

**At a meeting of the EAST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on MONDAY, 9<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER, 2009 at 5.30 p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor Wares in the Chair

Councillors Ball, P. Dixon, Errington, M. Forbes, E. Gibson, Paul Maddison, Peter Maddison, T. Martin, Mordey, O'Connor, M. Smith and Wood.

**Also Present:-**

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Kath Butchert       | - Youth Development Group Manager, Sunderland City Council                     |
| Graham Carr         | - Highway Maintenance Manager, Sunderland City Council                         |
| Colin Curtis        | - Senior Waste Manager, Sunderland City Council                                |
| Bob Donaldson       | - Transportation Manager, Sunderland City Council                              |
| Alan Duffy          | - Head of Operations, Gentoo Sunderland  |
| Graeme Farnworth    | - Interim Head of Culture and Tourism, Sunderland City Council                 |
| Jane Hall           | - Assistant Head of Culture and Tourism, Sunderland City Council               |
| Matthew Jackson     | - Democratic Services Officer, Sunderland City Council                         |
| Janet Johnson       | - Deputy Chief Executive and Area Lead Executive, Sunderland City Council      |
| Mike Lowe           | - Conservation Officer, Sunderland City Council                                |
| Vicky Medhurst      | - Cultural Heritage Manager, Sunderland City Council                           |
| Vivienne Metcalf    | - Area Community Coordinator, Sunderland City Council                          |
| Eddy Moore          | - Chairman, Long Streets Action Group  |
| Jane Peverley       | - Marketing Manager, Sunderland City Council                                   |
| John Smith          | - Environmental Health Manager (Commercial), Sunderland City Council           |
| Phil Spooner        | - Programme Manager, Sunderland City Council                                   |
| Nicol Trueman       | - Area Officer, Sunderland City Council  |
| Insp. Cheryl Warcup | - Neighbourhood Inspector, Northumbria Police                                  |
| Jeremy Wicking      | - Media Officer, Sunderland City Council                                       |
| Graeme Wilson       | - Assistant Housing and Neighbourhood Renewal Manager, Sunderland City Council |

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Julie Raine

## **Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2009**

Councillor M. Forbes stated that with regards to the Learning Area Summary she had asked whether Wards would be able to choose to buy their own local provision and what the cost would be. She asked for the minutes to be amended to reflect this.

Councillor M. Forbes then commented on the Community Communications, she stated that it seemed that the committee was being consulted on a decision that had already been made as the committee had not wholly agreed but the project was carrying on; she had not received any information on how the money was going to be spent, and was against the whole project.

The Chairman advised that a trial was going to be carried out; this had not yet taken place. It had been agreed that any Member would be able to submit information for inclusion in the newsletter.

Jeremy Wicking, Area Communications Link Officer, advised that the newsletters were ready to be distributed to Members.

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting be confirmed and signed as a correct record subject to the inclusion of the amendment requested by Councillor M. Forbes.

### **Declarations of Interest**

Item 10 – Financial Statements and Funding Request

Councillor Errington declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the live update report as a council appointed member of the Box Youth Project committee.

### **Questions to Area Committee**

There were no questions to the Area Committee received.

## **Sunderland East and Attractive and Inclusive Area Summary**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with information on the Attractive and Inclusive Area theme and which sought Members agreement on the seven proposals outlined in the appendix to the report.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Nicol Trueman, Area Officer, introduced the report and advised that the proposals would be presented by officers who had been involved in the development of the proposals.

Graeme Wilson, Assistant Housing and Neighbourhood Renewal Manager, presented proposals one and two; Encouraging private landlords to become registered, and Bringing empty properties back into use. He advised that the East area has the greatest number of privately rented houses in the city, many of the private landlords were good, responsible landlords however unfortunately there was still some unscrupulous landlords. There was the intention to improve housing for tenants. The council would vet prospective tenants for accredited landlords; in Sunderland there were 228 accredited landlords, with 100 of these being in the East area.

There were 1200 Houses of Multiple Occupancy in Sunderland; only the larger of them required licences and all of the 120 that required a licence were licensed.

Selective Licensing was being proposed for parts of Hendon, this would require all landlords in the area to be licensed by the Council. This would ensure that only fit and proper landlords would be able to operate in the area.

Mr Wilson then went on to present priority two. He advised that empty properties were a wasted resource and that 3.6percent of private sector homes in the East Area were long term empty homes; this was above the figures for Sunderland as a whole of 2.5percent and also the National figure of 1.35percent. Houses were classed as being long term empty after they had been empty for 6 months.

Empty properties often became a focus for problems and the Council had powers to tackle empty properties however Compulsory Purchase Orders and Enforced Sales could be expensive and time consuming processes. It was preferable to work with owners rather than take enforcement action.

There would be a report on both of these topics presented to the Community and Safer City Scrutiny Committee on 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2009 and it was recommended that there would be a further report received in the New Year.

Councillor T. Martin commented that empty properties needed to be tackled before they become vandalised; broken windows provided easy access and lead to problems such as fires and fly tipping. There was a need for all parts of the Council to be involved in tackling empty houses.

Mr Wilson advised that there were plans to increase the number of eyes on the street that could report empty properties.

In response to queries from Councillors T. Martin and Mordey regarding Selective Licensing, Mr Wilson advised that officers would be speaking with the Secretary of State and it was expected that a decision would be made within 8 weeks. Once the Selective Licensing scheme was accepted it would then take approximately three to four months to implement the scheme.

Mr Wilson advised that in his experience, working with Gateshead Council, Selective Licensing did work and it needed to be operated in conjunction with other regeneration activities. The Council would be working with Back on the Map to deliver a full range of regeneration initiatives.

Councillor M. Forbes asked whether the police and Council worked together to combat Anti Social Behaviour.

Mr Wilson stated that this was the case and that there was an Anti Social Behaviour Team and an Anti Social Behaviour Officer sat on the Local Multi Agency Problem Solving Groups (LMAPS).

Councillor M. Forbes then commented that student housing can cause problems with short term empty properties; in Newcastle there was a proposal to limit the number of student lets in some areas.

Mr Wilson advised that restricting the number of student lets was more of an issue for the planning department. Newcastle had more of an issue than Sunderland, as in Newcastle there were areas of the city which were almost solely student lets.

Councillor Errington asked Mr Wilson how the partnerships worked in Gateshead.

Mr Wilson replied that the Council had a good relationship with Gateshead Housing Group and the Police. There were a large number of Neighbourhood Wardens in Gateshead. The LMAPS groups provided a good method of communication between the partner organisations.

Jane Hall, Assistant Head of Culture and Tourism, and Vicky Medhurst, Cultural Heritage Manager, presented priorities three and five: Delivering activities along the river corridor, and celebrating heritage.

They advised the committee of the proposals for activities within the area.

Councillor T. Martin expressed concern over Trinity Church, he stated that this was a fantastic building and asked that it be restored.

Councillor Wood agreed with this and asked that a report be delivered to the next meeting of the committee. This church was an important feature of the area.

The Members agreed to receive a report to the next meeting.

Councillor M. Forbes commented on the condition of Fawcett Street and the way the upper floors of the buildings had been neglected. She asked that the report include any plans for Fawcett Street.

Ms Hall agreed to include Fawcett Street in the report.

Councillor Mordey commented on the staffing levels. He felt that it was unacceptable that there were only two part time workers involved.

Janet Johnson, Area Lead Executive, advised that throughout the Council there were a lot more resources available, the two part time employees was what was available within the Culture and Tourism section of City Services.

Councillor O'Connor stated that the river should have been a great asset as it had been in the past. Since the closure of the shipyards the Council had not dredged the river and as a result an important asset had been lost.

Ms Johnson advised that the river would be looked at as part of the Economic Masterplan.

Councillor Mordey asked whether the regeneration of the Sea Front could be linked in with the regeneration of the river.

Ms Hall advised that the strategies had boundaries and that the river would be linked into other development and strategies.

Councillor T. Martin commented that the Sea Front was not just Roker and Seaburn; there was a need to look at regeneration of Hendon and Ryhope beaches.

Graeme Farnworth, Interim Head of Culture and Tourism, presented priority four; promoting and cleaning up the city centre.

He advised that there were six full time street sweepers worked in the city centre in addition to compact mechanical sweepers which operated from 6am to 8pm. There were also two large mechanical sweepers which operated overnight.

