener Place. Members asked for further information on the cutting of grass at a number of locations within the city and the frequency at which litter bins are emptied at Ryhope Recreation Park.

MORI – Sunderland’s Residents Survey 2004 and 2005

- 4.55 During the year, the Review Committee received two reports setting out the key issues highlighted in the 2004 and 2005 MORI Residents’ Surveys, with a particular focus on issues relating to the remit of this Committee.
- 4.56 The survey found that people were generally positive about the city and satisfaction with the area is high. However the Committee emphasised that it was important not to be complacent about the response as further improvement could be made

Comprehensive Performance Assessment 2005 – Direction of Travel Statement

- 4.57 In October 2005, the Committee received a report setting out the key themes and improvement issues for the Council and the progress being made in relation to the areas covered by the remit of the Committee.
- 4.58 The Committee specifically referred to the improvements being made to the Sunnyside area and initiatives designed to make the city centre a more attractive place to people of all ages

Consultation

Regional Spatial Strategy – Response to Consultation on the Submission Draft

- 4.59 The Cabinet sought the views of the Committee on the response of Sunderland City and the Tyne and Wear Authorities to the draft Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS). Continued concerns were expressed at the insufficient

level of housing allocated to Sunderland and the Tyne and wear authorities. It was considered that this could have a detrimental effect on the Council's attempts to reverse outward migration from the city.

Roker Park Conservation Area: Character Study

- 4.60 The views of the Committee were sought on the proposals set out in the draft Roker Park Conservation Area Character Study.

Awareness Raising

Major Developments in the City Centre

- 4.61 Early in the year, the Committee undertook a visit to view the major development sites within the city centre, which included a presentation on the progress of the Sunnyside development.

Visit to SITA Energy from Waste Plant

- 4.62 The Committee undertook a visit to learn more about the operation of the SITA Energy from Waste plant in Cleveland. Members took part in a question and answer session on the Fer process and toured the plant.

Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme

- 4.63 The Committee were informed of the principles and implications of the landfill Allowance Scheme. The allowances set out the maximum amount of biodegradable waste that can be sent to landfill each year and the trading of allowances between Waste Disposal Authorities.

Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005

- 4.64 The Committee were updated on the main provisions of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. which provides local authorities with new or enhanced powers to tackle low level disorder and crime.
- 4.65 The Committee referred to the great potential of the powers contained in the Act such as those relating to abandoned vehicles, litter and fly tipping. Reference was made to the potential resource implications of enforcing the provisions of the Act.

Street Pride Project

- 4.66 Details were provided on a project designed to make Hendon and the East End a cleaner place to live, work and visit by providing a dedicated educational and enforcement presence at street level and additional resources for front line services in the area.

Visit to the Staithes and New Herrington Doorstep Green and Home Zone Schemes

- 4.67 As part of its study into road Safety and Child Pedestrian Accidents, the Committee visited the Staithes housing development in Gateshead and the New Herrington Doorstep Green and Home Zone scheme and noted that these schemes could provide a blue print for further initiatives in the city.

Policy Review

- 4.68 In July 2004, the Committee agreed to undertake a study into the Road Safety and Child Pedestrian Accidents in the city.
- 4.69 The Committee has made a number of recommendations that it hopes will improve road safety in the city.

Other Issues

- 4.70 The Committee also endorsed a revised edition of the protocols handbook.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 Members are asked to consider the operation, achievements and impact of the Committee during 2005/06.

6. Background Papers

CPA Action Plan
City of Sunderland Corporate Assessment

COUNCIL

28TH JUNE, 2006

**POLICY & CO-ORDINATION REVIEW COMMITTEE 2005/06 -
END OF YEAR REPORT**

REPORT OF THE CITY SOLICITOR

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide Council with an opportunity to look at the achievements and operation of the Policy & Co-ordination Review Committee in 2005/06. [The report reflects new terms of reference/title agreed by Council in December, 2005].

2. Work Programme

- 2.1 To aid transparency and business planning, Review Committees operate to an annual work programme approved at the beginning of each year. Additional meetings/reports are added as necessary. In total, 74 business reports were presented in 2005/06 over 12 meetings - divided into the following 8 areas:

i. Policy Review and Development	(11 items)
ii. Monitoring and Evaluation	(21 items)
iii. Policy Framework	(8 items)
iv. Consultation	(8 items)
v. Performance Review	(7 items)
vi. Information, Awareness Raising	(9 items)
vii. Member Items	(10 items)
viii. Call-In	(0 items)

- 2.2 Copies of Cabinet minutes (Part I and Part II) were also submitted for information.

3. Policy Review and Development

- 3.1 This year, the Committee undertook a detailed study into absence management. Council services are delivered by staff. Employees are, therefore, the Council's principal resource. The Committee looked at how staff attendance is managed - with a vision of providing the best support available. The study also looked at whether improved attendance - and interventions - could help in calls for 'greater public sector efficiencies' following the release of Sir Peter Gershon's report *Releasing Resources for the Frontline: Independent Review of Public Sector Efficiency*.
- 3.2 Recommendations arising from the study are considered to be a thorough and detailed analysis. Also, they are anchored in direct feedback from staff and Trade Unions. Members hope implementation, based on evidence put before them, will see more actions to reduce the burden of illhealth on staff and ensure the Council continues to provide excellent services to its residents and visitors.

