

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

AGENDA

Meeting to be held in the Raich Carter Sports Centre, Commercial Road, SR2 8PD on Tuesday, 17th January, 2012 at 5.30 p.m.

Membership

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

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E. WAUGH,
Head of Law and Governance.

Civic Centre,
SUNDERLAND.

9th January, 2012

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 28th February, 2012

At a meeting of the SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE on TUESDAY, 13th DECEMBER, 2011 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor S. Watson in the Chair

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

Apologies for Absence

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

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee held on 25th October, 2011

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 25th October, 2011 be confirmed as a correct record, subject to the amendments as outlined.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

Building a Sustainable and Lasting Legacy in Sport and Physical Activity Policy Review 2011/12 : Progress Report

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which informed Members of progress on the Committee's policy review for 2011/12 into building a sustainable and lasting legacy in sport and physical activity.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Helen Lancaster, Scrutiny Officer, presented the report advising Members of the progress to date in relation to the Committee's policy review for 2011/12 into building a sustainable and lasting legacy in sport and physical activity.

Having considered the report, it was:-

2. RESOLVED that:-

- the content of the information provided within the report be received and noted; and
- the approach to evidence gathering in order to meet the aims and terms of reference of the policy review be agreed.

Building a Sustainable and Lasting Legacy in Sport and Physical Activity Policy Review 2011/12 : Use of Schools in the Provision of Sport and Physical Activity

The Chief Executive and Executive Director of City Services submitted a joint report (copy circulated) which provided information to the Committee in relation to the use of schools beyond the school day in the provision of sport and physical activity.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Helen Lancaster, Scrutiny Officer, presented the report advising that Mr. Mike Foster, Deputy Executive Director Children's Services, Ms. Victoria French, Assistant Head of Community Services, Ms. Helen Elderkin and Ms. Vicki Smith, Communities Director Redhouse Academy and Ms. Trish Stoker, Head Teacher at Southwick Primary School had been invited to attend the Committee to give evidence and answer any questions in relation to community access to schools for the provision of sport and physical activity.

Ms. Elderkin informed the Committee that Redhouse Academy currently offered 35 different activities to the community out of the usual school hours and circulated a list outlining what was on offer, which age ranges they were aimed at and an approximate number of participants, which totalled over 400 participants. The Academy tried to offer sports and activities and link those in with support towards promoting healthier lifestyles for families.

Ms. Stoker referred to Southwick Primary School, advising Members that as a new build school a lot of planning had gone into the initial design of the building, which now housed a dance studio, sports hall, IT suite, etc. which were accessible by the community. She informed Members that the school was open every evening until 8:00pm offering different activities to help promote community activity but there was the potential to develop it further.

Ms. Stoker commented that it was around making a balance of the activities that were accessible to communities and the affordability of them. The possibility of linking schools and working in partnerships to look at the demands of residents in the city to see where they could be met would be key and schools could be the obvious solution in many cases.

Councillor McClennan referred to the circulated spreadsheet and commented that around nine activities were provided for participants who may not be pupils of the school such as Zumba and asked how these groups were funded and then charged for the use of the facilities. Ms. Smith took Zumba as an example and explained that it was self funded. Participants were charged a cost to take part and Sunderland Dance Group took the class. The fee paid by participants covered the cost of the

room hire and as the building was already staffed at the hours the classes took place there were no extra charges for caretakers, etc.

Councillor McClennan referred to the list of schools within the report that provided community access and commented that Valley Road Primary School was not included but that this may be due to it being funded by Back on the Map, Ms. Lancaster agreed to get further information on this for Members.

Councillor Foster also sought clarification with regards to the list as it included Castle View Primary and this would either be Castle View Academy or Hylton Castle or Castletown Primary Schools. Ms. French agreed to go back and correct this and advise Members of which school it was.

Councillor Rolph commented that you could hear the enthusiasm from the attendees and it was encouraging to hear but commented that she would have also liked to hear from those schools that weren't opening to the community and question if the barriers were so insurmountable. She asked if existing provision was adequate and how recently the list included in the report had been revisited and monitored.

Ms. French advised that they picked up on need for further provision through ongoing consultation to understand what activities residents would like to take part in, given the chance and where and when they would want to go. If it was felt that a school was the best facility to hold the activity then Officers could work with them to overcome any barriers for groups to gain access. Presently there was a lot of provision for communities to access activities through schools but other schools in the city needed to follow the trend and get on board with becoming community facilities, where possible.

Councillor Rolph referred to Academies and the worry that any new Academies may have a different approach to community facilities and create competition between local authority facilities and their own and asked if any thought had been put into how this could be addressed if it was an issue. Mr. Foster confirmed that new Academies would be untried territory and that consultations with them so far, for the small number of schools that had enquired about becoming academies, had shown that they recognised the essential need for continuing to develop community involvement and engagement. He did agree that they would be an organisation in its own right and therefore set their own charges which the local authority would have no control over.

With regards to the appendix Councillor Rolph also highlighted schools that were missed off the list, Newbottle Primary which had a community room and Burnside Primary which had received SIB funding towards building a community room. Ms. French advised that those schools may not be included due to the funding streams they have accessed but she would look into this further.

Councillor Kaye commented that trends changed over time and there was a need to ensure that provision was timely and current so communities could continue to make the best of what was available to them.

He also asked if a centralised database of what was on offer was available so Members could use it in to encourage communities to use them, he referred to the

list within the report stating that he found it highly unlikely that there were only two schools providing activities in the East Sunderland Area. Ms. French advised that the report was primarily looking at those activities who had received with community access and a further audit of provisions would help in capturing further information on what was available throughout the city.

Ms. French commented that the attention was now around finding better pathways for communities into what was available within schools. Ms. Elderkin commented that the Academy were always looking to consult with partners and attendees of activities to ensure they were offering activities that were wanted in the community. An example of this was a new Bokwa class that was being arranged which was the newest fitness craze about to hit the market.

Ms. Stoker agreed that her school also focussed on providing very local access to provide sustainable activities. She commented that it did take a lot of effort and if they were to take place after 6:00pm they could incur higher costs so it was looking at how to link other providers in the city with schools to ensure schools were not burdened and struggling to cope individually.

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

3. RESOLVED that the presentation from representatives of Redhouse Academy and Southwick Primary School be received and noted and included towards the evidence gathering on the Committee's policy review topic for 2011/12.

Building a Sustainable and Lasting Legacy in Sport and Physical Activity Policy Review 2011/12 : Sunderland in 2012

The Executive Director of City Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update to the Committee in relation to Sunderland in 2012 and contributed towards the evidence for the policy review into building a sustainable and lasting legacy in sport and physical activity.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Victoria French, Assistant Head of Community Services, presented the report advising that a presentation had been given to each of the Area Committees inviting Members to help inform and shape the content of the Sunderland in 2012 programme to ensure opportunities and activities were relevant to the communities within each area.

Councillor Rolph asked if the Officers had found different approaches being offered from the different Area Committees and was informed that the discussions with each area had proved very useful. She explained that some funding had been allocated from the Committee's budgets as a contribution towards the programme in their area which would provide a mixture of opportunities for residents to engage with the programme, having taken on board Members comments and suggestions as to what would be most fitting for their area.

The Chairman thanked the Officer for her report, and it was :-

4. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted and information set out in the report be included as evidence for the policy review into building a sustainable and lasting legacy in sport and physical activity.

Performance Report Quarters 1 & 2 (April – September 2011)

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with a performance update for the period April to September, 2011.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Mr. Mike Lowe, Head of Performance Improvement, presented the report advising that in October 2010 the Government announced that from April 2011 there would no longer be a requirement for Council's to produce an LAA. It was explained that for 2011/12 the Council's aim was that in future performance reporting would be focused on the key priorities for the people, place and economy of Sunderland and would continue to be a robust appraisal of the situation resulting in actions.

Councillor Porthouse sought clarification around the sport and leisure performance indicators asking if visits to leisure centres were at 1.1 million and the number of swims was down to 323,000, how was the population of the city volunteering in sport and active recreation for at least one hour per week was up from 4.94% to 7.20%. Mr. Lowe commented that he did not have this information available at the meeting but would ensure that it was provided to the Committee.

Councillor Rolph commented that the performance indicators with regards to Housing were disappointing but stated that it didn't include performance on empty properties being brought back into use, which was quite positive and felt that it would be interesting to measure and monitor these figures on a regular basis. Mr. Alan Caddick, Head of Housing, commented that the national trend was also disappointing and it was important for the Council to show what they were proposing to address the issues, and to look more outward to how to work with developers. He advised that the introduction of the Housing Developer's Forum allowed them to talk about the housing market and proposed and ongoing developments in the city but added that there was a need to facilitate things better.

With regards to Government initiatives, Mr. Caddick advised that they were laying the foundations for a national housing strategy with a number of initiatives coming forward from that and developments from them would help in getting the Council's relationship with housing developers on a positive footing. He explained that he would continue to meet with them and invited any Member of the Committee who may to attend to contact him directly.

In relation to the empty properties, Mr. Caddick confirmed that they were doing very well in bringing them back into use and advised that a separate report would be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee giving the overall picture.

Councillor Rolph thanked Mr. Caddick for his informative response and asked that the statistic on empty properties be included in future reports as it was a very high profile topic and should be monitored.

In response to comments from Councillor Rolph regarding Sunderland kicking the nation trend of a severe decline of 16-19 year olds being involved in sport and activities, Mr. Lowe advised that he did not have the level of knowledge to answer the question but was aware that Sunderland were going against the trend. He explained that the service were hopeful that the information gathered through Active Sunderland in quarter 3 would continue to confirm this.

Councillor Rolph referred to indicators under the Community Cohesion heading such as the percentage of local authority employees from minority ethnic communities and commented that it would also be appropriate to provide similar data for people with disabilities, and if this was not recorded at present then it should be in future. Mr. Lowe commented that he would forward the Councillor's comments on to the Human Resources to ensure it was reported in future reports.

Having answered Members questions, it was:-

5. RESOLVED that the findings within the report, including areas of good progress made by the Council and areas that need further improvement, be received and noted.

Change in Order of Business

At this juncture, the Chairman proposed that Item 8 – The Conservation of Built Heritage Assets in the City and Item 9 – History and Heritage Update 2010/11 be considered together as they were so closely linked.

The Conservation of Built Heritage Assets in the City and History and Heritage Update 2010/11

The Chief Executive and Executive Director of City Services submitted reports (copies circulated) which provided an update on progress in respect of the work being undertaken by the Planning Service to protect and enhance the city's built heritage and also updated Members on the work ongoing within City Services with regard to the Heritage offer across the city.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Rolph commented that she understood the teams were under a structure review and was keen to know how the heritage roles would be reflected in future resources. Mr. Lowe advised that the Conservation Team would be leaving the planning service, with the further detail being set out in paragraph 3.2.1. of the report, but in short the team would be joining with the Countryside Team to form a Heritage Protection Team. Once the new structure for the planning service was in place a future work programme would be agreed.

Mr. Dan Hattle, Interim Deputy Manager, explained that the new structure would take in staff from planning and regeneration and urban design and would involve the team working more flexibly across all roles involved in the planning service, picking up capacity elsewhere and continuing to provide the services they already do. He advised that the focus would be on the statutory responsibilities of the service, including built heritage but there was scope available to address any issues or areas if needed.

Councillor Rolph commented that this was alarming news, particularly at a time when heritage was of a growing interest and concern to residents and asked if there was a heritage led regeneration project then would the opportunity to build up the resource if needed be available and she was advised it would be.

In response to a query regarding Heritage in Sunderland, Mr. Lowe advised that he did try to attend the meetings and feed into the forum, and coordination between the two departments on the area needed to continue. With regards to the Heritage Strategy development, Mr. Lowe advised that it was Ms. Medhurst's team that took the lead but he fed into it through the Heritage in Sunderland and regular informal meetings to ensure they could be confident that that coordinated citywide approach continued.

Councillor Rolph asked how additions could be made to the list of heritage sites within the city and if the community could propose additions to the national register for historic parks and gardens. Mr. Lowe advised that any party were able to suggest sites to English Heritage and the asset would then be considered. All information was downloadable from their website and the application form requested more information to justify the site's significance for being considered. He explained that ideally a statement from either residents or conservation groups should be included to allow English Heritage to then assess and appraise the site.

