

West Sunderland Area Committee

10 September 2009

Report of the Chief Executive

West: An Attractive and Inclusive Area Summary: 'Invest more in housing programmes'

Strategic Priority: 5

1. Why has it come to committee?

1.1 At its meeting in July, the committee agreed its work plan for the 2009/10 municipal year and the Attractive and Inclusive priority 'Invest more in housing programmes' is the second to come to committee for discussion and consideration.

2. Background

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

- Bring empty properties back into use;
- Address lack of parking provision in some residential areas;
- Make estates/residential areas more attractive;
- Improve landlord's licensing and take measures to prevent disrepair.

2.2 Who has been involved?

- Health , Housing and Adult Services
- Development and Regeneration
- Community and Cultural Services
- Gentoo
- Diversity and Inclusion Team, Office of the Chief Executive
- Area Coordination Team, Office of the Chief Executive

2.3 Key Dates

- 13.08.09 – Pre meeting for Area Committee
- 01.09.09 – Report deadline for Area Committee
- 10.09.09 – Area Committee: discuss and agree recommendations
- 27.10.09 – Feedback deadline
- 05.11.09 – Area Committee: feedback presented
- 06.04.10 – End of year report deadline for Area Committee
- 15.04.10 – Area Committee: End of Year report presented

3. Attractive and Inclusive Theme Area Summary

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

- Priorities agreed at Area Committee
- Key Issues/background
- Current activity delivered day to day from services
- Any gaps, identified needs or general comments
- Proposals/options

4. Recommendation

4.1 Area Committee is asked to agree the following:

- Agree the **actions** identified in Annex 1;
- Agree which of the following **proposals** (also identified in Annex 1) will be developed
 - **Allocation of SIB/SIP**
 - Consider receiving an application to enable all current outstanding highway and carriageway requests etc... to be completed (approx £65,000 required to match mainstream budget of approx £41,000) (D&R, SCC).
 - **Review**
 - Prioritise neighbourhood improvements and engage with community (D&R, CCS, SCC; Gentoo);
 - Develop 'Green Team' proposal (D&R, CCS, CX, SCC; Gentoo; Groundwork);
 - Highlight hotspots of illegal/inconsiderate parking and develop proposals to tackle the problems. (D & R, SCC; Gentoo, Home Housing) ;
 - Investigate the scope for further collaborative working to increase the effective use of the Empty Property Officer (HH&A, CCS, SCC);
 - Consider additional resources to enable more work to tackle the 410 empty properties in the area and to carry out more proactive work. (HH&A, SCC).

5. Background papers

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

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Annex 1: West: An Attractive and Inclusive Area Summary