- 3.3 Given scrutiny is Member led, the Committee trialled a new approach. This involved the Vice-Chairman being actively involved in preparing reports and reporting to the whole Committee. This is something Members feel other Review Committees might wish to reflect on.
- 3.4 During the year, Members received reports and presentations on how recommendations were being delivered from reviews into 'Partnership and the Local Strategic Partnership' (2003/04) and 'Contact Centres' (2004/05).
- 3.5 The Committee had signed-off last year the 'organisational' element of its 2004/05 review (Sunderland Partnership processes), but wished to continue monitoring work to secure more construction industry jobs for young people (an issue identified by the Partnership itself).
- 3.6 The first update report of the Committee's review into Contact Centres highlighted action taken across all 11 recommendations. Further updates will be scheduled in 2006/07 when an assessment will be made on the extent of further reporting.

4. Monitoring and Evaluation

- 4.1 This area formed the largest focus for Members and reflected a number of roles. These were as:

Audit Committee of the Council -

- 4.2 The Committee commented, in person, to the new District Auditor on her Annual Audit and Inspection Letter. In-year virements within Cabinet Portfolios were also considered and comment made to Council. Minutes of the Accounts Committee, established to look in detail at the authority's Statement of Accounts and related plans, were also received. We noted that, in line with national best practice, the Council would be moving to new audit arrangements from 2006/07. This would see issues presently within our terms of reference moved to a dedicated new Audit and Governance Committee.
- 4.3 Items were also referred, for advice and consideration, from Cabinet as Audit Committee. These included: the National Procurement Strategy for Local Government, the Anti-Fraud & Corruption Policy and Annual Internal Audit Plan.

Co-ordination of Review -

- 4.4 In its co-ordinating role, the Committee received regular updates on changes to the six Review Committee work programmes approved at the start of 2005/06. Members appreciated changes primarily reflected new issues arising in-year and the fast moving national policy agenda. Information was also reported on mid & year-end budget spend and Member scrutiny training. This included places secured by this Committee for Chairmen (or their representatives) on a course by the Improvement & Development Agency (IDeA) on: analysing the challenges & potential leadership role of scrutiny, leadership styles and how these could be applied, influencing strategies (including within the community) and constructing a balanced profile to measure the added value of overview & scrutiny.

Member Visits -

- 4.6 The Committee received feedback on a visit organised in 2004/05 to view the Council's new Financial Management System and to meet service user clients face to face.

5. Policy Framework

- 5.1 This category refers to the Council Plans and Strategies outlined in Article 4 of the Constitution. Cabinet is required to consult Review Committees on specific Plans and Strategies. In 2005/06 the Committee was consulted on two key documents:

- **The Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) Action Plan.** Reports included a value for money self-assessment, a direction of change statement and an update on preparations for inspection
- **The Crime & Disorder Strategy** where the Committee gave comment on the corporate approach to fulfilling Council duties under Section 17 of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 (ie the crime reduction potential of all policies, budgets and services)

- 5.2 In accordance with Article 4, the Committee was also consulted on every stage in preparing the Revenue Budget for 2006/07; with reports, for advice and consideration, from Cabinet. In addition, Members were invited - and gave comment - on the Budget Planning Framework and developments in budget consultation.

6. Consultation

- 6.1 Members were presented with opportunities to influence the shape of policies and services through referral of reports from Cabinet. In 2005/06, these related to the Capital Programme and changes to the Council's Constitution (including revised Portfolio and Review Committee arrangements).

7. Performance Review

- 7.1 Statutory and local performance indicators are received and assessed under this category together with Corporate Performance Improvement Reviews. Performance information is used to inform decisions and drive improvement. In its co-ordinating role, the Committee allocated, across the six Review Committees, Action Plans arising out of Performance Improvement Reviews. Reports were received by the Committee itself on Action Plans following reviews of 'Services to Younger People', 'Managing our Employees' and 'Promoting & Communicating Council Services'.

- 7.2 Specific performance reports were considered on services within the terms of reference of the Review Committee. These reflected both the 2002-2005 and post 2005 responsibilities of the Committee.

7.3 The Committee discussed issues from the 2005 MORI survey that could usefully inform their future work programme. MORI findings provided direct performance feedback from residents.

8. Information, Awareness Raising

8.1 In recognition of the need to keep abreast of current issues and delivery of strategic priorities, the Committee received a number of information reports from Cabinet. These related to: Delivering Strategic Change & Business Transformation, the Annual Efficiency Statement 2005/06, next steps in developing a Local Area Agreement for the City, the Annual Efficiency Statement 2005/06 & Mid Year Review and changes in legislation impacted on public rights of access to information held by the Council.