She also asked what the development vision for the heritage role of the Committee and Elected Members was intended to be for the future and was advised by Ms. Medhurst that a lot of work had been undertaken through each of the Area Committees to consult with Members around heritage in their areas. Both the North Sunderland and Coalfields Area Committees had agreed to form individual action plans to address heritage in their areas and initial discussions had been held as to how to take forward actions from these in conjunction with the Heritage in Sunderland group.

In response to a query from Councillor Rolph regarding the management of Fulwell Mill, Ms. Medhurst advised that they had been in negotiations with Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums some years ago around their management of the site but that this had halted due to costs and a change in the portfolio holder. At present a review of culture and heritage was being undertaken which was looking at how best to continue to provide services and as developments were made she would inform Members.

Councillor Howe referred to the CAMS programme covering a large area and asked if the Fulwell Mill site was included as part of this. Mr. Lowe informed Members that the CAMS were concerned with conservation areas in built up areas such as Victorian suburbs or village gardens. He went on to say Fulwell Mill was a listed site

but the area surrounding it was not of built heritage significance and was more of a natural heritage site. He agreed to provide more detailed information to Members outside of the meeting.

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

6. RESOLVED that the information contained within reports be received and noted and further updates regarding Heritage in Sunderland be submitted to future meetings of the Committee as appropriate.

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

The Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services submitted a report (copy circulated) to brief the Committee on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment in relation to Homelessness, Hostels, Rough Sleeping and Migration.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Mr. Alan Caddick, Head of Housing, presented the report advising that in response to a number of issues surrounding hostels within the city the Committee had requested a detailed report outlining the strategy for the city going forward in respect of this issue. He explained that the context and proposed approach to the hostels was now contained with the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment which forms part of a wider comprehensive JSNA covering a range of topic areas.

Councillor McClennan congratulated Mr. Caddick on the depth of the report and commented that she had a number of significant questions and concerns to be raised, she was aware that they may not all be able to answered at this meeting and listed them for further information as such, referring to the paragraphs as set out in the report:-

- 2.9, 2.10, 2.11 – rough sleeping, and in particular the incident in Mowbray Park whereby the lights were left on by organisers as part of the Christmas displays;
- 3.3 – significant concerns over hostel provision and support services and the implications for the ward;
- 4.2 – two additional hostels , one in the East Sunderland area, creating a 'Catch 22' situation and increasing concerns from residents in the area, any increase in hostels in the area is strongly opposed;
- 5.1-5.4 – Ex armed forces personnel are identified as an emerging significant issue with the threat of homelessness;
- 5.10 – 14 hostels/support housing units in Sunderland and it is a significant concern in protecting the City for investment from business, particularly in the Sunnside area;
- 5.21 – figure for asylum seekers in the city is 170, where are these populated and the impacts on the direction of the policy and strategy;
- 6.5 – only the country of origin for migration and asylum seekers families was recorded, what were the figures for single households and was there similarities between the two sets of data:

- 6.7 – failed asylum seekers, what was being done to capture statistics on where individuals were in the city and how many were there;
- 7.3 – 87% of the bed spaces for hostels and supported housing were in the Hendon ward which was a real concern for Ward Members;
- 12.5 – refers to the development of two further projects, would these be in addition to the need identified in paragraph 4.2 of the report and where was it proposed to place them.

In closing Councillor McClennan commented that she would be unable to totally approve the JSNA with insufficient detail and that she could not support future developments until further information on their location, etc could be considered.

The Chairman highlighted that a number of the issues raised by Councillor McClennan were obviously very Ward specific and asked that Mr. Caddick meet with her outside of the meeting to discuss all of those issues as raised.

Councillor Kay referred to paragraph 7.3 of the report and the total of 407 bed spaces in the city, asking if the reopened building at North Bridge Street was included in this. Mr. Caddick advised that the provision there was being rebadged as a different type of accommodation and was not included but informed Members that it would include around 20 further bed spaces.

Councillor Rolph referred to private sector provision, such as the excellent Salvation Army Hostel in comparison with others which were not as good and commented that standards needed to be raised within the provisions to ensure they were on par. Mr. Caddick commented that the issues raised by Councillor McClennan although ward specific covered issues which were across the board and advised of the following actions that were being undertaken to address them:-

- a record of what was currently available would form the basis of a policy addressing safeguarding and basic conditions issues;
- the service would work in a coordinated way to move people out of/into new provision where necessary;
- where individuals were moved, ensuring that the relevant support services are easily accessible from the new residence;
- reconnecting people who were not from the Sunderland area to their original residency as part of a regional approach, which was now starting to make an impact;
- relocating of support services into areas where there is a significant need due to movement will see them begin to dissipate;
- identifying and tackling the issues that cause homelessness on a citywide basis;
- identifying where funding cannot be found for new builds to improve provision that is available;
- recommendations from a regional scrutiny on ex-armed forces personnel were being worked on to provide support groups and help; and
- it was key to protect the investment in the Sunnyside area but it needed to be done in a coordinated way.

Mr. Caddick having been thanked for his informative report, it was:-

7. RESOLVED that the information contained within the report be received and noted and further information be submitted to the Committee as appropriate.

Work Programme 2011-12

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

(for copy report – see original minutes)

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

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

Forward Plan – Key Decisions for the Period 1st December, 2011 – 31st March, 2012

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide Members with an opportunity to consider those items on the Executive's Forward Plan for the period 1st December, to 31st March, 2012 which related to the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee.

(for copy report – see original minutes).

Members commented that the next Forward Plan would be published the next day and the Principal Governance Services Officer agreed to forward it to Members of the Committee for their consideration.

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

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

(Signed) S. WATSON,
Chairman.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

17 JANUARY 2012

BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE AND LASTING LEGACY IN SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY POLICY REVIEW 2011/12: REDUCING THE BARRIERS TO ACCESSING SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Strategic Priority: Healthy City

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

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report provides information to the Scrutiny Committee in relation to the barriers identified by residents of the city in accessing sport and physical activity provision. This report contributes to the evidence for the Committee's policy review for 2011/12; Building a Sustainable and Lasting Legacy in Sport and Physical Activity.
- 1.2 The report will be presented by Helen Lancaster, Scrutiny Officer. Representatives from Sunderland City Council, Sunderland ABC Boxing Club, Hendon Young People's Project and Pennywell Community Centre will be in attendance to give the Committee the opportunity to have a discussion with providers from every sector about the barriers to participation and ways in which to overcome them.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At its meeting on 13 September 2011, the Scrutiny Committee agreed the approach to the Policy Review; Building a Sustainable and Lasting Legacy in Sport and Physical Activity, which included identifying the barriers to participation and ways in which to encourage greater take up of sport and physical activity.
- 2.2 This report contributes principally to the following terms of reference for the review;
 - (d) To understand the range of sport and physical activity provision currently being delivered across the city by the Council, the voluntary and community sector and private sector;

- (e) To understand the current level of diversity of provision across the city, considering the opportunities available for traditional and non traditional and alternative forms of activity; and
- (i) To consider the city's 'priority' sports and physical activity opportunities and the pathways in place to sustain and increase participation.

3. BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION

3.1 Barriers to participation can affect people of all ages, ethnicities and socio-economic groups, however they are often more apparent for socially excluded groups, including workless or low-income families, homeless people, young people, women, BME groups and people with disabilities.

Local Issues

3.2 In the Summer Survey undertaken with the Council's Community Spirit panel in 2009, residents were asked how easy or difficult it is for them to be physically active in their local area. Overall, the majority of residents said this was easy, however a fifth of respondents said it was difficult.

3.3 Residents with a disability were significantly more likely to say they find it difficult to be physically active than those without a disability. The analysis also showed that males were slightly more likely to say they find it easy to be physically active in their local area than females.

3.4 The vast majority of comments around this question were from those who believed that they have the opportunity to exercise if they wish, which some said they were already doing. The majority of opportunities identified by respondents included visiting a Leisure Centre (where cost was not felt to be prohibitive), or for general walking, jogging or cycling out and about in the local area.

3.5 The main reasons given from those who found it difficult to be physically active were around disability or because they felt they were too old. Other reasons included costs, distance, fear of crime in the local area or that it the area in which they live is not maintained well enough to do physical activity in.

3.6 The most significant barriers to being physically active were identified by residents as being:

Barrier	Percentage
Lack of time	47%
Cost of activities	46%
Location of activities	30%
Disability/ill health	28%

- 3.7 Residents were asked to identify things that would encourage them to be more physically active. These included:

Encouraging factor	Percentage
Activities available at times that suit me	43%
Promotional discounted activities	39%
Opportunities in other facilities, not Leisure Centres	35%

Current consultation and engagement

- 3.8 The service area is currently engaging with residents, partners and activity providers to understand the type of sports and physical activity people would like to see available in the city. Within this consultation individuals also asked to identify where and when they would like to take part in sport and physical activity. Responses from this process will help shape future sport and physical activity priorities and provide further evidence as to what people want, where they want it and when they want it delivered.

The cost of accessing sports facilities

- 3.9 In order to reduce barriers associated with cost to sports facilities, the Council's aim as far as its sport and leisure pricing policy is concerned, is to direct funding to services for the benefit of its residents. Subsidies are targeted towards those residents who least can afford to pay for sport and physical activity. A new pricing framework was introduced in 2008 and facilitated by the Lifecard. All young people in the city under 18 years of age receive a free Lifecard, which allows discounted access to sports facilities. This approach ensures that an inclusive approach is adopted towards pricing regardless of a resident's ability to pay.

4. OPPORTUNITIES TO OVERCOME BARRIERS

- 4.1 The Council and the industry has long recognised the barriers its residents have to participation in sport and physical activity and Sport and Leisure have supported the community for a number of years by providing assistance, developing sport opportunities, raising awareness and tackling prejudice within communities, specifically with regard to ethnic minority groups. The service was also awarded national Beacon Status for its contribution in engaging with 'Hard to Reach Groups' through sport.

BME Groups/Community Cohesion

- 4.2 A project established with the Young Asian Voices group engaged more than 50 males throughout 2011. Following the success of these sessions, an adult 11 a side Asian football team was developed who now compete in the North East Christian Fellowship League.

- 4.3 The Raich Carter Sports Centre (RCSC) is located in an area of proportionately high BME groups for the city and work undertaken in recent years has included:-
- Outreach coaching at the Bangladeshi Centre;
 - Programming specific gym and swim sessions for the Bangladeshi Centre;
 - Supporting the Refugee Centre Training Programme, by offering two refugees volunteer training in administration and life guarding;
 - Programming badminton for the Indian Cultural Centre on Sunday afternoons;
 - Midnight football for late night restaurant workers;
 - Private swimming for Bangladeshi women; and
 - Young Asian Voices provide sessions for young people 9-19 years. The group work in conjunction with Centre staff and programme a number of activities throughout the year including football, gym and swim.
- 4.4 Using football to tackle community cohesion issues, an annual tournament has been developed at the RCSC to bring together communities who would not normally participate or positively interact. The service supports the annual Show Racism the Red Card festival and activities (multi club football event) organised by the SAFC Foundation, Sunderland Samba and Young Asian Voices.
- 4.5 Crowtree Leisure Centre's strong partnership with the University of Sunderland has encouraged many sporting links with Eastern and Malaysian students in recent years, particularly for sports such as badminton and table tennis. Crowtree has also worked with the Hong Kong and Malaysia Society to celebrate national events, including the Chinese New Year.

Homelessness

- 4.6 Working in partnership with Centrepoin, the city's first 'homeless' football tournament was staged in November 2011. This attracted 14 homeless players and further work is planned with Centrepoin in 2012.

Women

- 4.7 The Get into Football Officer is supporting the work of a group called "We'Ar Out" and has undertaken consultation asking its members for feedback on a number of issues including sport. From this consultation 20 women indicated they wanted to play football. Casual football sessions will commence early in 2012 for the interested women.
- 4.8 Sangini is a women's organisation aiming to reach BME disadvantaged and excluded groups in an innovative and creative way whilst providing opportunities for tackling inequalities in health. The group have been proactive in the development of community wellness opportunities and have received assistance in accessing training and educational

opportunities. The group have a gym and swimming sessions one morning a week at RCSC.

- 4.9 Funding secured from the ASA has been used to develop a women's swimming network. The Council has engaged a number of organisations including We're Out, University of Sunderland and Wearside Women in Need. Currently two groups have been established with 30 participants.