The first of the Farmers Markets had been very successful and it was expected that the next one would be a repeat of the success.

There had been footfall cameras installed to monitor movement around the city centre, this would ensure that events were held in the correct locations.

The Chairman commented that the paths in the city centre were quite good, he had been in Oxford Street in London and the pavements there had cracks which caused there to be a lot of puddles when it rained.

Councillor Wood stated that it was good to see plans for improvements to Holmeside. There needed to be something done with the Vaux site, he suggested that the site could be used for holding markets. Fawcett Street had been discussed at Planning and Highways Committee and would be looked at by the Environment and Attractive City Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor T. Martin advised that Toward Road and other roads into the city centre were restricted access and this caused problems for taxis. He felt that taxis should be allowed to use these roads as it would help to increase the number of people visiting the city centre.

Mr Farnworth advised that the City Centre Strategy included traffic management proposals.

Councillor O'Connor stated that the evening economy in the city centre lasted until the early hours of the morning; there was no street sweeping at this time and there were large amounts of litter on the streets. He would like to see 24 hour street cleaning. There was also a serious problem with gulls; there was a danger caused by them swooping and there were often complaints made, he had asked several times for there to be a cull.

Councillor M. Forbes commented that the redevelopment of Holmeside should be linked in with the redevelopment of the central station. The proposed undercroft car parking could be linked to the station to provide parking for rail users. There was currently no long term car parking near to the station. With regards to litter she felt that enforcement action should be taken and people should be fined rather than the litter just being swept up.

Mr Farnworth advised that there was a new enforcement officer in post and there should be a positive impact seen.

Colin Curtis, Senior Waste Manager, presented priority six; improving recycling services. There would be changes to the services for waste and recycling collection. New recycling bins were to be introduced to replace the current recycling boxes and a wider range of materials would be able to be recycled.

Councillor Paul Maddison asked whether large domestic appliances referred to in the report included computers and printers.

Mr Curtis advised that this was the case; the report was referring to the items which were catered for at the waste reception centre at Beach Street.

Councillor P. Dixon commented that it was good to see the proposals for the new blue recycling bins. There was however a need to encourage people to use them, on collection day there was often only one recycling box put out for collection out of 22 houses in his street.

Mr Curtis stated that he recognised the need to encourage recycling, people had been asking for cardboard and plastic recycling and this was going to be provided. People would be asked why they were not recycling and there were participation surveys ongoing, the results of which would be used to see if there was an increase in participation with the introduction of the new bins.

Councillor P. Dixon then asked whether the Beach Street facility could be made more user friendly.

Mr Curtis advised that in the long term there were proposals for a Recycling Village which would improve access, in the short term there would be improvements to the facility and the site was now operated by the Council rather than a contractor.

Councillor T. Martin asked whether there would be any assistance provided for collection of the recycling bins for disabled people.

Mr Curtis advised that there were smaller bins available and that there was an assisted collection scheme in place.

In response to a query from Councillor O'Connor, Mr Curtis advised that there were no fireproof bins available however there would be officers checking that bins had not been left out after collection.

Bob Donaldson, Transportation Manager, presented Priority 7, Improving public transport routes and walk ability across the area.

Councillor Wood asked about the School Travel Plan referred to in the report; how many schools still needed to develop the plans and would all of the schools have a plan in place by the target date of March 2010.

Mr Donaldson advised that there were a number of schools still needed to complete the travel plans; it was hoped the target would be met although it was dependant on the schools taking a proactive approach.

Councillor E. Gibson congratulated Go North East; previously there had been no service between Silksworth and the Royal Hospital after 8:30pm however now the number 35 ran through Silksworth.

2. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted and the priorities identified be developed.

## **Sunderland East Area Committee Work Plan – Thematic Action Plans – Feedback from Working Groups**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with an update on the work being carried out by the working groups. The report looked at the work that had been done by the working groups for the Safe and Learning priorities.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Nicol Trueman, Area Officer, presented the report and advised that Kath Butchert, Youth Development Group Manager, was available to answer questions from Members regarding the three options for consideration. There was also a proposal for an application for SIB funding from Groundworks which the Members were asked to consider.

Councillor E. Gibson queried why the Local Multi Agency Problem Solving group (LMAPS) minutes were no longer presented to the committee.

The Chairman advised that there were separate meetings with the police which allowed a full discussion of the work of the LMAPS. All Members were invited to these meetings.

Councillor Wood commented that this new system was working well.

Councillor Mordey asked why the action for linking the Youth Offending Service into the area committee on the Safe theme had been categorised as Red when there had been no feedback.

Ms Trueman advised that this action was classed as Red because there had been no feedback on the progress made.

Councillor Wood asked why the Youth Village proposal was classed as Green when the committee had rejected the proposal.

Ms Trueman stated that the proposal was being looked at to see whether there was a way to move the proposal forward.

Councillor T. Martin expressed concerns over Hendon beach; there was an absence of lifebelts and other safety features, would the beach be featured in the work of the committee.

The Chairman requested that the relevant officers contact Councillor T. Martin to provide him with a response to his concerns.



Kath Butchert presented the three options available for consideration from the Youth Development Group. These were:

- Inviting young people to an event which celebrates the young person led initiatives in the area;
- A small amount of SIB funding being provided to allow young people to allocate funding to projects which would benefit the young people in the area; and
- Developing a Councillor shadowing scheme in conjunction with the Youth Councillor proposals.

Councillor O'Connor commented that there were already schemes in place where young people were able to allocate funds to projects. This was good to see as the young people were enthusiastic and they were able to provide to projects which were important to them.

Councillor T. Martin commented that any scheme which provided an opportunity to engage with the youth should be welcomed.

Councillor P. Dixon advised that he felt that option three; the Youth Councillor proposal; was the best option to develop.

Councillor Mordey agreed with this; he had been involved with the Councillor shadowing and welcomed the opportunity to get more young people involved in the community.

Councillor M. Forbes stated that she felt all of the options were good and as such she did not have a preference. If option three were to be developed there could be problems with Ward Surgeries as often people wanted to discuss sensitive issues which they may not want young people to be involved with.

Councillor P. Dixon suggested that any Ward Surgeries with young people could be held in addition to the normal surgeries.

The Chairman agreed that the surgeries would need to be kept separate. He then asked the Members to decide which option would be developed.

The Members agreed to develop option three, the Youth Councillor proposal.

Ms Trueman then asked whether the Committee were happy to receive the application for SIB funding for the Groundworks Green Team project.

The Members expressed concerns over the amount of money that was being requested. They felt that more information was required before a decision could be made.

The Chairman proposed that more information be provided and then a decision be made on whether an application would be received.

3. RESOLVED that:

- i. The report be received and noted
- ii. Councillor T. Martin be provided with a response to his concerns regarding Hendon Beach
- iii. Option three; the Youth Councillor project; be developed
- iv. More information be provided on the Green Team project before an application be received.

### **Review of the Local Area Plans (LAP)**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided the Members with the details of the review of the Local Area Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Nicol Trueman, Area Officer, presented the report and advised that the area plan was a working document. It would be used to make the committee aware of what was going on in the area ready for when the work plan was set in June.

The Chairman stated that Ryhope Community Association had not been included in the plan.

Ms Trueman agreed to ensure that the plan was amended to include Ryhope Community Association.

4. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted and the reviews and assessments be undertaken.

### **Responsive Local Services**

The Executive Director of City Services and the Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which advised Members of the Responsive Local Services Project which had commenced as part of the Community Leadership Programme.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Phil Spooner, Programme Manager, presented the report and advised that the project would lead to improvements in quality of life for residents. It was proposed that the project would commence with a focus on litter; refuse collection; grass cutting; graffiti; and dog fouling; these were all important high volume neighbourhood services which would have an early impact.

The Chairman commented that he felt that the Committee should be involved with this project.

Councillor Paul Maddison asked whether the figures that would be provided would be broken down to show the individual wards.

Mr Spooner advised that it was intended that the figures would be broken down to a ward level.

5. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

### **Area Committee Handbook**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which sought the Members approval and adoption of the handbook.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Nicol Trueman, Area Officer, presented the report, the handbook had been developed to provide guidance for everyone involved in the Area Committee. The handbook was designed to be used in conjunction with the Council's constitution.