9. Member Items

9.1 The Committee considered a range of business items requested by Members. These related to:

The Senior Officer Management Structure -

9.2 The Chief Executive attended and advised of the decision-making processes around changes to the senior management structure, including the appointment of a new Deputy Chief Executive.

2005 Staff Survey -

9.3 Key headlines from the survey were shared together with the process for establishing Action Plans and determining issues for future questionnaires.

Recruitment -

9.4 The Corporate Head of Personnel advised of the actuality of staffing levels/ vacancies. The Committee were pleased to note that, contrary to comment made, there were no general recruitment difficulties being experienced. Focussed work was taking place in professions where there were national issues.

Freedom of Information -

9.5 The Committee received an outline of arrangements put in place in the light of the new Freedom of Information regime. 301 requests had been received in the first full year of operation.

Inward Investment Events Funding -

9.6 The Director of Community and Cultural Services advised of initiatives that had been secured in the City, over the year, from additional funding in the 2005/06.

Rainton Bridge South Business Park -

- 9.7 A visit was arranged to the Rainton Bridge Business Park. This enabled Members to see the state of the art e:business incubator and hear about the park's ICT infrastructure. Noted were the excellent opportunities presented to attract inward investors.

Equality Standard for Local Government -

- 9.8 The Committee was pleased to note the authority had achieved compliance with Level 2 of the Local Government Equality Standard. Set out were proposals to try and meet Levels 3 - 5. The report acted as a 'handover' statement given equalities were part of the terms of reference of the new Regeneration & Community Review Committee.

Decriminalised Parking -

- 9.9 The Committee discussed (including jointly at an extra-ordinary meeting with Environment & Planning Review Committee colleagues) the current position of the Council's Decriminalised Parking Regime, recent actions to regularise and rationalise arrangements and financial and legal issues around changes made to the Council's Statement of Accounts. Members heard, at the end of their considerations, that a challenge to the Council's accounts had been dismissed by the Audit Commission. Further work by the Chief Executive and further regular updates to Environment & Planning colleagues were noted.

Communication with the Public -

- 9.10 Whilst noting the vision and actions agreed through the Best Value Review of Communicating & Promoting Council Services (see paragraph 7.1 above), the Committee wanted to know what had actually changed for members of the public. A report set out progress including with communication strategies, engagement and with plain English.

Workforce Profile -

- 9.11 The Corporate Head of Personnel set out progress against key performance indicators. The update also provided valuable information as part of the policy review (see paragraph 3. above)

10. Call-Ins

- 10.1 During the year there were no requests from Members to call in a decision of the Cabinet.

11. Scrutiny Practice

- 11.1 To assist witnesses attending Review Committees - and to give 'a public face' to scrutiny - a Handbook was again delivered. This had been circulated to all the

Review Committees and comments received were endorsed and included in the final document.

- 11.2 New terms of reference across all six Review Committees were considered. It was recognised revisions reflected 'best fit' principles.

12. Conclusion

- 12.1 The Policy & Co-ordination Review Committee has delivered an ambitious agenda during 2005/06.

13. Recommendation

- 13.1 Council is asked to consider the operation, achievements and impact of the Committee during 2005/06 and discuss future operation i.e. developing those areas that have been most effective and addressing any areas of weakness.

14. Background Papers

Agenda & Minutes Policy & Co-ordination Review Committee June, 2005
- April, 2006
Council Constitution
Council Agenda & Minutes 23rd November, 2006

**END OF YEAR REPORT ON THE OPERATION OF THE REGENERATION AND
COMMUNITY REVIEW COMMITTEE 2005/06****LINK TO WORK PROGRAMME – MONITORING AND EVALUATION****Report of the City Solicitor****1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to allow Members the opportunity to review the operation and achievements of the Committee over the last year.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 This has been the Review Committee's fourth full year of operation. The Committee has sought to build on the experience of previous years and continue to develop its role as part of the decision making structure of the Council.
- 2.2 At the beginning of the year, the Committee agreed to focus on the issue of housing within the city. This was reflected both in the choice of the policy review topics and the composition of the work programme.
- 2.3 The Committee's emphasis was in response to the increasing profile of housing at a national level and also its high priority for the people of Sunderland. Nevertheless, the Committee did still seek to ensure that other areas of its remit were not overlooked.

3 WORK PROGRAMME - BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Review Committee agreed an annual work programme at the first meeting of the municipal year. The work programme sets out on a month by month basis the agenda of the Committee for the year ahead. Its contents reflect the remit of the Committee and also balance its role in terms of policy review, policy development, information awareness and scrutiny of the executive.
- 3.2 In drawing up the work programme, it was considered important to retain a degree of flexibility in order to allow the Committee to deal with issues of immediate concern.
- 3.3 The work programme was divided into eight categories: -
- ◆ Policy Framework
 - ◆ Monitoring and Evaluation
 - ◆ Performance Review
 - ◆ Consultation
 - ◆ Information and Awareness Raising

- ◆ Policy Review
- ◆ Members Items
- ◆ Call Ins

4 WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

- 4.1 A summary of the work of the Review Committee across the categories is outlined below: -

Policy Framework

- 4.2 This category refers to the plans and strategies outlined in Article 4 of the constitution. The Review Committee is required to be consulted by Cabinet for advice and consideration on these plans and strategies.