People with a disability

- 4.10 The role of the Sunderland Disability Forum is to work with children who have physical and/or medical needs and who are attending a mainstream school within the city and to ensure these children the equality of opportunity through the provision of inclusive physical education and discrete disability sport events within an accessible and supportive environment. The Forum consists of representatives from Sport and Leisure, and other partners such as SAFC Foundation.
- 4.11 Currently the Forum is coordinating a Sportsability Morning to be held on 19 January 2012, at Silksworth Community Pool, Tennis and Wellness Centre. The event is open to young people in Years 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 with physical and/or medical difficulties attending mainstream secondary schools in Sunderland. The sports on offer include seated volleyball, sports hall athletics, tennis, wheelchair basketball and boccia.
- 4.12 The Sunderland Tennis Programme has developed a new Sound Tennis Club for people who are visually impaired. The adapted game is played on a short tennis court with a special foam ball with ball bearings inside, which shake to alert the player to where the ball has bounced. A series of taster sessions has also been delivered in schools with over 20 regular participants.
- 4.13 The Council has undertaken a significant investment and modernisation programme to assist those with disabilities. One area where significant progress has been made is ensuring that each area of the city has a swimming pool and Wellness Centre, therefore encouraging community involvement, access and participation. In planning new facilities the service has ensured that residents have access to facilities which are fully compliant with DDA legislation, such as the Aquatic Centre, new 25m pools, City Adventure Play Park and the Tennis Centre Sensory Room.

Young People

- 4.14 Whilst Sport and Leisure are not the strategic lead for the delivery of sports activities for young people, the service area does make a significant contribution to driving forward participation levels.

- 4.15 Funding from Sport England has enabled 3394 young people within the city to access and participate in the Sport Unlimited programme of new sporting opportunities over the last year. The programme was targeted at young people who may have some interest in sport, but aren't currently engaged with community or club sport. The project has now concluded and has engaged 6474 young people into regular sport outside of curriculum time over the past three years (the highest levels in Tyne & Wear).
- 4.16 In 2010, Sport England announced 'Places People Play', a legacy programme aimed to bring the inspiration and magic of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games into the heart of local communities. Sportivate is a key part of this initiative and provides opportunities for Sunderland's young people (aged 14-25) to receive 6 weeks of coaching in the sport of their choice, and guide them into regular participation within their community. The programme commenced in July 2011 and outputs will be available in July 2012.
- 4.17 Growing Sport is a new sports intervention programme for young people funded by the Home Office, which will focus on reducing anti social behaviour. The programme comprises of 12 weeks direct sport delivery (predominantly football), then at week 6, community partners will become involved in taking over the programme with the support of Council coaches. This will encourage the transition from young people causing problems to becoming engaged in a community project.
- 4.18 There are several fitness classes available within the city's Wellness and leisure centres for those children and young people under the age of 16.
- 4.19 The Lifestyle Activity and Food Programme has been developed with the aim of supporting children and families to adopt and maintain healthier lifestyle choices. This is achieved through fun and interactive group sessions, which provide healthy eating advice and the opportunity to be physically active. The programme supports up to 300 children and families each year.
- 4.20 Funding was secured from the Coalfield Regeneration Trust to develop a youth inclusion programme focused on football and to support up to 40 young coaches to gain a Level 1 - 2 coaching qualifications.

Using the Olympic Legacy to increase participation

- 4.21 The London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games will also serve as a catalyst to engage and inspire all residents to take part in sport and physical activity to increase participation levels. It is anticipated the London 2012 Games will also provide an opportunity to engage residents and reaffirm the importance of sport and physical activity to sustain local communities

5. RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 The Committee is recommended to note and comment upon the report, asking questions of the representatives from Sunderland City Council, Barnes Boxing Club, Hendon Young People's Project and Pennywell Community Centre around the provision of sport and physical activity and overcoming the barriers to participation.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee Minutes, 26 July 2011; 13 September 2011; Community Spirit Summer Survey 2009;

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CULTURAL STRATEGY

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CITY SERVICES

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 Members of the Scrutiny Committee agreed in their work plan to consider the current Cultural Strategy. This report is to initiate discussion around the strategy and agree the way forward.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The City Council launched the current Cultural Strategy in 2003. It was based on an extensive consultation that had taken place across the city using the theme 'Culture – what's yours?' The research was based on finding out what people in Sunderland did in their spare time and what they would like to see more of. The consultation involved interviews, questionnaires and workshops led by an external company. A draft strategy was produced and consulted on before the final version was agreed.
- 2.2 At the time DCMS (Department of Culture, Media and Sport) requested that Local Authorities produced a Local Cultural Strategy so that Culture was embedded in future planning and also so that culture could illustrate its contribution to the personal, community and economic well-being of the city. The local strategies were intended to complement the regional strategies produced by the regional cultural consortium – Culture North East.
- 2.3 Identifying the culture of the city illustrates what is unique to Sunderland – it shows our way of life, as individuals, as communities and as a whole. Not surprisingly the research found that what people in Sunderland were most proud of was our coastline, our heritage, our history, our riverside and the Stadium of Light.
- 2.4 Two key themes emerged from the research:-
- Identity, pride and positioning
 - Access, aspiration and equality

3.0 KEY AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Following on from the research and consultation the key aims and objectives of the cultural strategy were agreed as follows:-

3.1 To ensure that Sunderland is well known as a distinct city in the north east

Objectives:

- determine an effective image for Sunderland and promote it
- improve the promotion of our existing facilities and activities
- identify opportunities to use the river, the coast and other special places as cultural resources
- identify opportunities to develop additional relevant and dynamic visitor attractions

3.2 To celebrate the city of Sunderland, its traditions, its people and its places

Objectives:

- enable communities to understand and promote their individual cultural identities
- increase opportunities for celebrating Sunderland and our heritage
- create a focus for local history and heritage

3.3 To ensure that the city of Sunderland has a good range of quality cultural facilities

Objectives:

- ensure the provision of key cultural facilities where there are gaps
- enhance and develop existing cultural facilities to improve their impact at international, national, regional, sub regional and at community levels

3.4. To ensure that we establish and sustain a healthy and balanced cultural economy

Objectives:

- ensure that we have a balance of cultural providers and facilities across all sectors and at all levels
- encourage and support the independent sector including graduates, artists and small businesses
- develop a cultural quarter in the city centre
- develop a glass cluster
- Support the promotion of street theatre activities throughout the city
- extend opening hours of city centre cultural provision to contribute to the development of the evening economy
- retain creative sectors graduates in the city

3.5. To create an equality of access to culture throughout the city of Sunderland

Objectives:

- ensure that residents have access to a range of appropriate cultural facilities within their neighbourhood
- ensure that residents have good access to information about cultural facilities, activities and opportunities
- ensure that educational programmes take place within cultural provision and the community to provide experiences, raise aspirations and expectations
- play our part in developing and supporting community capacity to engage in cultural activities
- make it easier for people to participate in cultural activities
- ensure that the needs of young people and vulnerable groups are particularly recognised
- ensure that individuals and voluntary groups are supported and linked to relevant resource opportunities in order to promote cultural activities

3.6 To increase levels of participation in cultural activities

Objectives:

- provide quality facilities which meet the needs of residents
- offer quality cultural activities that attract, inspire and enthuse
- promote and market cultural facilities, activities and opportunities
- remove the barriers to participation

3.7 To ensure that culture plays its full part in improving life for people in Sunderland

Objectives:

- ensure that culture is represented at all levels and in all appropriate settings; these settings include structures and groupings established to develop and deliver strategies for, for example, health improvements, neighbourhood renewal, community learning and young people
- ensure that the cultural portfolio for the city is led cohesively and championed through appropriate partnership working arrangements
- ensure that cultural activities are used as a tool to open up experiences of a range of cultures and places, to expand horizons and overcome insularity

3.8 To ensure that Sunderland as a cultural resource makes a full contribution to the region

Objectives:

- ensure that Sunderland plays a full part in all cultural forums
- advocate Sunderland as a regional resource

- ensure that Sunderland develops a reasonable level of regional facilities
- support and undertake a proactive role in regional marketing activities
- investigate opportunities to develop an international centre of street theatre

All of the aims and objectives were supported by actions, outcomes, and outputs and targets which were regularly reported on. Obviously since 2003 there have been significant developments, e.g. 50 metre swimming pool at the Aquatic Centre; developed and enhanced libraries and Customer Service Centres; series of forums established for key cultural areas including Music, Art & Creativity; Theatre and Heritage; new cinema/bowling complex and a significantly extended Events programme including Heritage Festivals and live music which have all impacted on the cultural offer of the city, as well as social and technological changes which have affected what people do in their spare time.

4.0 CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

4.1 Members may wish to consider the following in deciding whether the cultural strategy needs updating or refreshing.

- Is a Cultural Strategy needed?
- If so, which of the current aims and objectives are considered to still be relevant?
- How much has the Culture of the city changed in the last 8 years?
- What is the likely impact of the Culture, Leisure and Sport review on a revised Cultural Strategy? This review is looking at all cultural services and facilities and future business models.

5.0 RECOMMENDATION

5.1 The recommendation is for members to consider the above, discuss and agree next steps/way forward.

6.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

6.1 Cultural Strategy 2003

7.0 GLOSSARY

- DCMS (Department of Culture, Media and Sport)

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL REPORT

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Strategic Priority: Attractive and Inclusive City

Corporate Improvement Objectives: CIO1: Delivering Customer Focused Services, CIO4: Improving Partnership working to deliver 'One City'

Corporate Outcomes:

1.5 - A city that cares for its most vulnerable

2.3 - Lasting and resilient neighbourhoods

4.1 - Elected members are community leaders at the core of decision making

4.2- Our communities, residents and businesses are at the centre of everything we do

4.5 - We value people's individual contributions to our collective goals

4.6- We are ambitious for the city and ourselves; we view all change as an opportunity; we celebrate and build on our past without being confined by it

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report provides an update to the Scrutiny Committee in relation to the Council's Community Development Service and work with the City's Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) over 2011/2012.

2.0 BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

2.1 Community Development has a clear and lasting impact on every aspect of Sunderland life and positively affects physical, environmental and social health of communities by helping people to help themselves in regenerating communities, helping tackle crime, engaging those who are 'hard to reach' and raising achievement in our schools, colleges and university. Community Development activity is also key to building community resilience, bringing residents together to collectively manage shocks, respond to adversity and adapt to change.

2.2 Strong and sustainable Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations (VCSOs) are essential partners in realising both the strategic and local area priorities for the city. The sector provides a wide range of valuable services within communities and contributes to improved outcomes for residents of Sunderland, including some of the most marginalised and vulnerable groups. VCSOs are an important source of expertise and local knowledge. They play a crucial role in the intelligent commissioning process by speaking on behalf service users and communities of place/ interest; with links into parts of the

community that public sector agencies can struggle to engage with, these organisations can help to ensure that unmet needs are recognised and addressed. The sector also provides opportunities for people to get involved in their community, supporting skills development, promoting active citizenship and strengthening social capital. (See Appendix 1 for further details of Sunderland's Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS)).

- 2.3 Sunderland has a strong culture and tradition of volunteering. All across our city people are giving their time to help others and to create a better future for everyone. Last year around one in four people (23% - Annual Residents Survey, 2010) were actively involved in some form of volunteering in Sunderland – donating their time and skills to groups, clubs and organisations from local charities and community groups to residents associations, schools, hospitals, parks, sports clubs, museums and galleries. Volunteering is an important expression of citizenship, as well as a way for people to build their skills and confidence.