6. RESOLVED that the Area Committee handbook for 2009/10 be adopted.

### **Financial Statements and Funding Requests**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which allowed the Members to consider the proposals for support from Community Chest and SIB and sought approval of the SIP emergency protocols.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Nicol Trueman, Area Officer presented the report. She advised that the emergency protocols had been amended and the process would now take no more than 1 to 5 working days. The applications would be determined by the Deputy Chief Executive using the Council's Scheme of Delegation and would then be reported to the next meeting of the committee.

There were 10 proposals for Community Chest funding set out in annex 1 to the report. These 10 proposals totalled £6,264 and should they be approved then there would be funding remaining as follows:

Doxford: £2,713

Hendon: £591

Millfield: £207

Ryhope: £4,081

St. Michael's: £6,609

There was one proposal for funding from the Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) for £14,426 for Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue to deliver the Phoenix Project. This project was over two years; the full allocation of £14,426 would be allocated from 2010/11 budget.

7. RESOLVED that:

- i. The 10 proposals for support from the 2009/10 Community Chest be approved
- ii. The proposal for support from the 2009/10 SIB budget for the Phoenix Project be approved
- iii. The refreshed emergency protocols for accessing SIB and SIP funding be approved
- iv. The live update report and financial statement be received and noted.

(Signed) D.R. WARES,  
Chairman.

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**Questions to Area Committee – Review of Pilot Scheme**

**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To inform the Area Committee of the Questions to Area Committees received to date.
- 1.2 To seek the Area Committee's agreement to extend the pilot and for a review to be undertaken and reported to the March meeting of the Area Committee.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 At its meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2009 the Area Committee approved the protocol to the Questions to Area Committees Scheme and that a pilot be undertaken for the next two Area Committee meetings in September and November 2009, with Councillors being encouraged to invite local people along to these meetings to ask strategic questions affecting the Coalfield Area as a whole.
- 2.2 The Area Committee also agreed that after the pilot a review on how it was managed in terms of process and practicalities would be held, with the possibility of it being rolled out across the City in 2010.

**3. Questions to Area Committee**

- 3.1 Questions to the Area Committees have been received for the September and November 2009 meetings as follows:-

Coalfield Area Committee	-	0
East Area Committee	-	0
North Area Committee	-	0
Washington Area Committee	-	1
West Area Committee	-	1

- 3.2 At the time of writing this report questions have been raised in respect of the Area Committees for the January meeting as follows:-

East Area Committee	-	3
Washington Area Committee	-	6

- 3.3 In view of the relatively low number of questions received during the initial period and the fact that three of the five Area Committees have

not received any questions prior to the January meeting, it is proposed to extend the pilot and undertake a review with a report to be submitted to the March meeting of the Area Committee for Members' consideration.

3.4 The questions submitted to the Committee are attached as **Annex 1**.

3.5 The Councils response and officer contact details are included in **Annex 2**.

#### **4. Recommendation**

4.1 To approve a review of the pilot to the Questions to Area Committees to be submitted to the March meeting of the Area Committee.

4.2 That Members note the questions received and the response given by the Council

#### **5. Background Papers**

Minutes of the meeting and report of the July meeting of the Area Committee.

**6. Contact officer:** Matthew Jackson  
Democratic Services Officer  
Tel: 0191 561 1055  
Email: matthew.jackson@sunderland.gov.uk

## **Annex 1**

### **Question 1**

Having attended the East Area Committee meeting on Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> November 2009 Cllr T. Martin attempted to raise a long going issue of the fact that there is no provision at Hendon Beach of life saving equipment and this has been the case for a number of years now? Yes it was raised during a long meeting but the issue seemed to be hurried/brief.

I also attempted to support Cllr Martin about this very serious situation but also wanted to raise the issue of that there is far more serious situation developing at the Beach. As an example at this moment after a series of heavy seas the action of the waves has damaged the railings and their supports! This is at the very points that fatalities have occurred that Cllr Martin referred to! (This is the location at the ramps both at North and South of the promenade down to the actual beach)

Further information on this situation:- I photographed the damage 9<sup>th</sup> July 2009 and emailed the evidence to the Hendon Councillors and the Resort Manager plus Cllr heron who is to my knowledge the Chair of the committee to scrutinise this situation. I have had no response to the information supplied or photographs.

In previous discussion with Cllr Martin I have also reminded the Councillor that there was a major health and safety problem raised by the Council's own health and safety department and this was to be a separate project entirely, to the regeneration project. This was the problem as identified of longitudinal travel along the whole length of both Hendon and Grangetown beaches in fact this is the areas of beach which are safeguarded by the promenade.

This longitudinal travel was to be solved by removing the upper parts of groynes and then cutting gaps in the concrete groynes with the necessary capping. This capping has not been carried out to the south of the breakwater leaving dangerous sharp edging with scraps of steel sticking out.

The required construction of a ramp over the large operational sewer pipe which is one of the major obstacles to the longitudinal route this has not been carried out at all.

The access on and off the beach was also defined as a major problem both at the 3 ramps and the 2 steps accesses, in fact the steps accesses are actually railed off, and it is still the case as even after the new railings have been installed as part of the regeneration project.

So these questions to be carried forward are:-

When is any life saving equipment going to be provided at Hendon Beach?

When will the damaged railings and equipment be repaired or replaced?

When is the longitudinal access problem going to be rectified? Suggestion:- Remove some of the 'rock armour' at groynes to expose the originally fitted steps over every groyne and sewer pipe.

When is capping to the groynes going to be completed and made safe?

The new railings still obstruct access to the steps to and from the beach.

**The response and Officer contact details will be included as Annex 2a which will be circulated in advance of the meeting.**

## **Question 2**

We are part of the Long Street Action group and we are asking this question now to the East Area Committee as part of 'Its your Sunderland' brochure as provided by Councillors.

Why does Sunderland City Council not use, implement or even enforce the powers that they have to control the empty houses within the city?

Our concerns are within the long streets area of Hendon. St. Leonard Street is causing great concern to some of our members especially a lady member who has lived opposite and virtually next door to another of these properties.

Photographs have been sent to all of the Hendon Councillors and to housing officers, all of them are aware of the serious condition of these empty properties. The pictures were also provided as part of the selective licensing dossier provided earlier this year as evidence of the housing conditions in the long street area.

We are aware of some enforceable powers such as Empty Dwelling Management Orders, Enforced Sale and Compulsory Purchase that could possibly be employed as in other parts of the country.

We realise that these are not easy to carry out but the delay is a problem.

Why do we just have to accept this? It seems that the situation is becoming the norm as these properties have been in this condition for over a year now.

The rear of No. 76 has no garage door and is known to be a problem for the Council, Police and Fire Brigade and No. 78 has no rear wall at all. These houses also have plywood bay windows.

Why have residents got to put up /live with these properties in these conditions? It is embarrassing to admit to living in an area that contains these derelict properties.

**Please see annex 2b for the response and Officer contact details**



### **Question 3**

Can anyone answer why the long streets in Hendon do not have road cleaners, the same as Ryhope Road and other areas as we are supposed to have? I understand that we get one every six weeks which is less than we used to. The streets to me are rapidly going from bad to worse. There is broken glass everywhere, rubbish left for days unless we ring the cleansing department to pick it up and dog fouling left.

**The response and Officer contact details will be included as Annex 2c which will be circulated in advance of the meeting.**

## Annex 2b



Date: 11 December 2009

Our ref: AC/MS

Your ref:

Dear Mr Moore

QUESTION TO EAST AREA COMMITTEE SUBMITTED 30.11.09 - LONG STREET ACTION GROUP

With reference to your question/comments to the East Area Committee please find below my response that I trust addresses the question and other comments you have raised.

In answer to your question regarding the powers Sunderland City Council use in relation to empty properties, I can confirm that a range of powers are available to tackle the issues that present when dealing with an empty property. Issues which present and are to be considered when tackling an empty property include the condition, ownership, situation and history of the property. The powers available to the Council in tackling empty properties are wide and varied and include but are not restricted to; the enforced sale, compulsory purchase, empty dwelling management orders and planning legislation also. I am aware that several officers have detailed these powers to you previously.