- 4.3 The Committee has been consulted on the following Article 4 Plans: -

Food Law Enforcement Service Plan 2005/06

- 4.4 The Plan sets out the measures required to comply with the recommendations of the Food Standards Agency Framework Agreement and the national priorities and standards for service delivery.

- 4.5 It was noted that the Council had been commended by the Food Standards Agency for its actions and efforts in circulating information to traders when faced with the significant food alert earlier in the year.

- 4.6 The Review Committee commended the work undertaken by the Food Law Enforcement Team.

Local Housing Strategy 2006/09

- 4.7 During the year the Review Committee has conducted a study into Housing Strategy across the city. The Local Housing Strategy is an Article 4 Plan and is part of the Council's policy framework.

- 4.8 The study has therefore provided an opportunity for the Committee to contribute and be consulted on the new strategy and address the major housing issues facing Sunderland in the future.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Outcome of Policy Review – Development of Communications with Sunderland Housing Group and the Development of Best Practice in Neighbourhood Renewal

- 4.9 The Committee received a report on the progress being made to implement the recommendations of the Committee's study into the development of communications between the Council and Sunderland Housing Group and Best Practice in Neighbourhood Renewal.

- 4.10 It was noted that a revised protocol for communication had been put in place and that Area Committees now received a twice yearly update on housing issues in their area.
- 4.11 The Committee also received a presentation from Carla Keegans, Sunderland Housing Group on new developments in consultation and customer involvement.

Anti Social Behaviour Update

- 4.12 At the beginning of the year, the Committee received a report on the progress being made by the Council's Neighbourhood Relations Team in tackling the issue of anti social behaviour. This included the Council's success in being nominated as one of four "Trailblazer" local authorities tackling nuisance families and the good progress being made through the Private Landlords Forum.
- 4.13 The Review Committee referred to the very valuable work being undertaken by the Team in dealing with helping to tackle anti social behaviour in the city.

Safer Communities

- 4.14 In light of information contained in the Performance Report, the Committee requested further information on the implications of Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and the action being taken by the Council to ensure compliance.
- 4.15 The Committee received a further report on the structure and operation of the Safer Sunderland Partnership and how it is tackling the priorities set out in the Safer Sunderland Strategy 2005/08.

Creating Inclusive Communities

- 4.16 During the year, the Committee received two update reports on the city's efforts towards creating inclusive communities in Sunderland and progress against the Framework for Action.
- 4.17 The Committee agreed to receive regular update reports on progress at future meetings.

Wearside Domestic Violence Forum

- 4.18 The Committee received an update on the work of the Wearside Domestic Violence Forum including the current approach to tackling domestic violence in Sunderland and examples of what is being done to meet key domestic violence targets.

Wearside Women In Need

- 4.19 Claire Phillipson and Anita Lord from Wearside Women in Need provided the Committee with an update on their work on domestic violence in Sunderland, together with the outcome of research entitled "Developing a Domestic Violence Sanctuary Scheme in Sunderland – A Consultation with Local Victims of Domestic Violence".
- 4.20 The research included the views of the victims of domestic violence with regard to proposals to develop a domestic sanctuary scheme in Sunderland. The Committee congratulated WWIN on the quality of the research paper.

Housing Summit – Feedback Report

- 4.21 Details were provided on the outcome of the Council's Housing Summit designed to launch the Sunderland's Housing Green Paper and seek the views of a wide range of groups on the city's draft Housing Strategy.
- 4.22 The Committee considered that the Summit had been a great success.

Homelessness – Strategy and Performance Monitoring

- 4.23 The Committee has received information on the progress made on the Council's Homelessness Strategy, the recent review of Homelessness and Housing Advice Services and proposed future methods of performance monitoring.
- 4.24 This included the positive outcome of an evaluation into the Strategy undertaken by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM).

Consultation

Regional Spatial Strategy for the North East – Response to Consultation on Submission Draft

- 4.25 The Committees views were sought on the draft submission prepared by this Council and the other Tyne and Wear authorities on the draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the North East.
- 4.26 The Committee considered that the overall total additional housing for the region as set out in the report, was too high while the sub regional allocation was too low for Sunderland and Tyne and Wear. There was concern that the current proposals would hamper attempts to reverse the level of out migration from the city. It was also important that new housing developments maximised the use of brownfield land in Tyne and Wear and that Greenfield site development should be restricted in the regions of Durham and Northumberland. The Committee considered that the reference in the RSS that Hetton and Houghton were suitable only for "unsustainable indigenous growth" was unacceptable and that the areas should share in emerging business and employment opportunities.

Southwick Renewal Area Masterplan

- 4.27 The views of the Committee were sought on the draft Southwick renewal Masterplan. The Masterplan sets out the development framework for the area against which subsequent planning applications can be assessed.
- 4.28 Members noted that the relatively low level of feedback from residents may reflect the extensive consultation already undertaken in the area.