3.0 SERVICE PROVISION

- 3.1 Sunderland City Council wants people to live an active, independent life to the full. An important element of this includes the provision of a wide range of opportunities to participate in community activity. Such activity has a clear and lasting impact on every aspect of Sunderland life and positively affects the physical, social and environmental health of communities.
- 3.2 The primary aim of Community Development is to help build resilient and sustainable communities by helping people to help themselves and supporting VCSOs and civil participation through volunteering.
- 3.3 Community Development works to increase volunteering and active citizenship, encouraging participation by residents in their communities as well as providing lifelong learning opportunities, building skills and increasing educational attainment and employment opportunities.
- 3.4 Community Development also works to ensure that all our neighbourhoods have the right mix of facilities and services that meet the needs of local people through providing capacity building support to VCSOs to manage community assets and design and deliver public services. This includes providing governance, training and advice to VCSOs including intensive support to Community Associations via Service Level Agreements.
- 3.5 The aim has been and continues to be developed by implementing the following strategies and policies:
- Sunderland Volunteering Strategy
 - Council's Surplus Building Policy (Community Benefit)
 - Sunderland Compact and supporting Codes of Practice
- 3.6 The key drivers for Community Development are to:
- To increase volunteering and active citizenship

- Enable VCSOs to manage community assets and provide programmes of activity to meet local needs
- Support Area Arrangements, facilitating five Area VCS Networks to plan and deliver activities, initiatives and services linking into the Local Area Priorities and the Council's five Area Committees
- Increase community resilience by bringing residents together to tackle local issues and respond to change.
- Build the capacity of the VCS to develop entrepreneurial activity and design and deliver services
- Support the Council to develop new delivery mechanisms including the development of co-operatives, mutuals and social enterprises

3.7 Services provided by Community Development include:

- Providing clear links between the range of partners for seamless pathways for sustaining participation.
- Working with key partners, the VCS, Area VCS Networks, and other organisations to build capacity and promote participation opportunities
- Providing workforce development opportunities and supporting VCSOs to be sustainable and capable of being commissioned to deliver services
- Developing the capacity of partners and residents to reach their potential and be capable of engaging with Olympic and Paralympic Games 2012 legacy agenda.
- Building and sustaining a sense of community by providing high quality community opportunities in neighbourhood settings that correspond to community needs.
- Raising the profile of volunteering across the city and creating key routes that support individuals into volunteering opportunities, community learning and employment.
- Providing information, advice, support, training and management systems to develop effective governance in VCSOs
- Supporting the operation and development of area based facilities providing opportunities for all ages and all interest groups in the community
- Supporting the development work of geographical communities and communities of identity

Appendix 2 provides a detailed Function Specification for Community Development.

- ### 3.8
- Following the introduction of the Council's new Business Operating Model, the Community Development Team, Community Services has merged with Sport and Leisure to become 'Sport, Leisure and Community Development'. The 'Sport, Leisure and Community Development' service structure is shown in Appendix 3.

- 3.9 Community Development's main service base is Jack Crawford House, but also manages services from Washington Millennium, Sandhill and the Hetton Centres.

4.0 AREA VCS NETWORKS

- 4.1 Community Development engages with the VCS and Elected Members on an ongoing basis primarily through the Area VCS Networks which consist of representatives from VCSOs across the City and are co- chaired by a VCS representative and by the Councillor Vice-Chair of Area Committee. VCS Organisations are consulted on and deliver against Local Area Plan priorities and the Networks provide three representatives to Area Committee, ensuring a two-way flow of communication between the VCS and Area Committee. (See Appendix 4 for the Area VCS Network Structure. Terms of Reference for the Area VCS Network are given in Appendix 5).

- 4.2 380 people attended Area VCS Network meetings from April – November 2011 inclusive. In addition there are many organisations which are unable to attend all meetings but are involved in a 'virtual network', which Area Community Co-ordinators support on a regular basis.

- 4.3 In relation to satisfaction levels associated with Community Development and delivery of Area VCS Networks, levels of VCSO satisfaction can be measured through the National Survey of Charities and Social Enterprises. Results from 2010 show Sunderland higher than the national average for VCSO satisfaction levels with regards to their ability to influence local decisions that are relevant to them (18% compared to 16% nationally) and the support available to them in their local area (33% compared to 24% nationally).

- 4.4 In addition, this part of the service has received customer feedback through the Thriving VCS Survey (2011), carried out by the service in collaboration with Voluntary and Community Action Sunderland (VCAS) and Sunderland Community Network. The purpose of the research was to understand what a 'thriving VCS' looks like from the VCS perspective, whether this currently exists in Sunderland, and if not, how the Council, its partners and VCSOs can achieve this in the City. The survey results indicate that:

The five Area VCS Networks, facilitated by the service, are operating effectively and should be maintained and further developed as a mechanism for engagement with the sector. The majority of respondents (61%) attend an Area VCS Network meeting on a regular basis, and 62% find these meetings useful for their organisation.

Specific examples of progress and achievements of Community Development in relation to the Area VCS Networks over the last year are detailed below:

- 4.5 Sunderland Star Award – Partnership of the Year 2011
Locally, the significant contribution of Community Development team members to the City was highlighted when the Coalfield Area Community Co-ordinator, Susan Brown, was awarded a Sunderland Star Award for

Partnership of the Year 2011 in recognition of her work in the Coalfield area, particularly around the Coalfield in Bloom Project.

- 4.6 Through the Coalfields VCS Network, VCS organisations responded to Coalfield Attractive and Inclusive priorities through the Coalfield in Bloom Project. With support and guidance from the Coalfield Area Community Co-ordinator, VCS organisations worked together with the Council and other Sunderland Partnership organisations in an Area Committee Task and Result Group to plant bulbs in the area.
- 4.7 £4500 was received from Gentoo, with an additional £1700 coming from Coalfield Area Committee Community Chest, and Easington Lane Community Action Point (ELCAP) agreed to be the VCS lead on the project. 20 VCS organisations, 6 Resident Groups, 9 Faith Groups and 5 Public Sector Partners, 19 Schools and around 300 volunteers were involved in the project to plant 3200 bulbs.
- 4.8 This 'Responsive Local Service' has been a catalyst for greater community involvement and cohesion as different sectors of the community (e.g. older people and younger people) have come together through a shared community vision and learning experience.
- 4.9 The 'Coalfield in Bloom' community project is one example of this service areas contribution to the City of Sunderland and it has inspired local people to come together to work with the Council and Partners to make a real difference in their community.
- 4.10 VCS Consultation
Community Development has continued to support the Council and partners to consult Sunderland's VCS through the Area VCS Networks, which are increasingly becoming a 'clearing house' for VCS contact across the City. For example Community Development has given guidance and support on carrying out consultations with Area VCS Networks on Nexus transport, the future provision of Information, Advice and Guidance, the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and the Council Budget. These have directly led to improvements in service provision, for example, Information Advice and Guidance Workshops engagement with the East VCS Network has led to a pilot project being delivered in the East area with VCS organisations interested in becoming point of contact centres.
- 4.11 Scrutiny Committee Representation
Community Development is in the process of identifying Area VCS Network representatives for the Scrutiny function to enable the Sector to be appropriately represented on Scrutiny Committees. The representation will add value to Scrutiny policy reviews when appropriate.
- 4.12 Love Where You Live
Community Development has been working in partnership with the Council's Responsive Local Services Team on the Love Where You Live Campaign. The three year campaign, backed by Keep Britain Tidy aims to inspire

everyone to think about their communities and take action to reduce litter in the locations where they live, the places they visit and the spaces that they use. It is about everyone taking responsibility - individuals, local authorities, VCS organisations, government and multi national companies to change the way people think and act about littering and work together to make change happen.

4.13 Community Development has been supporting VCSOs and volunteers to get involved in the Campaign through the Area VCS Networks. As a result of joint work between Community Development and Responsive Local Services more than 800 people, including volunteers, school children and businesses have taken part in a series of community makeovers, cleanups and bulb planting events across every ward of the City since the Campaign's launch in September 2011.

4.14 Heritage

Community Development is supporting the recently recruited Community Heritage Development Officer to liaise with VCSOs in the North and Coalfields area of the City, introducing them to the North and Coalfields Area VCS Networks and supporting them to develop partnership community heritage projects.

4.15 North

- River Rubbish Relay, January 2011 -Volunteers walked along the C2C cycle path along the River Wear from the Billy Hardy Centre in Castletown to the National Glass Centre, collecting litter and learning about local history on the way. Volunteers were rewarded with entertainment and refreshments at the National Glass Centre after collectively managing to fill more than 35 bags of rubbish. Following the event's success, a second event took place in June 2011.
- Mayor's Family Fun Day, Thompson Park , July 2011 – The Community Chest funded event involved a collaboration of VCS organisations during 'I love Parks week' including SAFC, NE Sports CIC, SNYP, Thompson Park CA, Groundworks NE, Thompson Park Bowling Club. Participating VCSOs were given the opportunity to showcase what they do and how they can be involved as a participant or volunteer.

4.16 East

- Ryhope Beach Party, July 2011 - collaboration of VCS organisations including Durham Heritage provided a community event. Despite adverse weather conditions the event went ahead in Ryhope CA with pirates, mermaids, fishing, football, street theatre, messy play and face painting.
- Grangetown Green Space Opening - As part of the Greenspace Consultation a piece of green space was identified as not accessible to the local community - through the East VCS Network the greenspace was opened and a family fun day was held in February 2011 to launch the opening with VCS organisations delivering projects such as junior football, tag rugby, junior fishing, junior cricket, bike project.

- Youth Task & Finish Group from Area Committee with input from East VCS Network led to a call for projects with funding from Area Committee to deliver play and holiday provision in the East
- Coastal Path Task & Finish Group from Area Committee with input from East VCS Network has discussed and recommended options for the coastal path through Sunderland

4.17 West

- The Health Champions project was delivered in the West.
- All VCS Youth groups participate in the Youth & Play Task & Finish group which has resulted in an excellent collaboration to deliver holiday activities in the West for 8- 12 year olds and young people aged 13 plus.

4.18 Washington

- The Health Champions project was delivered in Washington.
- Washington NEET project – a collaborative bidding exercise has led the Sector to look at other ways it can bid for funding to support the activities they deliver to Washington residents.
- Carers project- To address carers' issues under the Health Area Priority, a consultation evening was organised with the Carers Centre for members and carers, enabling carers to share the issues first hand and have the opportunity to influence future Council decisions. A number of actions are being followed up from the event, including the production of a Carers' Card with essential contact numbers including a 24hr emergency number. The SIB funded card has been a great success, leading to an increase in contacts with the Carers Centre.
- Collaborative working – Springwell Village Hall is now mentoring Harraton CA in development and operation of their policies and procedures. A number of VCS organisations with premises and VCS organisations delivering activities in those premises have been supported to work together.
- Groups were supported to bid for SIB Holiday Activity Funding for 13 to 19 yr olds and for general activities for 8 to 12 yr olds ensuring activity was funded in all wards.

4.19 Coalfield

- The development of the Coalfield Community Challenge Project, funded through SIB, emerged from the success of the Coalfield in Bloom and provides a mechanism to enable the local community to influence and deliver area priorities selected by Area Committee. The project is supporting the promotion of local Heritage and the improvement of allotments and community gardens which is progressing exceptionally well. This is due to the success of various events and learning programmes which attracted greater than expected input and involvement from community groups and volunteers.

- Junior Fencing at St John's was supported to look at sporting activity as well as delivering sessions over 10 weeks with youth workers and local people in the Fence Houses area.
- The Hetton History Group was supported in their collection of both visual and audio recordings on the History of Hetton and has published several for the Christmas events. A Coalfield Heritage Calendar has also been published.

5.0 VOLUNTEERING

5.1 Community Development is working to implement the Sunderland Volunteering Strategy and Action Plan (adopted by Cabinet February 2011). The Strategy aims to support volunteering in Sunderland by:

- Increasing the number and diversity of people volunteering in Sunderland
- Recognising and rewarding volunteers
- Supporting volunteer confidence, learning, skills and employability
- Increasing the number of Employer-Supported Volunteering Schemes
- Improving volunteer management and volunteering programmes

Examples of Community Development progress and achievements in relation to volunteering over the last year or so are given below:

5.2 Area Volunteer Celebration Events

In recognition of the valuable contribution volunteers make to areas of the City and to raise the profile of volunteering at an area level, Area Volunteer Celebration Events were initiated in February 2010. Co-ordinated by the Community Development Team, the events are hosted by Area Committee Chair and Vice Chairs and the Area VCS Network representatives and take place in venues across each area of the City.

- 5.3 At the initial events, refreshments were followed by an opening speech from the Chair of Area Committee and then a presentation of certificates and gifts to nominated volunteers by the Chair and Vice Chair, including a photo opportunity.
- 5.4 Volunteers could be nominated for awards by the VCS organisations they supported. Following the events, nominees were selected through the Area VCS Networks and supported by Area Community Co-ordinators to attend the City-wide Annual Volunteer Celebration event, hosted by the Mayor, during national Volunteers' Week.
- 5.5 The format of the Area Volunteer Celebration events has evolved since the initial events in February 2010. For example, the West Area held a Christmas Volunteer Celebration event in December 2010 to celebrate and recognise the work of volunteers from a range of local VCS organisations. Nominated volunteers were invited to attend a Christmas Lunch at Thorney Close Action

and Enterprise Centre. The event was funded through a Community Chest grant.