We have found that almost every empty property has unique circumstances as to why it remains empty and when dealing with an empty property owners are always contacted initially to discuss their intentions. Owners are advised of options available to them and are also encouraged to work with the Council to bring the property back into occupation or to place it on the market for sale so that a prospective purchaser can do so. On many occasions the empty property officer includes in their role an introduction service between those owners who approach the Council wishing to sell and prospective purchasers. Once an initial approach has been made owners in the main respond positively and work towards following one of the above routes.

For those owners of premises who are not encouraged by the above approach, the Council does use the threat of invoking legal action and this in itself results in action on the owners part to remedy the situation.

Enforcement tools are seen as a last resort with an unco-operative owner and have been used successfully on many occasions by the Council.

In dealing with requests for assistance in respect to empty dwellings I can assure you that the suite of powers available to the Council are borne in mind when

officers assess the most appropriate course of action which is likely to bring success in returning the house to occupation.

The first actions taken in dealing with an empty property is to confirm that it is secure against unauthorised access and if need be we immediately instigate legal or emergency measures to secure the premises. Following this, the actions above will be followed.

For your information Council records show that from April 2006 there have been 272 properties that were empty and brought back into use across the Hendon area and within this figure 81 properties were located within the 'Long Street's' area.

In respect to the premises specifically mentioned and photographed in the attachment to your email I can confirm we are working with the current owners and I can inform you as far as I am able of the following:-

- No. 67 St Leonard Street – legal procedures are being followed and it is hoped that very soon the owner will be in a position to follow their intentions and place the property on the market for sale
- No. 76 St Leonard Street – the current owners intend to place the property on the market for sale and we are already aware of a party that has expressed an interest in its purchase
- No. 78 St Leonard Street – the sale of this property has recently been confirmed and new owners intend its refurbishment as soon as possible.

With regard to the latter property I am aware that you have previously been advised that the Council cannot force owners to have rear yard gates or doors or walls installed and it that is up to the owners themselves to decide should they wish to undertake this work.

I can confirm that empty properties are regularly monitored and regular contact with the owners is maintained.

I trust the above answers your questions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Caddick', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Alan Caddick  
Head of Housing  
Direct Line  
E-mail

0191 566 1711  
Alan.Caddick@sunderland.gov.uk

## **Sunderland East Area Committee**

**4 January 2010**

### **Report of the Chief Executive**

#### **Sunderland East a Healthy Area Summary**

##### **1.0 Why has it come to committee?**

1.1 At its meeting in June, the committee agreed its work plan for the 2009/10 municipal year and the Healthy theme is the fourth to come to committee for discussion and consideration. The priority being focus on is to provide more opportunities for people to take part in sport and exercise by subsidise access to sport and exercise and improve methods of engagement to tackle the highly complex matter of obesity.

##### **2.0 Description of Decision (Recommendation)**

2.1 Area Committee are asked to agree the actions identified:-

i) Lead: Area Committee

Committee to suggest appropriate locations for the Sunderland Active Bus, to deliver a 12 week timetable within Sunderland East to engage the community and support those who are not sufficiently active and signpost them to activities or support services, if required.

ii) Lead: Sunderland City Council, Wellness Services

A number of projects to be delivered engaging with individuals within this geographic area ensuring opportunities are effectively communicated to them and where appropriate provision is created. Develop and deliver a core offer which connects communities with sport and physical activity opportunities which includes wellness, swimming, play and sport.

iii) Lead: Sunderland City Council (Health, Housing and Adults Services)

Continue to report on progress associated with increasing the level of support available to help people within their own homes for the committee's consideration.

iv) Lead: Teaching Primary Care Trust Providers (TPCT)

Gather more information regarding healthy lifestyle activities commissioned by the TPCT and how the Area Committee can provide support.

v) Lead: Area Committee

Refresh priorities in light of the health profile for the area shown 8.0 of this report.

vi) Lead: Joint Strategic Need Assessment (JSNA)

Investigate and feedback on the new and ongoing commissioning intentions and interventions to improve health and social care in the City, covering Sunderland East for 2009-10.

##### **3.0 Sunderland City Council, Wellness Services**

3.1 Sunderland's unique Wellness Service has developed within the City with the primary aim to improve individual's health and well-being through the provision of physical activity opportunities, lifestyle advice and education within Wellness Centres and in the local community.

3.2 The key principles of the Wellness Service is to shift the balance from treatment services to preventative measures and provide Wellness opportunities either as an alternative or

support for treatment. As a result of a fully engaged scenario with a range of key partners the services reaches and impacts on the individuals that are most in need and subsequently is contributing to reducing the inequalities that are so prevalent within Sunderland. Further information on the services delivered is available in Annex 1.

#### **4.0 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)**

- 4.1 The JSNA is the process by which TPCT and Councils, work in collaboration to identify health and well being needs of the City. It does this in two main ways: i) provides an insight into the current and future health, wellbeing and daily living needs of local people by studying intelligence and perceptions on inequalities across neighbourhoods and local communities. In this way it informs both the Local Area Agreements, and longer term future strategic planning. ii) Informs the commissioning services and interventions aimed at improving the health and well being outcomes of local people and help reduce any unfairness within existing services or interventions.
- 4.2 Running parallel to East Area Committee identifying the need to improve access to sport and leisure and tackle obesity as it's priority under Healthy theme during 2008-09, the JSNA also identified a similar need and developed a range of targeted services across three age groups, children and young people, adults and older people. Further information on the JSNA is available in Annex 1 or by logging onto <http://www.sunderlandtpct.nhs.uk/sunderlandhome.aspx>.

#### **5.0 Sunderland City Council, Children Services - Letsgo card**

- 5.1 Letsgo card was one of nine pilots funded by Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) to test a hypothesis that 'Empowering individual disadvantaged young people to take part in positive activities of their choice through access to spending power increases their participation in such activities and contributes to educational engagement and other beneficial outcomes. Letsgo card was live from April 2008 to May 2009. In the 14 months, 2001 young people used their Letsgo card spending power making a difference to some of the most vulnerable young people in Sunderland, the average young person spent £203. Disability, age and ethnicity were not barriers to using Letsgo. This proved the DCSF hypothesis that having access to spending power does increase engagement in positive activities.
- 5.2 The achievements were considered to be fantastic in the 14 months that Letsgo card was live, as it was a brand new concept involving internet technology, decisions about taking part in events had to be made in advance, young people were not used to having access to spending power and some had not previously participated in activities.
- 5.3 ICT colleagues broke new ground with the innovative technical solution developed in conjunction with national and international organisations. ICT are working other parts of the Council to re-use some of the technology developed. Further information is available by logging onto [www.letsgosunderland.com](http://www.letsgosunderland.com)

#### **6.0 Sunderland City Council, Health, Housing & Adult Services**

- 6.1 The Council and its partners, including the grant-funded Third Sector, continues to support (particularly older and disabled) people with help in their daily living, including provision of care and support tailored around the needs of individuals to help them remain in their own homes – figures are presented in the table in Section 7 but the overall figure means that the Council is supporting 1,630 people to live independently in their own homes. The Council is in the process of working on a Department of Health pilot with Church View Medical Practise to better identify people who might some help, e.g. who feel isolated, need financial advice or improve their health and wellness. Clearly, partners in East Sunderland will work together to determine what practice support they can provide for individuals.

## 7.0 Sunderland East a Healthy Area Snap Shot

7.1 The table below provides a Sunderland East snap shot, at a ward level, on key health measures. It identifies several areas of need.

Red = unhealthy (above City average)

Green = Healthy (below City average)

Measure	City average	Doxford Ward	Hendon Ward	Millfield Ward	St Michaels Ward	Ryhope Ward
Life expectancy	76.4 yrs	78.9	72.2	75.2	76.8	76.1
Mortality rates from circulatory disease	108 per 100,000 pop.	102.39	170.48	74.68	62.19	91.11
Mortality rates from cancer	136.15 per 100,000 pop.	138.50	181.01	141.13	105.96	118.31
% of residents smoking	25%	19%	28%	28%	23%	29%
Residents self reporting obesity BMI 30+	18%	15%-18%	19.5%-24.5%	19.5%-24.5%	11.5%-15%	15%-18%
Hospital admission due to alcohol related harm	610-1180 per 100,000 pop.	0-300	610-1180	610-1180	300-410	480-610
Children in Need	4.1%	2.4%	8.8%	6.3%	2.9%	3.1%
Supporting People 18+ years to live independently (Figures in brackets 65+) – both per 1,000 population	38.38 (134.24)	34.26 (155.71)	43.61 (123.60)	29.58 (137.56)	39.69 (112.74)	45.46 (150.07)

## 8.0 Issues for Consideration

7.1 There is evidence that poor planning around transport and the provision of leisure services will increased the likelihood of obesity.