Performance Review

Performance Reports

- 4.29 During the year, the Committee received two performance reports setting out the key findings from an analysis of performance against objectives and targets in relation to the delivery of strategic priorities within the Committees remit. The Committee noted that overall the report was positive and the council was performing well in all areas and that clear priorities were being set in service areas.
- 4.30 Members referred to the importance of reducing fear of crime in the area, which is a particular concern for older people. It was noted that work was going on with the Youth Development Team to look at "hotspots" in the city where anti social behaviour was taking place to try to reduce incidents and fear of crime.

Comprehensive Performance Assessment 2005 – Direction of Travel Statement

- 4.31 In October 2005, the Committee received report setting out the key themes and improvement issues for the Council and the progress being made in relation to the areas covered by the committees remit.
- 4.32 The Committee specifically referred to the improvements being made to the Sunnyside area and initiatives designed to make the city centre a more attractive place to people of all ages.

MORI – Sunderland Residents' Survey 2004 and 2005

- 4.33 During the year, the Review Committee received two reports setting out the key issues highlighted in the 2004 and 2005 Residents' Surveys, with a particular focus on issues relating to the remit of this Committee.
- 4.34 The survey found that people were generally positive about the city and satisfaction with the area is high. However the Committee emphasised that it was important not to be complacent about the response as further improvement could be made. The Committee requested that the information be further broken down into different geographical area for members of the Committee.

Awareness Raising

- 4.35 This category in the work programme allowed the Committee the flexibility to respond to new and developing issues. A number of issues were considered: -

Regeneration in Sunderland – Current Position and Key Issues for the Future

- 4.36 At the beginning of the year, the Committee received a major presentation on the progress made relating to regeneration within the city and the key issues facing the Council in the future. These included:-
- The on going transformation of the city's physical environment
 - Factors impinging regeneration, including image, and perceptions of the city, low GDP levels, outward migration, exclusion and quality of life
 - The need to address the causes rather than the symptoms underlying constraints on regeneration
 - The importance of the four engines driving regeneration i.e. the Council and its partners, Central/European Government, a strong housing market and a strong retail sector

Joint Review of Sunderland Housing Group Renewal Plan

- 4.37 The Review Committee received two update reports on the joint review by the Council and Sunderland Housing Group on the SHG Renewal Plan.
- 4.38 It was considered that good progress had been made in terms of the review. The Committee stressed the importance of effective consultation and community involvement during the undertaking of renewal schemes.

Local Area Agreements

- 4.39 The Review Committee received two update reports on the progress being made in preparing a Local Area Agreement for the City. The Committee welcomed the Council's success in obtaining Government approval as part of the second round of LAA's and agreed to receive further update reports on the progress being made.

Local Public Service Agreement (2nd Generation)

- 4.40 The Committee received a report outlining progress in the development of the Council's Local Public Service Agreements (2nd Generation). It was noted that if the targets were all met the Council would receive £8 million over a five year period.

Neighbourhood Renewal Fund Projects

- 4.41 The Review Committee received details on the projects seeking approval to spend the residual allocation of Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) in 2005/06.

- 4.42 Members referred to the improved formatting of the report which provided greater detail on individual projects.

Modernisation Programme for Older People – Revision of Strategy

- 4.43 The Review Committee received a report updating members on the Modernisation programme and the development of Extra Care in the City.

Wearsidefirst Credit Union

- 4.44 The Review Committee received an update on the work of the Wearsidefirst Credit Union and the progress made during the year.

Policy Review

- 4.45 At the beginning of the year, the Committee agreed to undertake a study into Housing Strategy within the city. The remit of the study was to consider the main issues relating to housing across the City of Sunderland and contribute to the preparation of the Council's Housing Strategy 2006/09.

- 4.46 The study has taken evidence from a range of sources including officers of the Council, partner organisations and representatives from Registered Social Landlords, the Private Rented Sector, Home Builders, Chartered Surveyor, central government and regional agencies and tenants and community groups.

- 4.47 The anticipated completion date for the study is May 2006.

Members Items

- 4.48 During the year, the Committee considered a number of items requested by members of Committee including:-
- The outcome of the investigation of Sunderland Housing Group by the Housing Corporation
 - Valuation of SHG properties on Doxford Park

Other Issues

- 4.49 *Conferences and Visits*

During the year, the Committee members attended and reported back on a number of Conferences

- A New Future for Local Housing Strategies
- Planning for Housing
- Realising Community Cohesion

- 4.50 The Committee undertook a number of visits during the year including:-

- Major New Housing Developments within the City
- Housing Provision for Vulnerable People
- Community Consultation – SHG Housing Officers

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 Members are asked to consider the operation, achievements and impact of the Committee during 2004/05.

6. Background Papers

CPA Action Plan
City of Sunderland Corporate Assessment

HEALTH & WELL-BEING REVIEW COMMITTEE 2005/06 - END OF YEAR REPORT

REPORT OF THE CITY SOLICITOR

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide Council with an opportunity to look at the achievements and operation of the Health & Well-Being Review Committee in 2005/06. [The report reflects new terms of reference/title agreed by Council in December, 2005].