- 5.6 The number of volunteers involved in the Area Volunteer Celebrations has also grown over time, from a total of 140 volunteers participating in the February 2010 events to over 260 volunteers participating in the Christmas 2010 events¹. Further events are being planned.

5.7 Employee Volunteering Opportunities

Following a successful pilot project in January 2011, Community Development has been liaising with Volunteering England and developing a partnership with Skillsbridge towards the development of Council Employee Volunteering Opportunities. Skillsbridge is a new and innovative programme developed by North East Enterprise Bond (NEEB) which aims to deliver bespoke, sustainable skills and expertise from the private/ public sector to the Voluntary and Community Sector through professional volunteering. Community Development are currently liaising with HR, Commercial and Corporate Services, to consider whether the Council's current Learning Credit scheme could be utilised to provide opportunities for employees to volunteer with VCS organisations

5.8 European Year of Volunteering 2011

Community Development's work on Volunteering has also been internationally acknowledged, with Sunderland being the only U.K. City represented at the European Year of Volunteering 2011 Madrid en Red Project. The project was brokered through the EUROCITIES network. All participating cities – Madrid (the lead city), Lisbon, Munich and Sunderland are member cities. The project was approved for funding by the EU's Europe for Citizens Programme in December 2010.

As part of the project, Community Development led a delegation of young people from VCS organisations across the City to Madrid to share their experiences and learn more about youth volunteering.

6.0 SURPLUS BUILDING POLICY (COMMUNITY BENEFIT)

- 6.1 Implementation of the Surplus Building Policy (Community Benefit) (adopted April 2011) ensures that a mix of Council owned community facilities across the City are effectively managed by Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations.

- 6.2 Several new and emerging groups across the City are applying for community assets and many existing groups are applying for lease renewals through the policy.

¹ Christmas 2010 Area Volunteering events include the East, West and Coalfield area events. A North event took place in June 2011 with over 30 people attending.

7.0 VCS SUPPORT

- 7.1 The results from the Thriving VCS Survey are being used to influence policy and strategy as well as future service delivery in relation to supporting the local VCS and helping VCSOs to help themselves and each other.
- 7.2 Many respondents to the Thriving VCS Survey used the questionnaire as opportunity to express their satisfaction with the support available to their organisation from local sources including the Council. The majority of respondents (64%) are satisfied with overall support provided by Sunderland City Council staff and the Community Development Team were specifically praised for their support e.g.:

“We get good support from the Community Development Team.”

“Would like to thank the Community Development Team for their continued support.”

8.0 VCS FUNDING

- 8.1 Community Development has continued to support the local VCS to access funding opportunities through provision of information, advice, guidance and signposting to further support.
- 8.2 In addition, Community Development has awarded £5623.90 Play Grant Award funding to 14 VCS organisations and £52,680.66 through Service Level Agreements to 17 Community Associations in 2011/12.

9.0 OVERALL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PERFORMANCE

- 9.1 Evidence of how Community Development has improved the capacity of the Voluntary and Community Sector can be demonstrated through the 2010 National Survey of Charities and Social Enterprises (see Appendix 6). The results indicate that, compared to 2008 levels, the capacity of the Sector has generally increased, although it is clear that further work needs to be done to ensure that the Sector is thriving and resilient, particularly in these challenging economic circumstances.

10.0 2012 – 2013 FOCUS

- 10.1 The environment in which the service operates is constantly changing and is a reflection of the current economic climate and the changing expectations of our customers and central government.
- 10.2 The Coalition Government’s agenda has highlighted ongoing work the Service has carried out to increase levels of volunteering in the City. The Service is already well placed to deliver through its ongoing implementation

of the Sunderland Compact's Volunteering Code of Practice, the Volunteering Strategy and its links with partners through the Active Sunderland Board and the Sunderland Volunteering Forum. However, the '2012 in Sunderland' programme, Sunderland's response to the 2012 Olympics and Paralympics, presents a unique opportunity for the Service to build a 'Volunteering Bank' (a larger cohort of skilled volunteers), leaving a legacy of volunteering in sport, arts, culture and the community for years to come.

- 10.3 The Government's Localism agenda and associated community funding initiatives is shifting the focus of service delivery to a neighbourhood, rather than a city-wide or Area based level. The Service is already responding to these changes – for example, by supporting Elected Members to become involved in Community First Panels, ensuring activity complements and adds value to Local Area Plans. The Service is currently considering how these Panels will link into the wider Area VCS Networks.
- 10.4 The Government's Localism Act, particularly the Right to Challenge and Right to Buy, will provide VCSOs with the opportunity to take over the delivery of Council services and community assets where appropriate. Arrangements are already in place to support VCSOs to take over the management of Council owned Community Assets, supported through the implementation of the Surplus Building Policy (Community Benefit). The Service also provides capacity building support to VCSOs to enable them to contribute to the design and delivery of local services; however, it is clear that further work needs to be done to enable this, especially around developing the capacity of smaller VCS organisations to deliver.
- 10.5 The global economic downturn and resultant Central Government funding cuts has had a significant impact on the VCS, reducing their capacity to deliver, as funding sources are depleted and demand for services by those residents negatively affected has increased. The changing financial climate has increased the drive for efficiencies, the Council responding through the Sunderland Way of Working, including the consideration of new delivery mechanisms. The service has and will increasingly need to support the VCS to similarly respond to these challenges and become more efficient and financially sustainable, through for example promoting greater collaboration within the Sector, and giving more emphasis on development of entrepreneurial models and activity e.g. Social Enterprises. The Service has already had to make cleaning efficiencies in its SLAs with Community Associations and has been providing support and advice to the CAs on alternative cleaning delivery. Ultimately, a more resilient Sector will be well positioned to take on the delivery of public services.
- 10.6 The need to address Climate Change and the City's Low Carbon agenda will need to be taken on board by the Service, with increasing support provided to VCSOs to become more environmentally sustainable in their policies, management of community assets and through their community projects. There is potential for the Service to build on existing projects with Responsive Local Services, the Council's SSS Economy and Sustainability Officers and

the Council's track record with developing Eco-Schools, to develop a package of support.

- 10.7 The Government's Welfare Reforms will have a significant impact on Sunderland's communities, and VCSOs are likely to face a considerable increase in demand, particularly those who provide Information, Advice and Guidance and deliver services to vulnerable groups and individuals. The service will need to ensure that the VCS is fully aware of the changes and the impact they will have, and that VCSOs are working in partnership with the Council and its partners to ameliorate the negative effects on the City's vulnerable residents. As such the service is represented in a Council cross-directorate working group to consider and take action on these changes.
- 10.8 Introduction of GP Commissioning arrangements are also likely to have an impact on Service delivery, where GPs will need to increase their engagement with VCSOs who deliver commissioned services. Greater formal links may need to be established between the Area VCS Networks and GP consortia to enable this, and discussions with NHS SOTW PCT are at an early stage. For example, a pilot workshop has recently been carried out with the Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group and the East VCS Network to discuss potential arrangements.
- 10.9 The personalisation agenda is gathering momentum with personal health budgets to be rolled out nationally from October 2012. The local market will need to be developed so that budget holders have greater choice and this will have an impact upon VCSOs, who will need to be supported to respond.
- 10.10 The Thriving VCS Survey (2011), alongside a piece of qualitative research commissioned by the Sunderland Partnership, highlighted several areas for Council and partner action against identified VCS need, which will have an impact on how the service is delivered in the future.
- 10.11 The service is currently undertaking a review of Area VCS Networks, and alongside the Council's review of Area Arrangements, this is likely to have an impact on how the Area VCS Networks operate in future.
- 10.12 In summary, over the coming year, Community Development will continue to help people to help themselves in building sustainable and resilient communities, leaving a legacy of volunteering and civil participation for years to come.

11.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 11.1 Scrutiny Committee Members are requested to note the contents of this report.

12.0 LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Sunderland's Voluntary and Community Sector
Appendix 2 – Community Development Function Specification

Appendix 3 – Sport, Leisure and Community Development structure
Appendix 4 – Area VCS Network structure
Appendix 5 – Sunderland Area VCS Networks Terms of Reference
Appendix 6 - Overall Community Development Performance

Contact Officer: Julie D Gray
Head of Community Services
0191 561 7575

Appendix 1 – Sunderland’s Voluntary and Community Sector

In March 2011 there were 378 main charities in Sunderland with a total income of £101.6 million, a total of 8,131 volunteers, and those with an income over £500,000 with a total of 2,286 employees. (March 2011, Charity Commission data from each charity’s latest annual return).

These figures do not even account for the numerous smaller VCS organisations across the City which are not registered charities. For example, Guidestar data used for the National Survey of Charities and Social Enterprises (2010) indicates there are 460 charities, voluntary groups and social enterprises in the area, while 525 VCOS are listed on Sunderland’s Interactive Database (SID) held by VCAS.

Appendix 2 – Community Development Function Specification

FUNCTION: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

SERVICE: COMMUNITY SERVICES

DIRECTORATE: CITY SERVICES

Purpose of the Function

The primary aim of the Community Development service is to help to build resilient and sustainable communities by helping people to help themselves and supporting VCSOs and civil participation through volunteering.

To achieve this aim, the service:

- Provides capacity building support to VCSOs to enable entrepreneurial activity, management of community assets and design and delivery of public services:
 - Provides governance, training and advice to VCSOs including intensive support to Community Associations via Service Level Agreements
 - Co-ordinates provision of support needs to the VCS (as identified in Thriving VCS Survey report)
 - Supports VCSOs and Council employees to develop commercial models e.g. co-operatives, mutuals and social enterprises
 - In collaboration with Land and Property, Office of the Chief Executive, leads implementation of the Council's Surplus Building Policy (Community Benefit)
 - Supports VCSOs to engage in commissioning
 - Supports VCSOs to take on public services
- Contributes to increasing volunteering and active citizenship:
 - Leads the implementation of the Sunderland Volunteering Strategy
 - Supports development of a Sunderland City 'bank' of volunteers to support city-wide events and initiatives and add value to service delivery
 - Supports development of a Council Employer Supported Volunteering programme for SWITCH and other employees
- Supports VCSOs to access funding and become efficient and sustainable in their use of resources (Low Carbon Economy):
 - Provides financial assistance to the VCS in Sunderland via Service Level Agreements and Play Grant Awards
 - Encourages VCSOs to develop consortia and collaborative working arrangements
 - Supports co-location of VCSOs and partners

- Supports VCSOs to engage in efficiency agenda e.g. SWOW
- Works with the Council's Sustainability Team, Groundwork and partners to support VCSOs to engage with the sustainability agenda and reduce their carbon footprint
- Co-ordinates targeted interventions to promote 'sense of place' and improve 'liveability' and wellbeing across the city and in local areas:
 - Supports the community to plan and design events, develop community projects and deliver Responsive Local Services e.g. Coalfield in Bloom
 - In collaboration with Sport & Leisure and Culture & Tourism, City Services, leads engagement of the VCS in delivery of the Sunderland 2012 Olympics / Paralympics Games programme
- Empowers communities to contribute to local decision making:
 - Develops and supports Area VCS Networks to support the Area Committee process and implementation of Local Area Plans
 - Supports VCSOs to engage with local partnerships and supports engagement mechanisms between the Council, Area VCS Networks, SCN delegates, the Sunderland Partnership and Local Economic Partnerships (under development)
- Seeks to improve partnership working with VCSOs:
 - Develops Council understanding of the VCS and added value VCSOs can bring to service delivery, through development of training to Council employees and provision of information to the Sunderland Leadership Programme
 - Implements the Sunderland Compact and its supporting Codes of Practice
 - Contributes to the enhancement of Community Leadership through strengthening Elected Member relationship with VCSOs
 - Contributes to the development and implementation of the Council's Corporate Social Responsibilities, including increasing recognition of Council support to the VCS and communities