7.2 To deliver sustainable health improvement, strategically we need to focus on those core causes of poor health and maximise local people's opportunities to benefit.

7.3 Healthcare market analysis has also been carried out as obesity is already a strategic priority for the PCT and within the Community Strategy. This market analysis shows that whilst adult services are meeting current demand, that as demand increases, additional capacity and a larger menu of choices will be required. Children services require further development and clearer pathways. The desired state is that 2010-11 the PCT will have developed a fact-based understanding of what services deliver results and to prioritise services for patients in need of services most. A common set of performance metrics by which obesity services can be measured is being implemented, recognising that it may take up to 18 months to evaluate the services as the programmes are 12 months long. Providers will be encouraged to develop more targeted adult services in order to increase capacity to meet demand, and finally, the PCT will need to ensure providers can invest in key specialist role services and offer patients more choice by developing these in a community setting.

7.4 The Fitness Friday and Saturday night scheme, currently delivered at Raich Carter, which provides sporting activity alongside youth based work has had a significant impact on the number of youth related ASB incidents in the area and attitudinal surveys have shown a

change in young people's attitudes, including reductions in substance misuse, drinking and risk taking behaviour. The project engages with approximately 150 young people per evening and made a significant contribution to the development of joint thinking between agencies. The project is currently funded by Back on the Map NDC, however, this will eventually be exhausted so partners are currently looking at ways to sustain this activity. The annual costs of the Raich/Hendon model, is circa £80,000 for two sessions per week, with the relevant staff delivery and indeed relevant partner agencies playing their role to support and signpost.

- 7.5 The Letsgo card was considered by young people, activity providers, staff supporting youth people and the project team to be extremely beneficial. It did prove the DCSF hypothesis that having access to spending power does increase engagement in positive activities. Access to information and support were contributing factors. All of the processes used were documented so that a similar scheme could be re-introduced in the future if funding became available.

## **9.0 Refreshing priorities**

- 8.1 It is evident that levels of deprivation, including child poverty, remain high, particularly in certain parts of the City. Lower than average educational attainment, the affordability of housing, standard of private sector housing, and levels of worklessness, are all key themes identified in the JSNA, further consideration also needs to be given in future years to the links between health and poor planning. The shifting demographic of increasingly older population, and a decline in the number of people aged 18-64 also provides key challenges.

- 8.2 Being completely strategic about health improvement and knowing what we do with regard to the Sunderland East Area Profile the areas that need a different steer/emphasis relate to smoking, obesity and alcohol (relating to early mortality and inequalities in life expectancy) and emotional health and wellbeing (for both children, young people and adults) with sexual health (Chlamydia and teenage conception) principally for people aged under 25 years.

## **10.0 Background papers**

- Sunderland East Local Area Plan
- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), Sunderland 2009 Refresh
- Project Evaluation Report for Letsgo Card/ Empowering Young People Pilot

## **11.0 List of Appendices**

- Annex 1: Background information

**11.0 Contact Officer:** Nicol Trueman  
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## **Annex 1 – Background information**

### **Sunderland City Council, Wellness Services:**

#### **Preventative – Active Bus**

The Sunderland Active Bus has been developed in partnership with Sunderland's Active Board, SAFC Foundation, Sport England and Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust. The Active Bus is equipped to carry out health and fitness checks for anyone who jumps aboard. A team of 'activators' will then take time to explain the results of the health checks, and identify sports and physical activity opportunities which could benefit the customer. This could be directing them to a local walking club, yoga class or a sports club.

#### **Preventative - Wellness Centre**

One component of the Wellness Service is the city wide network of co-located facilities and programmes. These Wellness Centres, equipped with the latest Technogym equipment, offer opportunities for all residents to participate in programmes of physical activity, as well as receive support specifically designed around their needs. Two exist in Sunderland East: Ryhope Community Association, in Ryhope, and Hudson Road Primary School, in Hendon.

#### **Preventative - Community classes for those over 50's**

Exercise classes for people over 50 began in September 2008. Classes are tailored to the needs of individuals and include both seated and standing exercise. The classes improve mobility, balance and co-ordination which decrease the likelihood of falls and increase ability to continue to live independently into old age.

#### **Preventative - Mums on the move (MOTM)**

The Mums on the move programme is designed to provide safe, suitable exercise for new mothers. An appropriately qualified instructor leads a session in which new mothers attend, complete with their pushchairs and child. Sessions take place outdoors and promote improved social and mental well-being for the mother, and also physical activity suitable to the participant's physical condition.

#### **Preventative - Wellness on 2 Wheels (WO2W)**

The Wellness Service received funding from STPCT to increase physical activity opportunities for its employees over the summers of 2008 and 2009. We have offered employees the opportunity to take part in supervised, free of charge bike rides. The Wellness on 2 Wheels Summer Cycling Programme was viewed as a safe and fun way to introduce participation in physical activity. Bikes, helmets and equipment were provided for all employees who took part and staff also had the opportunity to take along their own bike if they preferred.

#### **Preventative - Wellness.....its a walk in the park**

The Wellness Service is in the process of developing, producing and marketing a citywide walking programme. The programme will involve developing a number of 'way marked' routes in 10 city parks, two in each of the city's five areas. Dependent on the size of the park, routes will typically be 1, 2 or 3 miles in distance and will be suitable for walkers, runners, wheelchair users and pushchairs. It is anticipated that these walks will be complete and promoted by Autumn 2009

#### **Preventative - Free Swimming**

Sport and Leisure provide an affordable pricing policy for Sunderland City Council leisure facilities ensuring affordable opportunities exist for all. Free swimming available at Raich Carter Centre for those under 16 and those over 60 at various times.

#### **Targeted Intervention - Weight Management Programme**



In April 2008 Sunderland Wellness Service was successfully commissioned to review, recruit, re-launch, manage and deliver the new Sunderland Exercise Referral and Weight Management Programme. This programme is an innovative example of an exercise referral system that has evolved out of necessity to meet the health challenges of a diverse city, and ensures that people at risk are identified sooner, and referred onto the appropriate support pathway. These currently take place at the following venues in the East, Hudson Road School, Ryhope CA and the Raich Carter Sports Centre.

To enable expansion a further 10 dedicated staff were appointed into Sunderland Wellness Service as Wellness Exercise Referral Consultants. To ensure the appropriate teams of individuals were delivering the weight management strand of the programme, City Hospital Dietetic Department were also commissioned by STPCT to expand their team of Dieticians and Community Nutritionists to deliver the educational components. Success of this programme to date includes 100% compliance from all the cities GP practices, over 125 GP's and Practice Nurses refer patients.

#### Targeted Intervention – Maternity Programme

From September 2009, a maternity lifestyle exercise specialist will promote the benefits of physical activity, nutrition and assist with improved lifestyle choices for pre and post natal women and their families within Sunderland. The role of the post holder will be to address specific lifestyle factors with families of new born children which put them at risk of poorer health. The programme will target and offer support to families (mother, partner and siblings) who are pregnant and up to one year after delivery.

#### Targeted Intervention – Workforce and Health and Well being Project

For the next 18 months the Exercise Referral programme is a part of the City Councils Workforce Health and Wellbeing programme. This initial research pilot has been designed to test the effectiveness of targeting a certain group of employees working within Sunderland City Council. This project is being funded by the NHS in partnership with: Sunderland City Council Occupational Health Unit; Gateshead Council Occupational Health Unit and South of Tyne and Wear Primary Care Trust (Public Health Department).

The TPCT agreed to fund this project to find out whether employees would attend Health & Lifestyle Assessment and additional support if they had the backing of their employer. The Occupational Health Nurse refers the eligible employees to the referral programme

Other general work areas include Beacon for reducing health inequalities; Sunderland Wellness Guides and Sunderland Active Project.