2. Work Programme

- 2.1 To aid transparency and business planning, Review Committees operate to an annual work programme agreed at the beginning of each year. Additional meetings/reports are added as necessary. In total, 62 business reports were presented to the Health & Well-Being Review Committee in 2005/06, over 12 meetings - divided into the following 8 areas:

i. Policy Review & Development	(9 items)
ii. Monitoring & Evaluation	(17 items)
iii. Policy Framework	(0 items)
iv. Consultation	(15 items)
v. Performance Review	(5 items)
vi. Information, Awareness Raising	(13 items)
vii. Members Items	(3 items)
viii. Call-In	(0 items)

3. Policy Review and Development

- 3.1 An *Expert Jury* approach was used to deliver a review of 'employment & adults with a physical disability'. This approach has benefits of more time at committee meetings for other aspects of a busy work programme. The Expert Jury comprised two elements. Part 1 saw evidence gathering over a full day from 'sectoral' interests to form draft recommendations. As preparation, the Committee had become local 'experts' through a series of reports and briefing notes. Receiving information at one time, via an extra-ordinary meeting, is a development all those involved consider to be a smarter approach than a reliance on information spread over a period of months. Our approach is also supported by partners and the public as imaginative thinking from feedback received. Particularly highlighted was Part 2 of the Expert Jury. This saw direct public comment on the Committee's draft findings realised through a community event at the Crowtree Leisure Centre. Invitations were sent to 900+ individuals, organisations, carers, clients and front line staff. Two adverts were placed in the Sunderland Echo and colourful flyers distributed in libraries, by voluntary organisations and the Department for Work and Pensions. 60+ people attended. Discussions led by members of the Committee heard collective thought and broad support for the Committee's recommendations. Further positive comment was received by way of letters from interest groups.

- 3.2 Recommendations arising from the review are considered to be a result of thorough analysis - and importantly anchored in community feedback. Members envisage their report will stimulate debate and make a real contribution to what is an important issue for the City. Sunderland has seen amazing progress in turning 'round the local economy in recent years but 32.4% of adults remain 'inactive'. The Government has a key ambition of getting 80% of adults into employment and the Committee hopes the 'opportunity society' can be fully extended to adults with a physical disability/ incapacity.
- 3.3 During the year, Members received presentations on how health and social care partners were meeting recommendations from earlier reviews into 'Corporate Parenting' (2002/03), 'Keeping Older People out of Hospital' (2003/04) and 'Access & Choice in Community Mental Health Services' (2004/05).
- 3.4 For Corporate Parenting, Members focussed on a 'handover' report for the new Children's Services Review Committee. The Committee was pleased with progress in health and Children's Homes. There were high hopes too significant moves could soon be made around accommodation for care leavers, education and engaging Looked After Children in social & leisure activities.
- 3.5 The Chair of the multi-agency Modernisation & Reform Group gave a presentation on the 2003/04 review of Keeping Older People out of Hospital. Pleasingly, there had been a further reduction in the number of people being readmitted that the Committee hopes, in part, is due to light shed by its review. Given the amount of progress made, the small number of outstanding issues and the significance of the Government's White Paper 'Our Health, Our Care, Our Say: A New Direction for Community Services', Members were happy to sign off this review as completed as far as is possible.
- 3.6 A presentation from the Locality Director, South of Tyne & Wearside Mental Health Trust provided the first update on the Committee's study of access and choice in community mental health. Particularly welcome was progress in relation to 24/7 access and GP engagement.

4. Monitoring and Evaluation

NHS Issues -

- 4.1 To keep abreast of issues within the NHS, Councillors Dennis Haworth and Keith Adshead attended Board meetings of local Trusts to monitor and provided direct feedback to colleagues. This is an approach that is working well.
- 4.2 During the year, Members monitored work it has been leading on in the re-provision of services for people living with Gender Dysphoria. Pleasingly, proposals had been finalised for an Interim Service to start from March 2006 and consultations had commenced on an holistic service from 2006/07. Funding had been allocated from Primary Care Trusts to enable services to again be offered to people in Tyne & Wear, Northumberland, Durham, Cleveland and North Cumbria. As part of their work, Members heard from a service user on client engagement in providing new services.

- 4.3 Further consideration was given to monitoring implications from relocating regional upper gastro-intestinal tract cancer services to Newcastle. The Committee welcomed joined-up clinical conferencing and has asked that all opportunities are taken to ensure equitable access to suitable patient transport. It is noted there will be some time before medical evidence can indicate whether the national policy of regionalisation is having improved patient outcomes. This is because of the statistically small number of cases and the level of treatment involved.

Visits of Inspection -

- 4.4 To consider the contribution of the Environmental Health Service to achieving the Sunderland Strategy of a Healthy City, Members were invited to tour a range of facilities and premises that had benefited from advice and support. A Member feedback report confirmed the significant contribution made.