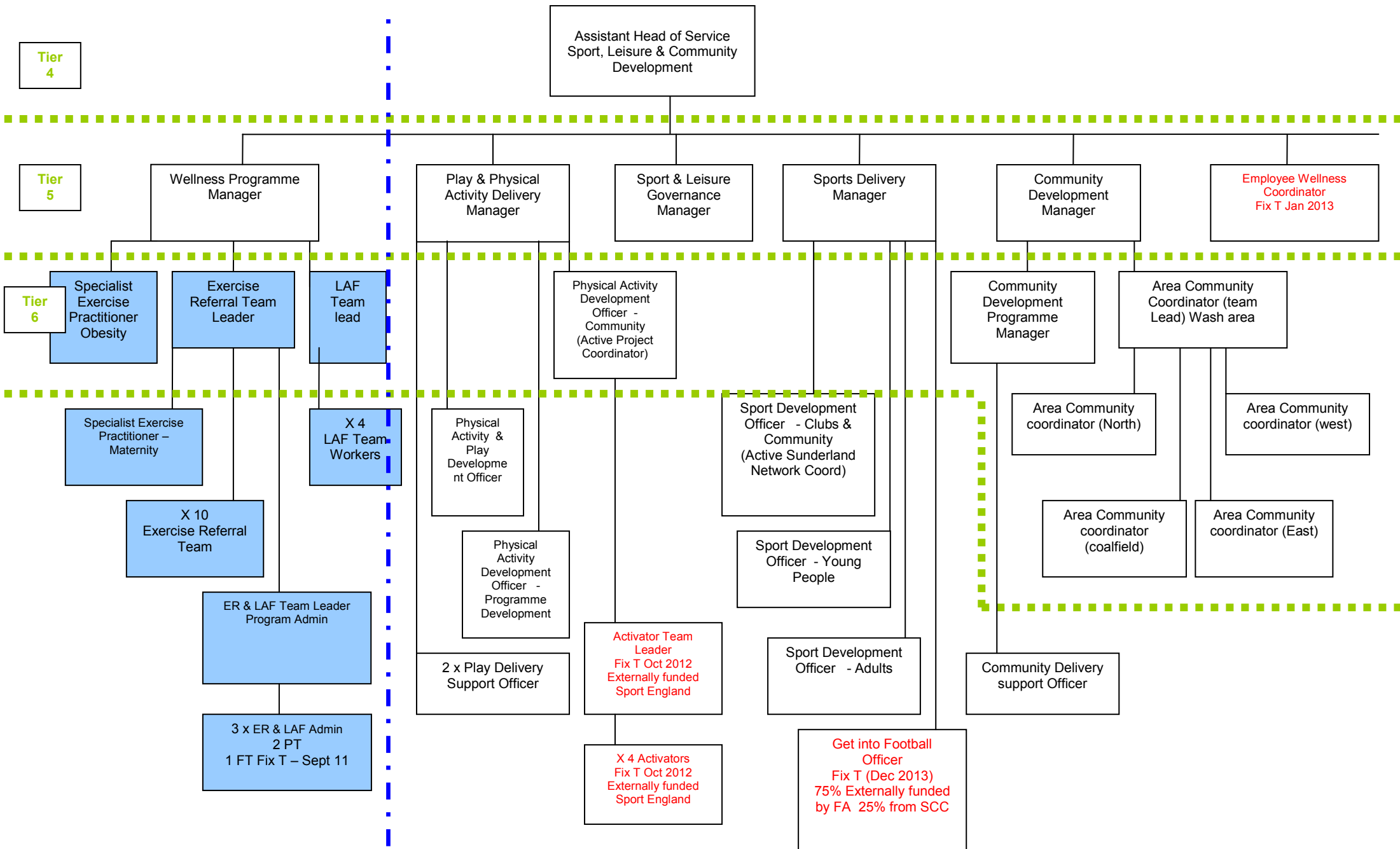
Tools, Resources and Activities:

- Area VCS Networks
- Sunderland Community Network
- Sunderland Compact and supporting Codes of Practice
- Sunderland Volunteering Strategy
- Surplus Building Policy (Community Benefit)
- Thriving VCS Survey Report
- Volunteering Toolkit
- Community Help Booklet
- Area based Volunteering Celebration Events and links to citywide Annual Volunteer Week event at Sunderland Marriott Hotel
- Links to Area Newsletters
- Annual VCS AGM / Report [under development]

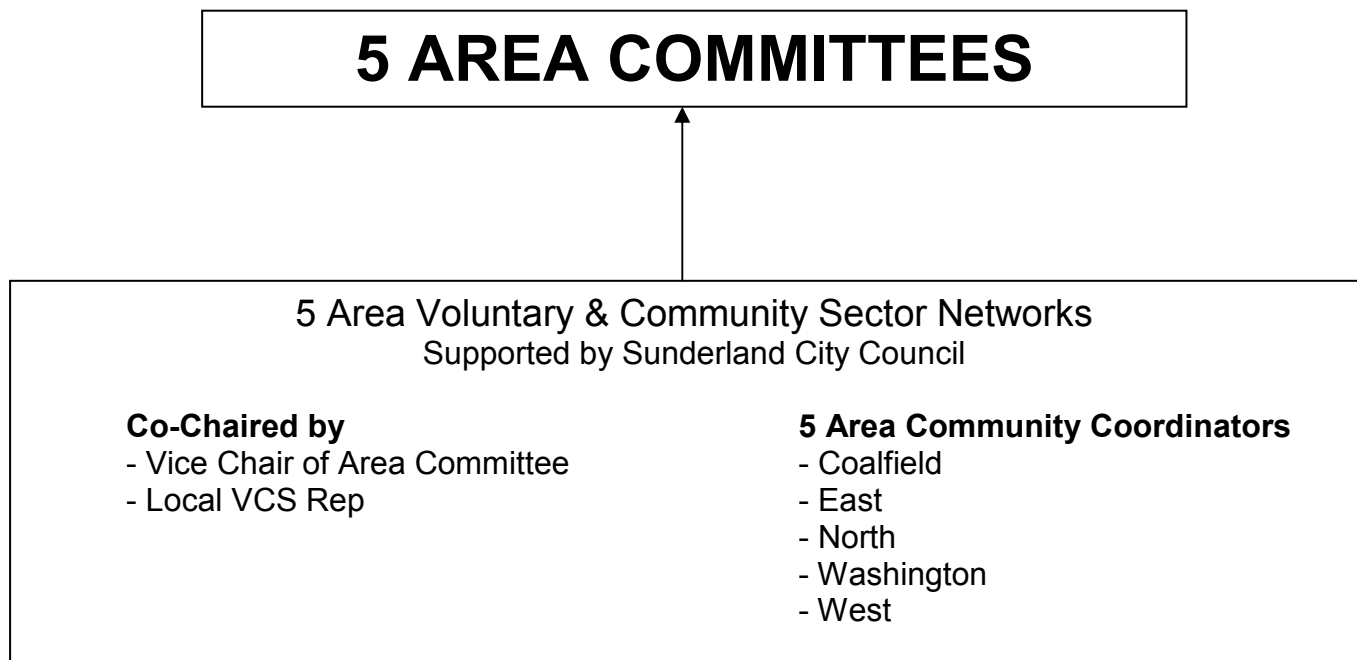
- Council E-learning
- Sunderland 2012 Olympic / Paralympic Games Programme (under development)
- Website links to Sunderland Compact, VCAS, SCN and Sunderland Partnership sites

Updated: December 2011

Appendix 3 - Sport, Leisure & Community Development structure



Appendix 4 - Area VCS Network Structure



Area VCS Networks:

- Made up of local VCS organisations operating within the 5 geographical areas of Sunderland
- Hold regular meetings supported by Sunderland City Council
- Mapping local activity – leading on VCS issues regarding Local Area Plans
- Task & Finish Groups
- Encourage Volunteering in local initiatives

Appendix 5

Sunderland Area VCS Networks

Terms of Reference

Aims:

The Area Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Networks aims are:

- To develop the capacity and influence of the VCS across the City through the development of the Sunderland Community Network (SCN) at an area dimension.
- To work together to develop and share good local VCS practice.
- To provide three delegates to represent the area VCS at Area Committees, influencing strategic policies and practice that affects local communities and the VCS. The three delegates will represent the whole VCS in their area at the Area Committee rather than their own organisational interests.

Objectives

- To maximise the opportunity to have a constructive dialogue and ways of working between the Council and wider VCS organisations activity.
- To support the development and delivery of Local Area Plans in meeting communities needs, and building the community's capacity to engage in the development and delivery of services.
- To demonstrate the value of the VCS and the positive impact made by the sector.
- To determine annually three delegates to represent the Area VCS Network at Area Committee who will take forward issues on behalf of the whole VCS in the area and report back, providing a two-way flow of communication between SCN and the Area Committee.
- To agree a VCS co chair, annually, for the Area VCS Networks (the co chair being one of the three delegates to attend Area Committee)

Membership

Membership is open to all VCS organisations which operate in Sunderland, however, members who become delegates to Area Committee must be members of Sunderland Community Network (SCN) and be signed up to and operate within the principles of the Sunderland Compact.

All organisations attending the Area VCS Networks should operate within the Sunderland Compact, ensuring positive and productive relationships for mutual advantage and community gain.

Organisations must have an operational base within the area to represent the Area VCS Network at the Area Committee, however, any organisation that operates across Sunderland is welcome to attend any Area VCS Network.

Meetings

- Meetings to be held two weeks in advance of Area Committee agenda setting. (Timing of meetings in relation to Area Committee meetings to be piloted).
- The secretariat will be provided by Sunderland City Council, Community Development function. This support will include, for example, secretariat support for meetings; support to understand specific agenda items through briefing notes, 1-2-1 meetings, presentation, facilitation of pre-meetings, website updates and training.
- Sunderland City Council will support by the network operating under a co chairing arrangement involving the Area Committee Vice Chair and a Network delegate.
- Partner organisations can be invited to present items / share information on a specific topic.

VCS Area Committee Representation

Key Tasks:

- 1.0 Attend committee meetings approximately seven meetings per annum and additional meetings, site visits and training sessions from time to time.
- 2.0 Reading papers and reports in preparation for committee meetings
- 3.0 Ensuring feedback and communication between Area Committee and Area VCS Networks is consistent.
- 4.0 Respecting the views of other members and taking forward to Area Committee the opinions of other members or contributors where this will lead to an improvement for the Area and City, and supporting other members in the process of change.
- 5.0 Being prepared to learn from others and from good practice elsewhere and to further develop the breadth of your knowledge of your sector's role within the Area and City.
- 6.0 Engaging in an induction programme to the Area Committee.
- 7.0 One of the three representatives to attend bi-monthly SCN Core Network Group delegate meetings for the purpose of sharing information, knowledge and experience, problem solving and devising strategies.

Key attributes:

1. Interest in local matters.
2. All should be signed up to and operate within the principles of the Sunderland Compact.
3. Representatives should seek to represent the Area VCS Network (rather than own organisational interests), therefore representatives should have a broad perspective across the Area / VCS.
4. Demonstrate commitment to the VCS.
5. Effective communication skills, particularly listening and questioning skills.
6. Ability to weigh up information.

Appendix 6 – Overall Community Development Performance

The National Survey of Charities and Social Enterprises (formerly the National Survey of Third Sector Organisations) is carried out by IPSOS MORI and funded by the Office for Civil Society. It is the largest survey of the Sector, including Charities, Social Enterprises, Community Groups, Clubs and Societies, Non-profit Organisations, Voluntary Organisations, Housing Associations, Trusts, Co-operatives and Mutuals and Faith Groups.

Evidence of how the service has improved the capacity of the Voluntary and Community Sector can be demonstrated through the 2010 Survey. A total of 233 organisations were surveyed in Sunderland. Survey results were as following:

Indicator	Year	Sunderland	National
% of organisations who consider that local statutory bodies have a positive influence on their success (N17)	2008	14%	16%
	2010	20%	18%
% of organisations who currently have a 'fair' or 'great' amount of direct dealing with local statutory bodies	2008	31%	26%
	2010	37%	26%
% of organisations satisfied with their ability to influence local decisions that are relevant to them	2008	16%	15%
	2010	18%	16%
% of organisations satisfied with the support available to them in their local area	2008	25%	22%
	2010	33%	24%
% of organisations who agree that local statutory bodies value the work of their organisation	2008	36%	37%
	2010	44%	39%
% of organisations who are satisfied with local statutory grant funding/contract bidding arrangements	2008	18%	13%
	2010	23%	14%

Other key findings for Sunderland

- 35% of organisations are involved in the delivery of public services, compared to 20% in 2008.
- 23% of organisations consider delivery of public services to be one of their main roles, compared to 13% in 2008.
- 86% of organisations think they have been successful in meeting their main objectives over the last 12 months, compared to 82% in 2008.
- 77% of organisations are confident that they will be successful in meeting their main objectives over the next 12 months (no change from 2008 figure).