### **Joint Strategic Needs Assessment**

#### Children and young people

High levels of children who are overweight or obese, figure show that 15.6% of reception year (4 and 5 year olds) are overweight and 12.6% obese and 17% of year six (10 and 11 year olds) are overweight, 21.4% are obese.

Services were developed that promoted physical activity, healthy eating and psychological support for overweight pregnant women, babies and toddlers identified as becoming overweight, children and young people, children and their families identified as overweight and obese as part of the National Child Health Measurement Programme. A National Support Team visit has provided local recommendations. Successes included an increased focus on the development of play and urban games. The Food in Schools Team has been sustained beyond the initial phase based on evaluation. The Healthy Schools Programme has had additional support via a newly appointed co-ordinator. The outcome being local children, young people

and their families should have access to a wider range of services across Sunderland. These services will provide for the prevention of obesity and well as targeted support for those children and young people who are already overweight or obese.

### Adults

Regarding adults predictive modelling was used to suggest to nearly 50,000 adults locally who could benefit from new services. Investment in comprehensive adult obesity services from community to bariatric surgery. The PCT has commissioned a range of services across the City to support adults to increase physical activity and eat healthily and manage weight. These include slimming on referral via GP practices, community based exercise on referral and weight management delivered via the city's Wellness Centres, and specialist weight management delivered by City Hospitals and Wellness as well as increased access to bariatric surgery. Services are all now in place. A joint approach with SAFC Foundation is underway and with Sunderland University to ensure services are in place. Local people are also being referred to obesity services via the NHS Health Check Programme. Further information is available in Annex 1. The outcome being people referred to the obesity services and some promising outcomes are being seen (slimming on referral). There are no adult LAA indicators for obesity; however improving adult obesity will have an impact on children. In addition this will have an impact on mortality rates, as well as reducing hypertension, cholesterol levels.

### Older People

There are 9,458 people aged 60 years and over living in East Sunderland, and this population is set to rise by 30% in 20 years (with an even larger increase in the number aged 85 and over), as the population ages nationally, at the same time as the younger population is currently predicted to decline. The adults section highlighted the key health issues that face local people – heart disease, stroke, other long term conditions (including diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) as well as lifestyle issues of tobacco, alcohol, obesity. For many of these conditions the prevalence is higher for older people and increasing the quality of life as well as length of life becomes increasingly important.

As one might expect, the 8,050 people aged 65 and over living in East Sunderland includes a proportion of people with problems with daily living, such as with personal care and/or mobility. It's estimated that 37% of the population aged 65+ have problems with daily living, and this is set to increase by 20% over the next 15 years, simply because there's expected to be more older people living longer in the city. Many of these individuals may need a "little bit of help" in their daily lives, for example, help from the Third Sector to help reduce feelings of social isolation or provision of Tele-care equipment to improve their safety and security in their own home. Approximately 13% of the population in East Sunderland aged 65 and over is supported to live independently by the Council (via an ongoing social care plan) or Council grant-funded services via the Third Sector. Recently the Council completed the first stage of an older people's population profiling exercise to better understand in which areas of the city it might need to improve the support provided to people in this age group. As a result of this exercise, the Council is in the process of working on a Department of Health pilot with Church View Medical Practise to better identify people who might need support, e.g. who feel isolated, need financial advice, improve their health and well-being. Clearly, partners in East Sunderland will work together to determine what practical support they can provide for individuals.

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## **Sunderland East Area Committee**

4<sup>th</sup> January 2010

### **Report of the Chief Executive**

#### **Sunderland East Area Action Plans**

##### **1. Why has it come to Committee?**

**1.1** At its first meeting of the municipal year in June 2009, the Committee agreed the work plan for 2009/10. It was deemed necessary to establish Area Action Plans for each theme identified in the Local Area Plan to ensure that all priorities are addressed throughout 2009-10.

**1.2** At the November Area Committee summary area templates were presented, showing an update on each action and also coded them as red, amber or green. The area actions will be available on line, via [www.sunderland.gov.uk/localareaplans](http://www.sunderland.gov.uk/localareaplans) and updated bi monthly to provide Committee and the public with up to date information on the performance against the action plans. Red represents a delay/problem, amber represents possible issues which Officers are aware of, green represents that the action is completed.

**1.3** Each Area Committee has a standing agenda allowing for updates to be given on all five thematic priorities throughout the year. Even though some priorities will not be discussed until 2010, summary area templates will be established throughout 2009 for all thematic priorities.

##### **2. Description of Decision (Recommendations)**

###### **2.1 Area Committee is recommended to:-**

- Agree to select a hotspot at future Area Committee, when appropriate, to be incorporated into the programme of works for Youth Offending Services, under the Community Payback Scheme as set out in the report.
- Note the new commissioning model for youth contracts across the City.
- Identify opportunities for further potential improvements to public transport routes and walking access across the area by mid January 2010.

##### **3. Safe Area Action Plan Update**

**3.1** In July 2009, the Area Committee agreed a number of actions and proposals, relating to the **Safe** priorities. One of the four priorities agreed was to build confident communities with mutual support, trust and respect by tailoring services, dealing with local problems e.g. secondary fires (wheelie bins), graffiti, fly tipping and dog fouling. An action agreed to deliver this priority was for Youth Offending Services (YOS), in Children Services Directorate to investigate and feedback the possibility of linking hours from the Community Payback Scheme into Area Committee.

**3.2** Discussions have been held with YOS who have agreed that is it feasible for Area Committee to discuss and recommend a hotspot in their area that will improve the quality of life for local residents, via LAPs priorities, for example, removal of graffiti, litter pick, etc.

**3.3** Members are asked to consider any potential areas and send details to the Area Officer two weeks in advance of the next Area Committee, who will then present a list forward to Area Committee. Area Committee will then be asked to select one area per meeting to be targeted.

**3.4** It is important to remember that the Community Payback scheme is established primarily to support the victims of crime, and as such, their requests for work will always be given priority for action. Further information on key actions identified in the Safe Area Action Plan are outlined in Annex 1.

#### **4. Learning Area Action Plan Update**

4.1 In September 2009, the Area Committee agreed a number of actions and proposals, relating to Learning priorities. One of the four priorities agreed is to provide better support for young people e.g. more youth and play services by increasing service provision/activities for children and young people with disabilities or who are carers themselves and by improving partnership working between organisations who provide services to children and young people. An action agreed to deliver this priority was for Youth Development Group, in Children Services Directors to implement new commissioning arrangements from April 2010 that better represent the needs of young people in their neighbourhoods.

4.2 Representatives from YDG will be present at the meeting to provide Committee with an update on the commissioning model and way forward. Further information on key actions identified in the Learning Area Action Plan are outlined in Annex 2.

#### **5. Attractive and Inclusive Action Plan Update**

5.1 In November 2009, the Area Committee agreed a number of actions and proposals, relating to Attractive and Inclusive priorities. One of the seven priorities agreed is improve public transport routes and walkability across the area. An action agreed to deliver this priority was for Committee to identify opportunities for further potential improvements to public transport routes and walking access across the area.

5.2 The Committee is requested to inform the Area Officer of potential improvements by mid January 2010, to enable the information to be feedback into the overall network design consultation process by Nexus which will re-design the bus networks to improve accessibility for local residential areas.

5.3 City Services, Corporate Communications and Nexus are working together on the consultation around public transport provision in Sunderland. All members are invited to a meeting at 6 p.m. on 10 February in the Council Chamber. This will be a briefing on the Nexus Network Design Project and will identify service areas which need to be addressed. In March each Area Committee will have the opportunity to comment on the proposed plan and what is needed for their specific area. Further information on key actions identified in the Attractive and Inclusive Area Action Plan are outlined in Annex 3.