Engagement with the Public on Health Issues -

- 4.5 During the year, the Committee used its budget to hold a public debate on fluoride and drinking water. Fluoridation is supported by the British Dental Association and many other health professionals. Opponents believe fluoride can cause a range of problems. Experts - on both sides of the debate including Bill Etherington MP - held what was, at times, a very lively debate. Attendance was open to all residents of the City and was complemented by attendance from interested parties including dentists and their staff, health visitors, NHS Managers, civil liberties groups, children centre managers, the pure water campaign, environmental health officers, schools and patient groups. Organisations involved also provide stalls. Pleasingly 100+ people attended demonstrating the effectiveness of the Committee's engagement.
- 4.6 The Committee also received an update on 12 actions agreed with partners following a 2005 symposium on skin cancer. Progress was noted. The Council has also been asked to share its experiences in raising awareness of skin care at a summit being organised by Cancer Research UK and the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health in the summer of 2006.

5. Policy Framework

- 5.1 This category refers to the Council Plans and Strategies in Article 4 of the Constitution. Here the Review Committee is required to be consulted by Cabinet, for advice and consideration, on specific Plans & Strategies. Because of a relaxation of the planning framework and the Council's 'excellent' CPA status there was no need to consider any Plans and Strategies under this heading this year.

6. Consultation

- 6.1 This formed a significant focus with a new role in looking at NHS Trust performance. Members were presented with opportunities to influence the shape of future health & social care services through work on:

Local Substantial Developments & Variations in NHS Services -

- 6.2 The Health & Social Care Act 2001, requires the NHS to inform the Committee of any 'substantial developments'/'substantial variations' in service. Trusts are to be thanked for their contribution to ensuring discussion this year. Pleasingly levels of reporting/co-operation are well developed in the City compared to other parts of the country.

National Consultations -

- 6.3 In July, 2005, the Healthcare Commission published a new NHS performance framework based on 24 core standards in 7 domains of: Safety, Clinical & Cost Effectiveness, Governance, Patient Focus, Accessible & Responsive Care, Care Environment & Amenities and Public Health. Boards of Trusts complete a self-evaluation template. This replaces the old 'star' system. Health OSCs are invited to submit comment - to provide 'a reality check' - as part of this process. Comments must be included by the NHS verbatim. The opportunity to comment is not extended to Cabinet members and the Chairman of the Committee engaged with the Commission on this decision. It was explained that Cabinet members might be part of the evidence base if the Commission wished to investigate the performance of any joint NHS/Adult Service provision.
- 6.4 Guidance sets out the way in which the Commission will cross-check and validate declarations. Approximately 10% of Trusts will face further inspection. It is recognised OSCs have a significant role and pleasingly Sunderland's approach to information collation and comment has been highlighted as a model of good practice.
- 6.5 Members have also contributed to national debate - as a pre-cursor to the 'Our Health, Our Care, Our Say: A New Direction for Community Services' White Paper on future strategy/actions by attending a national conference on frameworks for health and improved well-being. On publication of 'Commissioning a Patient-led NHS' from the Department of Health, the Committee made detailed representations on the structure of NHS Trusts locally. This was supported by a presentation from the Strategic Health Authority with comment from the Chair of Sunderland TPCT. Support was given to the establishment of a new ambulance trust for the whole North East and retention of a single Primary Care Trust for the City - particularly given significant benefits of co-terminosity in Council/NHS commissioner boundaries.

Local Consultations -

- 6.6 The Adult Services Directorate sought Member comment on the emerging Commissioning Strategy for Vulnerable Adults. The Committee would hope to see the strategy as a shared vision with NHS commissioners.
- 6.7 NHS Trusts referred, in the spirit of partnership and the Health & Social Care Act, a number of issues for local consultation. Following consideration, the Committee determined to refer proposals for revised management arrangements for a GP Practice at the Galleries Shopping Centre to the Washington Area Committee. This demonstrates the commitment of the Committee to use a 'One-Council' approach.

Having looked at the importance of the issue for Sunderland, the Committee endorsed principles in Sunderland's first Tobacco Control Strategy. Members noted the significant role the Council could play in delivering Control Strategy ambitions and requested more information on contributions from Directorates. Given a national framework was being set, the Committee requested more detail in 2006/07 on how the Council will be supporting the creation of smoke-free workplaces and help for staff who smoke. Members were pleased to note action taken by Cabinet to amend the Council's own policy and prohibit smoking in all of the Civic Centre and its curtilage. Members considered commented on proposals to the TPCT to close a branch surgery at Alderman Cohen Medical Centre, Springwell and endorsed, as extremely thorough, consultations by the former South of Tyne & Wearside Mental Health Trust on its Business Case for new in-patient facilities at Cherry Knowle Hospital.