- 24% of organisations currently receive grant funding from the Council; 18% currently receive income in the form of a contract.
- 26% of organisations are satisfied with the help, advice and support provided by local statutory bodies when applying for grants/ bidding for contracts, compared to 19% in 2008.
- The proportion of organisations who consider that local statutory bodies have a negative influence on their success has decreased from 18% in 2008 to 12% in 2010.

**ENABLING INDEPENDENCE DELIVERY STRATEGY –
LONG TERM HOUSING SOLUTIONS WITH CARE AND
SUPPORT**

Report of Executive Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services

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

**CORPORATE PRIORITIES: CIO1: Delivering Customer Focused Services:
CIO4 Attractive and Inclusive City.**

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 Members were provided with a copy of the Enabling Independence Strategy ('The Strategy') in January 2011. It was agreed that Members would receive an annual update on progress relating to the delivery of priorities associated with this Strategy.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 The Council is engaged within an ambitious project to deliver supported accommodation to meet the needs of our current and future communities. This includes the provision of extra care housing schemes; and supported accommodation to meet the needs of vulnerable people who choose to live in the city, including:-

- Older people
- People with a learning disability
- People with mental health
- Long term conditions including physical disability

2.2 The Council aspires to work in successful partnerships which will provide high quality, vibrant, safe, attractive, sustainable and well designed accommodation which creates an enabling environment for residents. We expect good design to add to environmental, economic, social and cultural value which will help local communities to flourish.

2.3 Such accommodation will be delivered using a commissioning approach where feasible, however, it is acknowledged that in some cases specific housing solutions will need to be procured. Registered Providers and developers require robust evidence of need to reassure their business case and help them to financially model schemes which deliver both socially rented and mixed tenure models.

- 2.4 The Strategy provides the information required by Registered Providers and Developers from a 'business perspective'. It highlights the needs of the City for supported housing solutions; it forecasts demand providing the analysis from a broad based review of demographics, research, surveys of relevant populations, carer and patient needs outlining the key aspects of conditional demand to be addressed i.e. unresolved needs of the population, and identifies the priorities and outcomes that the strategy is trying to achieve.

3. CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 The Strategy provides a picture of our overall accommodation requirements and is supported by the Accommodation with Support Design Guide and Extra Care Management Guide, both of which have been perused and commended by Scrutiny Committee. This enables the formation of a 'suite' of documents to inform Providers and encourage the housing solutions that we, as a City aspire to in response to the requirements of our communities.
- 3.2 The Strategy also informs Planning Policy and Development Control colleagues about the need for supported housing and where applicable the location in which it is required. It prevents over supply of accommodation, and supports the release of under-occupied properties in the wider housing market. A vacancy chain analysis report has been undertaken (see Appendix 1) to demonstrate how provision of older persons housing is providing a real housing choice for older households and releasing property of different sizes and different tenures back into the housing market.
- 3.3 The Strategy aims to ensure that Providers are being encouraged to develop in areas where evidence highlights the need for the accommodation. It was informed by the results from an Older Persons Housing Needs and Aspirations Study which was undertaken during 2010. The research outcomes provide significant evidence of housing needs and aspirations based on Ward levels which is extremely valuable in terms of commissioning accommodation and care services. Further research relating to the needs of people diagnosed with dementia has been undertaken with results due early 2012. The Strategy will be updated with the outcomes of this research to further inform Providers of our housing requirements; alongside emerging information from the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.
- 3.4 It is recognised that appropriate housing is central to enabling an independent lifestyle and this involves understanding both the needs and housing aspirations of the current and future population.
- 3.5 In particular the decisions older people make regarding their housing choice will inevitably impact on the wider community, both in terms of housing availability in the wider housing market and provision of local services. A vacancy chain analysis has been undertaken which considered, which location and what type of property people have moved from prior to moving into extra care housing in the city. This information demonstrated that people generally moved within their 'local area' and that extra care housing has enabled a number of people to downsize bringing family homes back into the market place.

- 3.6 People must be encouraged to think beyond the existing housing choices they have and enable them to identify what models of housing accommodation they would expect, and want to be provided for them into the future. We as a local authority must enable the provision of good quality, sustainable housing solutions to act as a catalyst to better inform people about their future housing choices, enabling them to plan their older age rather than moving in an unplanned way as a reaction to a care or support requirement.

4 ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE, KEY OUTCOMES AND FUTURE PROGRAMME

- 4.1 The Enabling Independence Strategy completes a 'suite' of documents which has placed the council in a very strong position to encourage development of supported housing solutions to the quality of design that we expect to meet the needs and aspirations of our communities as demonstrated by the list of completed and proposed developments outlined in Appendix 2.
- 4.2 Key achievements to date includes the completion of the city's fourth extra care housing scheme – Cherry Tree Gardens, Houghton le Spring – which is owned and managed by Gentoo and is centrally located within a wider Gentoo regeneration area. It provides 40 two bedroom apartments and 7 two bedroom bungalows and opened for new residents on 24 November 2011. The Council have purchased four apartments, named Community Wellbeing Apartments, within this scheme to enable provision of reablement services.
- 4.3 The Council's Wellness Service have been successful in gaining funding of £9, 000 to provide older persons play equipment within the garden areas of three extra care housing schemes to encourage activity and social inclusion, namely Cherry Tree Gardens, Bramble Hollow and Woodridge Gardens. This was part funded by relevant Local Area Committees and match funded by the Wellness Service.
- 4.4 This scheme brings the number of extra care properties within the City to a total of 174 across four schemes.
- 4.5 Housing 21 have gained planning permission to develop an extra care housing scheme at Fordfield Road, Ford Estate. Start on site is due to commence early 2012. This scheme will deliver 175 extra care apartments including 17 one bedroom apartments for people diagnosed with dementia.
- 4.6 Discussions are ongoing between Housing 21 and Gentoo to identify opportunities to enable development of a further two extra care housing developments. It is anticipated that they will be located in Southwick and Downhill to start meeting the needs of older households on the North side of the city.

- 4.7 Gentoo is developing plans to provide an extra care scheme in Doxford Park. It is expected that this scheme will provide an estimated 90 extra care mixed tenure properties and will start on site in September 2012.
- 4.8 A planning application has been submitted to develop an extra care scheme for people diagnosed with dementia in Hendon. This is in partnership with Inclusion Housing Community Interest Company. The site identified is behind the Old Orphanage and the scheme requires that the Old Orphanage, which is a listed building, is refurbished and brought back into use. If successful this scheme will provide 38 one and two bedroom apartments for social rent.
- 4.9 Independent living for 5 people with learning disabilities is currently being developed in Cleveland Road. The accommodation is estimated to be available from April 2012. The accommodation is being provided in partnership with Three Rivers Housing Group.
- 4.10. Discussions are ongoing with a Registered Provider to develop an extra care scheme for people diagnosed with dementia; bungalows for couples where one person has dementia and apartments providing independent accommodation for people with mental health. Work is at a very early stage and if successful, progress will be reported within the next update.
- 4.11 Good practice information has been shared with the Housing Learning and Improvement Network regarding establishing Community Wellbeing Apartments within extra care for people to receive reablement services. Our learning and development of procedures and work involved in agreeing the acquisition and fit out of the apartments alongside, operational service delivery has been compiled to support other organisations when considering the provision of reablement services within extra care.

5 RELEVANT CONSULTATIONS

- 5.1 The Strategy will continue to be reviewed and updated as appropriate upon receipt of consultation outcomes from:-
- a range of households with a support need;
 - carers;
 - older person households
 - emerging older person households i.e 50+
 - Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)
- 5.2 Consultation with local residents has taken place for Fordfield Road and The Old Orphanage, Hendon as part of the planning application process. Support for both schemes was received during the consultation.

- 5.3 A number of older people who have moved into and settled within the extra care housing schemes have provided personal interest quotes about their experiences in extra care. This is attached at Appendix 3.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 Scrutiny Committee is invited to consider this report and provide views on the progress and key outcomes outlined.

Contact Officer: Anne Prentice – Strategic Development Lead (Accommodation)
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APPENDIX 1

EXTRA CARE HOUSING SCHEME - VACANCY CHAIN ANALYSIS

A total of 174 mixed tenure two bedroom apartments for older people with a care / support need have been provided in the City.

Landlord	Scheme	Rented	Shared	Outright	Total
Housing 21	Beckwith Mews	27	8	5	40
Housing 21	Woodridge Gardens, Washington	20	10	10	39
Housing 21	Bramble Hollow, Hetton	24	12	12	48
Gentoo	Cherry Tree Gardens Houghton le Spring	36	7	4*	47

* Purchased by Sunderland City Council for the purpose of providing Community Wellbeing Apartments to enable people to be referred for a short term reablement service.

Beckwith Mews, Silksworth - a total of 12 households moving in at first let were very local from either Silksworth or Ryhope. Of the 9 relets 4 households were from Silksworth and 5 from other areas of Sunderland.

Woodridge Gardens, Columbia – a total of 26 households moving in at first let were from Washington; 8 lived in Sunderland; 2 out of city and 1 property was sold to a GP to deliver a medical service.

Bramble Hollow, Hetton – a total of 21 households lived very local to the scheme with all remaining being Sunderland residents.

Cherry Tree Gardens, Houghton – a total of 9 households lived very local to the scheme with 4 households moving from Washington and all but 3 of the remaining people moving from within the city. A total of 4 people have moved into the scheme from out of the city. They all had local connections with the City (Luton, Hartlepool, Cleadon and Gateshead).

The vacancy chain analysis has demonstrated that at first let across the four schemes:-

§ 5 four bedroom houses were vacated – 3 social rent and 2 owner occupied

- ⊗ 26 three bedroom houses were vacated – 9 social rent and 17 x owner occupied
- ⊗ 22 two bedroom houses were vacated – 11 social rent and 8 owner occupied
- ⊗ 2 three bedroom bungalows were vacated – both owner occupied
- ⊗ 19 two bedroom bungalows were vacated – 10 social rent and 9 owner occupied
- ⊗ 22 one bedroom bungalows were vacated – all social rent
- ⊗ 11 two bedroom flats were vacated – 6 social rent and 5 owner occupied
- ⊗ 15 households moved out of sheltered housing
- ⊗ 7 households moved out of one bedroom flat – social rent
- ⊗ 4 households moved out of residential care
- ⊗ 1 household moved out of a small group home

It is worth noting that the majority of the rented units outlined above belong to Gentoo Group. Therefore, vacancies created should have demonstrated an impact upon their housing register.

The benefits clearly demonstrate:-

- ⊗ The number of properties being under occupied that have been released back into the social rented and sales housing market predominantly for family households (53 properties)
- ⊗ The number of older person specific properties released back into the market for occupation by older households who are likely to be moving out of under occupied property (69 properties including bungalows and sheltered housing) releasing those properties into the market for family household occupation.
- ⊗ That 4 people have successfully been moved out of residential care setting back into independent living.
- ⊗ That 2 people have lived in a very institutionalised setting for most of their lives and have been successfully supported into independent living.

Recommendations

- ⊗ The information provided in this report is considered by Planning Policy in relation to stimulating the housing market and reducing the requirement (as appropriate) to provide new family homes
- ⊗ Consider the future extra care programme and consider how this can help to support the wider local housing market, particularly within regeneration areas
- ⊗ Identify local areas / wards with a high number of older person living in family sized housing and consider the benefits of providing accommodation to enable older households to move and release under occupied properties.