#### **6. Background papers**

- Sunderland Strategy Delivery Plans
- Local Area Agreements Delivery Plans
- Sunderland East Local Area Plan

#### **7. List of Appendices**

- Annex 1: Sunderland East Area Safe Action Plan
- Annex 2: Sunderland East Area Learning Action Plan
- Annex 3: Sunderland East Area Attractive and Inclusive Action Plan

**8. Contact Officer:** Nicol Trueman, Sunderland East Area Officer  
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## Sunderland East Safe Area Action Plan

Objective	Action	RAG	Timescale	Lead Officer	Progress
1. Tackle misuse of alcohol	To work with engagement and motivating team (Turning Point, gateway to drug and alcohol services) to identify and target hot spot areas in conjunction with local GPs, youth agencies and police possible outreach work.		Long term: Jul 10 +	Ben Seales - Sunderland Safer Partnership	Meeting held with A Boyd from HHAS who advised that a meeting with Ben Seales from SSP should be organised. Nicol Trueman to arrange a meeting with Ben to discuss further.
2. Tailoring services, dealing with local problems, secondary fires, fly tipping, dog fouling, graffiti and noise pollution	Youth Offending Services to investigate and feedback the possibility of linking hours from the Community Payback Scheme into Area Committee i.e. x amount of hours awarded to the Area Committee to allocate against improving the quality of life, via LAPs priorities, for example, removal of graffiti.		Medium term: Oct 09 - Jul 10	Simon Smart - Children Services	Meeting held with YOS. Information to be presented to January 10 Area Committee meeting.
3. Target ASB, including domestic violence	TWF&R to work closely with City Services Environmental Enforcement Officers to tackle wheelie bin fires. Considerations to be given around piloting a project to reduce wheelie bin fires in hotspot areas.		Medium term: Oct 09 - Jul 10	John Allison: TYF&R, Louise Bulter: HHAS, Nicky Rowland: City Services	Discussed at the East Millfield LMAP in Dec 09. Operation Charlie was delivered which involved the police, TWF&R and City Services tackling crime and grime in Millfield. Partners are keen to repeat this exercise to keep standards up/targets down.
4. Challenge negative perceptions of young people, celebrate positive achievements	Investigate and feedback the possibility of securing long term funding for diversionary project currently being supported via BoTM		Long term: Jul 10 +	Nicol Trueman: Chief Executives and Ray Leonard BoTM	BoTM and SCC currently discussing the Succession Strategy, including all long term delivery of current services and possible implications of New Deals for the Community funding ceasing in 2011.
5. Challenge negative perceptions of young people, celebrate positive achievements	Improve transitions between young people and adult drug and alcohol services		Medium term: Oct 09 - Jul 10	Albert Boyd - Health, Housing and Adult Services	A Hidden Harm Co-ordinator will be employed in January 2010. Their main role will be to co-ordinate services surrounding the Hidden Harm Strategy, e.g. prescribing services, homeless, etc to improve the current referral system between young people and adult drug and alcohol services.

# Sunderland East Learning Area Action Plan

Objective	Action	RAG	Timescale	Lead Officer	Progress
1. Increase service provision for Children Young People with disabilities or CYP who are carers	To implement new commissioning arrangements from April 2010 that better represent the needs of young people in their neighbourhoods.		Medium Term: Oct - Dec 10	Kath Butchert: Children Services	Jan 09 Area Committee Kath will be in attendance to answer any questions Committee may have on the commissioning model for 2010-2013.
2. Deliver a holistic approach e.g. health promotion, education around substance misuse eating disorders, Sexually Transmitted infections (STIs)	Family values programmes to be delivered as part of a providers core offer, via FACL contracts.		Medium Term: Oct - Dec 10	Sandra Kenny: Children Services	Meeting arranged mid January 10 between Sandra and Nicol to discuss further.
3. Increase the number of tutors who can deliver English for Speakers of a Second Language (ESOL) courses	Review: Investigate and feedback to Area Committee on the feasibility of amending the procurement process in accessing FACL contracts more accessible.		Medium Term: Oct - Dec 10	Nicol Trueman: Chief Executives	Issues has been picked up in other areas of the City. Awaiting guidance on escalation of issues to Scrutiny, due in Feb 10, before progressing with review.
4. More balance between academic and vocational training, targeting EET and NEET.	Escalate to scrutiny: investigate the possibility of increasing the number of apprenticeship opportunities offered, including the public sector.		Long term: Sep 10+	Learning and Economic Prosperity Deliver Board.	Protocol for escalating issues to Scrutiny and LSP to be agreed by Cabinet in February 10. Action logged and awaiting protocol to be agreed to enable issues to be referred to LSP.

# Sunderland East Attractive and Inclusive Area Action Plan

Objective	Action	RAG	Timescale	Lead Officer	Progress
1. Promote and clean up the City Centre	To establish a two way communication process for the City Centre Strategy Group and the City Centre Programme Board (The Board has recently been set up to oversee the activity of the Strategy Group and other partners, e.g Nexus, Sunderland arc, Sunnyside Partnership, the University) to update Area Committee on development and vice versa, to complement each others work plans and priorities.		Medium term: March - Nov 10	Graeme Farnworth: Chief Executives	It is recognised that the City Centre is every wards responsibility to promote. The Strategy Group are busy working on delivery plans, which are due to be agreed in June 2010. Once the delivery plan has been agreed, a mechanism will be established to ensure linkages are made between the two Committees.
2. Encourage private landlords to become accredited landlords and bring empty properties back into use.	Escalate to Scrutiny: In addition to each of the Area Committees requesting information regarding the current position and work of the Council in tackling empty homes, anti social behaviour and the private rented sector, a similar request has been made by the Community and Safer City Scrutiny Committee in respect to the Council's role in tackling ASB issues.		Medium term: March - Nov 10	Graeme Wilson: Health, Housing and Adult Services	A report is being prepared by the Executive Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services for submission to the Community and Safer City Scrutiny Committee. The report will not only set out details as described, but will also detail the level of resource required to expand the existing Council service. An update will be presented to a future meeting.
3. Improve public transport routes and walk ability across the area	Review: Members are asked to identify opportunities for further potential improvements to public transport routes and walking access across the area, and to receive a further report to a future meeting of the Sunderland East Area Committee.		Short term: Nov - Feb 2010	Area Committee	Members to bring forward improvements to the January 2010 Area Committee meeting.

**Sunderland East Area Committee meeting  
4<sup>th</sup> January 2010  
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I**

**Title of Report:**

Financial Statements and Funding Request

**Author(s):**

Office of the Chief Executive

**Purpose of Report:**

This report requests Area Committee consideration of a proposal for the allocation of Community Chest, SIB and SIP to support initiatives that will benefit the area.

**Description of Decision:**

The Committee is requested to approve the following from the 2009/10 budget:

- Annex 1: 9 proposals for support from the 2009/10 Community Chest.
- Annex 2:

**SIB 2009-10 budget**

Approve three proposals totalling £70,722

- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| 1. People Power, Ryhope Community Association       | £55,722 |
| 2. Miners Memorial project, Sunderland City Council | £5,000  |
| 3. Seaburn public realm, Sunderland City Council    | £10,000 |

Reject one proposal totalling £11,645

- |                                |         |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| 4. Kool Kids, Sunderland Dance | £11,645 |
|--------------------------------|---------|

Defer one proposal totalling £11,453

- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| 5. Community Leaders of the Future Project, EBC | £11,453 |
|---|---------|

**SIP 2009-10 budget**

Approve four proposals from the 2009/10 SIP budget totalling £36,557

- |  |         |
|--|---------|
| 6. Refurbishment, Sunderland Young Peoples' Bike Project | £19,000 |
| 7. Refurbishment, Olympians Boxing Club                  | £12,995 |
| 8. Upgrade security, St Marks Community Association      | £2,762  |
| 9. Demolish wall, Northumbria Police                     | £1,800  |

- Annex 3: Note the financial statement for Area Committee funding for 2009/10.

**Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework?**

Yes

**Suggested reason(s) for Decision:**

The Community Chest forms part of the Strategic Initiatives Budget and that £250,000 is available for the scheme in 2009/2010, £10,000 for each Ward. This scheme is operated under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

SIB and SIP was established to promote action on key priorities identified in the relevant Local Area Plan, and to attract other funding into the area. Applications for SIB/SIP funding should demonstrate the potential benefits to local communities the proposed project would bring, and subsequently be able to provide evidence and statistics that can illustrate these benefits.

**Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected:**

The circumstances are such that there are no realistic alternatives that could be considered.

**Is this a "Key Decision" as defined in the Constitution?** No

**Is it included in the Forward Plan?** No

**Relevant Review Committee:**

**Management Scrutiny Committee**



## Sunderland East Area Committee

4<sup>th</sup> January 2010

### Report of Chief Executive

#### Financial Statements and Funding Request

##### 1. Purpose Of The Report

1.1 This report outlines current expenditure from the Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB), Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) and Community Chest and applications for funding from these budget in order to support new initiatives, which will benefit the area and the delivery of the Local Area Plans.