- 6.8 A number of key local Strategies have also been endorsed including: the joint Adult Services/NHS 'Strategic Vision For Adult Treatment Services For Drug Dependency', the joint 'Strategic Vision for the Development of an Alcohol Strategy', findings from the 'Annual Report of the Director of Health', service models, capacity planning and partnerships to deliver new in-patient provision at Cherry Knowle Hospital and proposals to reconfigure Community Dentistry to provide a better spread of services.
- 6.9 Following detailed consideration, Members could not support the establishment of a single mental health trust for Northumberland, Tyne & Wear - due to concerns at the loss of influence and local accountability and burden on partners and staff. The new Trust was approved, however, and has been operating since April, 2006.

7. Performance Review

- 7.1 Statutory and local performance indicators are assessed under this heading together with corporate Performance Improvement Reviews. Performance information is used to inform decisions and drive improvement.
- 7.2 The Committee has continued to receive regular performance reports from Adult Services. It is envisaged that by 2006/07 a joint Adult Services/NHS/Environmental Health report on general 'wellbeing' can be prepared giving a broader analysis of the City's health.
- 7.3 Specific performance reports have been considered including, from the Council, the Healthy City Performance Improvement Review (that the Committee was happy to 'sign-off'), the annual review on Adult Services by the Commission for Social Care Inspection and the Council's Comprehensive Performance Assessment 2005 Direction of Travel Statement. From the NHS, the Committee noted local performance in TPCT delivery of new out of hours dental services (from 5th December, 2005), the new Dental Contract in place from 1st April, 2006 and achievements in rolling-out City-wide GP out of hours services. The Committee looked, in addition, at how Government's Choose & Book initiative was being received (for choice at six month wait and from referral) noting numbers of people happy to wait in Sunderland for access to local hospitals.

- 7.4 The Committee also discussed key issues from the 2005 MORI survey that might usefully inform the future work programme. MORI findings provided direct performance feedback from residents.

8. Information, Awareness Raising

- 8.1 Given the importance of health to the City, Members have been kept abreast of issues through reports and presentations. These included services at the Lazarus Centre, annual reports of the Patient & Public Involvement Forums and hearing from the former Director of Social Services on the direction of travel for adult services.
- 8.2 In recognition of the need to see first hand health and social care facilities - and to give a fresher feel to the work than a reliance on officer reports - the Committee undertook a number of visits. These included to the new Grindon Lane Primary Care Centre and Fulwell Day Centre to look at transition services for people with autism.

9. Members Items and Call-In

- 9.1 During the year, Members considered the following issue at committee meetings. Other items (eg Internal Fraud arrangements, 'Bird Flu' and the location of Primary Care Centres) were taken up, under an agreed protocol, outside of formal meetings:

Transition Services to People with Autism -

- 9.2 Members were concerned there might be varying frameworks in place. A detailed report set out challenges. During a visit to the Fulwell Day Centre, Members commented on the excellence of art produced. Officers are working to provide a suitable way to display some of it within the Civic Centre.

10. Call-Ins

- 10.1 No requests from Members to call in a decision of the Cabinet were made.

11. Scrutiny Practice

- 11.1 To assist Members and witnesses and to give 'a public face' to scrutiny a Handbook was again delivered. Amongst additions for 2005/06 was an updated Health Scrutiny Protocol. This carries on groundbreaking work in previous years and provides a regional approach (led by Sunderland) on engaging with the ambulance trust.
- 11.2 The Committee also welcomed revisions to its terms of reference. It was recognised revisions met 'best fit' principles.
- 11.3 Feedback Forms continue to be circulated at meetings to receive Member comment.

12. Conclusion

- 12.1 The Committee has delivered an ambitious work programme in 2005/06. Positive feedback has been received on how the significant (and growing) powers of health scrutiny are being progressed. Protocols have assisted in formalising work and new

ways of working (particularly public engagement) have been explored. 2005/06 was a year of significant change for the NHS and social care in terms of organisational structures, role and direction of travel. Not all of these were known about at the beginning of the year but effective planning has enabled consideration of all issues Members wished to look at.

13. Recommendation

- 13.1 Council is asked to consider the operation, achievements and impact of the committee during 2005/06 and discuss future operation i.e. developing those areas that have been most effective and addressing any areas of weakness.

14. Background Papers

Agenda & Minutes Social Services & Health and Health & Well-Being Review
Committee 2005/06
Council Constitution
Health and Social Care Act 2001
'Independence, Well-Being & Choice' White Paper
Local Authority (Overview and Scrutiny Committees Health Scrutiny Functions)
Regulations 2002
'Our Health, Our Care, Our Say: A New Direction for Community Services' White
- Paper

Report

Quarterly Report on Special Urgency Decisions

Report of the Leader

The Council's Constitution requires that a quarterly report be submitted to Council on executive decisions which have been taken under Rule 16 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000.

This is the special urgency provision under which key decisions may be taken by the executive notwithstanding that the item was not contained in the Forward Plan and compliance with Regulation 15 (the general exception) was impracticable.

The first such decision was made at Cabinet this month, the details of which are as follows:-

Decision Taker	Date	Description of Decision
Cabinet	07/06/06	To authorise the acquisition of leasehold interests in land at Farringdon Row which are required urgently to facilitate the completion of the development agreement

Recommendation

That the Council notes the content of this report.