VCA / AP
15 December 2011

APPENDIX 2

EXTRA CARE HOUSING SCHEMES IN SUNDERLAND AND PROPOSED

Scheme and Landlord	Number for rent	No. for shared ownership	No. for sale	Total No. in scheme	Started on site	Scheme opened to residents
Beckwith Mews, Silksworth <i>Housing 21</i>	27	8	5	40	Feb 2008	March 2009
Woodridge Gardens, Columbia <i>Housing 21</i>	20	10	9	39	Nov 2008	Dec 2009
Bramble Hollow, Hetton <i>Housing 21</i>	24	12	12	48	Feb 2009	May 2010
Cherry Tree Gardens, Houghton <i>Gentoo</i>	36	7	4	47	March 2010	Nov 2011
PROPOSED SCHEMES						
Fordfield Rd, Ford <i>Housing 21</i>	116	77 *	0	175	Est Jan 12	Est Oct 13
The Old Orphanage, Hendon <i>Inclusion Housing CIC</i>	38	0	0	38	Est Aug 12	Est Feb 14
Doxford Park <i>Gentoo</i>	70	20*	0	90	Est Sep 12	Est Feb 14
Total to date:				477		
Southwick <i>Housing 21</i>				TBC		
Downhill				TBC		

Housing 21						
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* flexible ownership to be offered. The sale will be tailored around the individual's personal finances, income and enabling them to choose how much of the property they want to own with the potential for them to increase or decrease shares in their ownership if financial circumstances alter into the future.

APPENDIX 3

Personal Comments from Residents regarding their experiences of Extra Care Housing

“The peace of mind I have from knowing that I have support right on my doorstep is great, and it’s precisely the reason I chose to move to Beckwith Mews. The facilities here are excellent, and the staff couldn’t be friendlier.”

You also have nice food available in the restaurant, and I’ve met some lovely people in the lounge. My dog has settled right in too and he’s been a big hit with the staff and residents. Housing 21 were also kind enough to arrange for a section of the landscaped garden to be fenced off into a run for him.” **Resident – Beckwith Mews, Silksworth**

“We have our own front door and if we want some company we can just nip downstairs to the shared areas. It’s like a mini village here and we have all got to know each other. Local people pop in to use the café too, so we really feel we are still part of the local community”

Resident - Woodridge Gardens, Washington

“We originally lived just round the corner from Woodridge Gardens, and we watched it being built. I suffer from asthma and arthritis and I was struggling to take care of our garden. Jean requires care and support to and it was all getting a bit too much. That’s when my daughter Maria suggested we have a proper look at Woodridge Gardens. It was a wrench leaving our home where we’d lived for years, but since moving here we’ve never looked back. We’ve already made a lot of new friends who we socialise with in the lounge. Everyone looks out for each other and they are all very friendly.

The peace of mind moving to Woodridge Gardens has given me and Jean, as well as our daughters, has really changed our lives”.

Resident – Woodridge Gardens, Washington

“Moving here was one of the best decisions I’ve ever made - it’s the peace of mind that’s best” - **A resident at Bramble Hollow, Hetton le Hole**

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

**17 JANUARY
2012**

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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

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

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

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

2. BACKGROUND

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

3. CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 The work programme reflects discussions that have taken place at the 13 December 2011 Scrutiny Committee meeting. The current work programme is attached as an appendix to this report.

4. CONCLUSION

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

5 RECOMMENDATION

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

Contact Officer: Sarah Abernethy, Scrutiny and Area Support Officer
0191 561 1230, sarah.abernethy@sunderland.gov.uk

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2011/2012

REASON FOR INCLUSION	JUNE 14.06.11	JULY 26.07.11	SEPTEMBER 13.09.11	OCTOBER 25.10.11	DECEMBER 13.12.11	JANUARY 17.01.12	FEBRUARY 28.02.12	MARCH 06.03.12	APRIL 17.04.12
Cabinet-Referrals and Responses			Response to the 10/11 Policy Review – Role of Culture in Supporting Sustainable Communities (Cllr Kelly)						
Policy Review	Annual Work Programme and Policy Review 2011/2012 (HL)	Policy Review – Scoping (HL) Scene Setting (JDG/VF)	Approach to the Policy Review (HL)	Active Sunderland Board (VF)	Policy Review Progress Report (HL) Community and Education Facilities (HL) 2012 in Sunderland Update (VF)	Reducing the Barriers to Participation (HL/VF)	Sport and Physical Activity Mapping Exercise (VF) Sport England (Ian Thurlbeck, Judith Rasmussen) Priority Sports/Activities (VF)	Policy Review: Draft Final Report	Policy Review: Final Report (HL)
Performance			Performance Q4 (KDP) Policy Review Progress (HL)		Performance (KDP)				Performance Policy Review Progress (HL)
Scrutiny	Housing Allocations Policy (AC) Forward Plan (HL)	Private Sector Enforcement Policy 2010/11 – Update (AC) Work Programme (HW) Forward Plan (HW)	Empty Property Plan (AC) Work Programme (HW) Forward Plan (HW)	Empire Theatre Annual Report (VM) Maudlin St (AC) Low Carbon Social Housing Pilot (AC) Work Programme (SA) Forward Plan (SA)	Annual Heritage Report (VM) Built Heritage (ML) Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (AC) Work Programme (SA) Forward Plan (SA)	Cultural Strategy (CDA) Community Development Service and VCS Annual Report (JDG) Enabling Independence Strategy Update (AC) Work Programme (SA) Forward Plan (SA)	Localism Act: Housing (AC) Work Programme (SA) Forward Plan (SA)		Empty Properties Year End (AC) Work Programme (SA) Forward Plan (SA)
CCFA/Members Items/Petitions									

**FORWARD PLAN – KEY DECISIONS FOR THE PERIOD 1
JANUARY 2012 - 30 APRIL 2012**

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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

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

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide members with an opportunity to consider those items on the Executive's Forward Plan for the period 1 January 2011 – 30 April 2012.

2. Background Information

- 2.1 Holding the Executive to account is one of the main functions of Scrutiny. One of the ways that this can be achieved is by considering the forthcoming decisions of the Executive (as outlined in the Forward Plan) and deciding whether Scrutiny can add value in advance of the decision being made. This does not negate Non-Executive Members ability to call-in a decision after it has been made.
- 2.2 To this end, the most recent version of the Executive's Forward Plan is included on the agenda of each of the council's Scrutiny Committees. The Forward Plan for the period 1 January 2012 – 30 April 2012 is attached at **Appendix A**.

3. Current Position

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

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 To consider the Executive's Forward Plan for the period 1 January 2012 – 30 April 2012.

5. Background Papers
None

Contact Officer : Sarah Abernethy 0191 561 1230
sarah.abernethy@sunderland.gov.uk

**Forward Plan -
Key Decisions
for the period
01/Jan/2012 to
30/Apr/2012**



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

14 November 2011

Plan: Key Decisions from - 01/Jan/2012 to 30/Apr/2012

No.	Description of Decision	Decision Taker	Anticipated Date of Decision	Principal Consultees	Means of Consultation	When and how to make representations and appropriate Scrutiny Committee	Documents to be considered	Contact Officer	Tel No
01438	To agree the Social Care Contributions Policy for Personalisation	Cabinet	11/Jan/2012	Cabinet, Service Users and Ward Members, Portfolio Holders	Briefings and/or meetings with interested parties	via the Contact Officer by 19 September - Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee	Report	Neil Revely	5661880
01524	To consider any key decisions arising from the Revenue Budget Third Quarterly Review	Cabinet	11/Jan/2012	Directors and third parties affected by the virement proposals	Report will be made available on the Intranet and e-mailed to Directors	Via the Contact Officer by 18 November 2011 - Management Scrutiny Committee	None	Sonia Tognarelli	5611851
01525	To consider any key decisions arising from the Capital Programme and Treasury Management Third Quarterly Review	Cabinet	11/Jan/2012	Directors and third parties affected by the virement proposals	Report will be made available on the Intranet and e-mailed to Directors	Via the Contact Officer by 16 December 2011 - Management Scrutiny Committee	None	Sonia Tognarelli	5611851

Forward Plan: Key Decisions from - 01/Jan/2012 to 30/Apr/2012

No.	Description of Decision	Decision Taker	Anticipated Date of Decision	Principal Consultees	Means of Consultation	When and how to make representations and appropriate Scrutiny Committee	Documents to be considered	Contact Officer	Tel No
01527	To recommend to Council the level of Council Tax Base to be included in the 2012/2013 Budget	Cabinet	11/Jan/2012	None	N/A	Via the Contact Officer by 18 November 2011 - Management Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet Report	Fiona Brown	5611811
01526	To consider budget proposals for the 2012/2013 Revenue Budget for the Council	Cabinet	11/Jan/2012	Directors, Relevant Portfolio Holders, EMT, Chamber of Commerce, Trade Unions, Citizens Panel and Education Stakeholders	Briefings, Meetings, Presentations	To Contact Officer by 19 December 2011 - Management Scrutiny Committee	Report and Supporting Papers	Sonia Tognarelli	5611851
01554	To agree the procurement of Healthwatch.	Cabinet	11/Jan/2012	Cabinet, Service Users, Ward Members and Portfolio Holders	Briefings and/or meetings with interested parties	Via the Contact Officer by 21 December 2011 - Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee	Full Report	Jean Carter	5662690

Forward Plan: Key Decisions from - 01/Jan/2012 to 30/Apr/2012

No.	Description of Decision	Decision Taker	Anticipated Date of Decision	Principal Consultees	Means of Consultation	When and how to make representations and appropriate Scrutiny Committee	Documents to be considered	Contact Officer	Tel No
01536	To recommend to Council the level of Council Tax Base to be included in the 2012/2013 Budget	Cabinet	11/Jan/2012	None	N/A	Via the Contact Officer by 18 November 2011 - Management Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet Report	Fiona Brown	5611811
01534	To consider any key decisions arising from the Capital Programme and Treasury Management Third Quarterly Review	Cabinet	11/Jan/2012	Directors and third parties affected by the virement proposals	Report will be made available on the Intranet and emailed to Directors	Via the Contact Officer by 16 December 2011 - Management Scrutiny Committee	None	Sonia Tognarelli	5611851
01539	To recommend the level of Council Tax to Council	Cabinet	15/Feb/2012	Representatives of Business Ratepayers and Unions	At Special Meeting in February	At Special Meeting and otherwise in writing to the Contact Officer by the end of January 2012 Management Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet Report	Sonia Tognarelli	5611811

Forward Plan: Key Decisions from - 01/Jan/2012 to 30/Apr/2012

No.	Description of Decision	Decision Taker	Anticipated Date of Decision	Principal Consultees	Means of Consultation	When and how to make representations and appropriate Scrutiny Committee	Documents to be considered	Contact Officer	Tel No
01555	To agree the procurement by tender of three replacement operational vehicles for Streetscene to the value of £350K	Cabinet	15/Feb/2012	Executive Director of Commercial Corporate Services, Head of Audit, Risk and Procurement	Officer report to relevant officers	Via the Contact Officer by 20 January 2012 - Environment and Attractive City Scrutiny Committee	Full Report	Colin Curtis	5614525
01538	To recommend the level of Council Tax Collection Fund 2012/2013	Cabinet	15/Feb/2012	None	N/A	In writing to the Contact Officer by the end of January 2012 - Management Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet Report	Sonia Tognarelli	5611851
01540	To recommend the Capital Programme, Prudential Indicators and Treasury Management and Investment Strategy for 2012/2013 to the Council	Cabinet	15/Feb/2012	Representatives of Business Ratepayers and Unions	At Special Meeting in February	At Special Meeting and otherwise in writing to the Contact Officer by end of January 2012 Management Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet Report	Sonia Tognarelli	5611851

Forward Plan: Key Decisions from - 01/Jan/2012 to 30/Apr/2012

No.	Description of Decision	Decision Taker	Anticipated Date of Decision	Principal Consultees	Means of Consultation	When and how to make representations and appropriate Scrutiny Committee	Documents to be considered	Contact Officer	Tel No
01537	To recommend the Revenue Budget and Proposed Council Tax 2012/2013 to Council	Cabinet	15/Feb/2012	Reps. of Business Ratepayers, Unions, Headteachers, Governors, Youth Parliament, Citizens Panel	Presentations, Meetings, Surveys	At meetings arranged and otherwise in writing to the Contact Officer by the end of January 2012 Management Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet Report	Sonia Tognarelli	5611851
01547	To agree the Strategy for Telecare.	Cabinet	14/Mar/2012	Cabinet, Service Users and Ward Members, Portfolio Holders	Briefings and/or meetings with interested parties	Via the Contact Officer by 21 February 2012 - Health and Scrutiny Committee	Full Report	Philip Foster	5662042
01556	To agree the new Equality Scheme for the Council and respond to the Equality Act 2010.	Cabinet	14/Mar/2012	Citizen Panel, Equality Forums, Voluntary Community Sector Forum, Employees	Briefing and attendance at group sessions.	Via Contact Officer by 20 February 2011 - Management Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet report and Equality Scheme	Jane Hibberd	5614587