##### 2.0 Description of Decision (Recommendation)

2.1 The Committee is requested to approve:

Annex 1: Nine proposals for support from the 2009/10 Community Chest.

Annex 2:

###### **SIB budget 2009/10**

Approve three proposals totalling £70,722

1. People Power, Ryhope Community Association	£55,722
2. Miners Memorial project, Sunderland City Council	£5,000
3. Seaburn public realm, Sunderland City Council	£10,000

Total: £70,722                      Budget: £267,385                      Balance, if approved: **£196,663**

Reject one proposal

4.. Sunderland Dance	£11,645
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Defer one proposal

5. Education Business Connections	£11,453
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###### **SIP budget 2009/10**

Approve two proposals from the Ryhope Ward budget totalling £31,995.

6. Refurbishment, Sunderland Young Peoples' Bike Project	£19,000
7. Refurbishment, Olympians Boxing Club	£12,995

Total: £31,995                      Budget: £44,173                      Balance, if approved: **£12,178**

Approve two proposals from the Millfield Ward budget totalling £4,562

8. Upgrade security, St Marks Community Association	£2,762
9. Demolish wall, Northumbria Police	£1,800

Total: £4,562                      Budget: £56,823                      Balance, if approved: **£52,261**

2.2 Note the financial statement for Area Committee funding for 2009/10 in Annex 3.

##### 3.0 Background

3.1 The Council has reduced the amount of Regeneration Framework across the City from six to five. This has resulted in a new calculation of SIB funding to be awarded to the Sunderland East Area Committee of £277,456 to be allocated up until March 2010. All

allocations of funding should be matched against the criteria outlined in delivering the key priorities of the area, identified within the Local Area Plan (LAP).

- 3.2 SIP was approved at Cabinet in March 2008. Included within the plan was an additional one-off allocation of £1.426m to Area Committees. The amount allocated to each Area Committee was the same as SIB allocation for 2008-09. This equates to £227,293. At a meeting in July 2009 the Committee agreed to split the funds across the four wards of Hendon, Millfield, Ryhope and St Michaels. With local Councillors and service delivers being responsible and accountable for its expenditure against the LAP priorities, with proposed projects being presented to Area Committee for final endorsement. This funding is available until March 2011.
- 3.3 The Committee will be aware that the Community Chest forms part of the Strategic Initiatives Budget and that £250,000 is available for the scheme in 2009/2010, £10,000 for each Ward, plus any unclaimed allocations identified from previous years. This scheme is operated under Section 137 of the Local Government Act.

#### **4.0 Current Position SIB**

- 4.1 Following the 9 November 2009 Committee meeting, a balance of £267,385 remains to be allocated from 2009/10 budget.
- 4.2 There are three applications for funding presented to this Committee requesting a total of £70,722 from the 2009/10 budget. Should the Committee grant these requests, £85,148 will be committed from the 2009/10 budget. This will leave a balance of £196,663 to be allocated from 2009/10 budget, with two meetings remaining.
- 4.3 There are a further two applications being presented to this Committee seeking SIB funding. Application four, from Sunderland Dance which we are advising the Committee to reject and application five from Education Business Connections which we are advising the Committee to defer, as outlined in Annex 2.
- 4.4 Members should note that any uncommitted expenditure from this financial year (2009/10) will be carried forward to next year's (2010/11) budget. This has been confirmed by the Director of Finance.

#### **5.0 Current position SIP**

- 5.1 Following the 9 November 2009 Committee meeting, a balance of £56,293 remained to be allocated from each ward up until March 2011 totally £227,293 across the area.
- 5.2 Since the last meeting the Chair and Vice Chair agreed to an emergency application to come forward on behalf of Olympian Boxing Club to replace the heating and plumbing system for £12,650 from the Ryhope ward SIP 2009/10 allocation. The protocol was implemented and all elected members of the Area Committee were consulted and received a copy of the application. No elected member opposed the recommendation to approve the funding and the application was independently appraised against a scoring matrix to ensure that the application contributed to the priorities identified in the Local Area Plan (LAP). The application was approved under delegated decision of the Deputy Chief Executive.
- 5.3 There are four applications for funding presented to this Committee requesting a total of £31,995 from Ryhope ward and £4,563 from the Millfield ward allocation 2009/10 SIP budget. Should the Committee grant these requests, £44,645 will be committed from the

Ryhope ward and £4,562 will be committed from the Millfield ward 2009/10 SIP budget. This will leave a balance of £12,178 for Ryhope and £52,261 for Millfield, with St Michael's and Hendon balance remaining at £56,823 to be allocated and fully expended by March 2011.

## **6.0 Current Position Community Chest (November 09 figures)**

6.1 To date approvals for each Ward total:

Doxford	£10,122
Hendon	£9,259
Millfield	£10,325
Ryhope	£8,627
St. Michael's	£4,961

6.2 The projects listed on Annex 1 total:

Doxford	£1880
Hendon	£991
Millfield	£0000
Ryhope	£0000
St. Michael's	£4580

6.3 Should the Committee grant the requests listed on Annex 1 the remaining balances, including the unclaimed allocations identifies from previous years, would be:

Doxford	£833
Hendon	£0000
Millfield	£207
Ryhope	£4,081
St. Michael's	£2,029

## **7.0 Reasons for the Decision**

7.1 SIB and SIP was established to promote action on key priorities identified in the relevant Local Area Plan, and to attract other funding into the area. Applications for SIB/SIP funding should demonstrate the potential benefits to local communities the proposed project would bring, and subsequently be able to provide evidence and statistics that can illustrate these benefits.

7.2 Community Chest support is given to projects which clearly demonstrate that they will address identified local needs, provide genuine community benefit and which can subsequently provide evidence/measurement of success in this respect.

## **8.0 Alternative Options**

8.1 Each project is required to indicate what alternative options they have considered during the application business process.

## **9.0 Relevant Consultations**

9.1 Financial Implications

The Director of Financial Resources has been consulted on this report and all costs associated with developing SIB, SIP and Community Chest applications.

- 9.2 Implications for Other Services  
Each project is required to indicate what implications there may be for other services in the application business process.
- 9.3 The Public  
Each SIB/SIP project is required to indicate what consultation it has undertaken and other documentary evidence it has to support its proposal in during the application business process. Residents have been consulted about the priorities in the Local Area Plans and bids support these identified priorities.
- 9.4 The Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 and the Councils Race Equality Scheme.  
Each project is required to indicate whether it has an equal opportunities policy, or what measures it employs to address equal opportunity issues, during the application business process.
- 9.5 Public Relations and Publicity  
Each project is required to indicate how it will promote funding awarded from Area Committee.
- 9.6 Councillors  
Members have been consulted on all applications for SIB, SIP and Community Chest support and the implementation of the review.

## **10.0 List of Appendices**

- 10.1 Annex 1 Community Chest: Proposed projects for approval  
Annex 2 SIB and SIP Application Summaries  
Annex 3 Financial Statement

## **11.0 Background Papers**

- 11.1 The following background papers were used:
- Community Chest Application Forms
  - SIB and SIP full applications, scoring matrix and comments from consultation exercise
  - Schedule of projects circulated at the panel meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> October and 14 December 2009.
  - Reports to previous Area Committees
  - Sunderland East Local Area Plan

**12. Contact Officer:** Nicol Trueman, Sunderland East Area Officer  
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## COMMUNITY CHEST 2009/2010

## PROJECTS PROPOSED FOR APPROVAL

	<b>Recommended Grant subject to final estimates, invoices, up to:</b>
<b>DOXFORD WARD</b>	
<b>Doxford Park Craft Club</b> – Contribution towards rent etc.,	880
<b>Portland Judo Club</b> – Contribution towards competition costs, equipment etc.,	1000
<b>Total</b>	<b>1880</b>
<b>HENDON WARD</b>	
<b>Hudson Road Primary School</b> – Contribution towards residential trip to Derwent Hill.	741
<b>Lumley Tower Community Café</b> – Contribution towards social events in January.	250
<b>Total</b>	<b>991</b>
<b>ST. MICHAEL'S WARD</b>	
<b>Sunderland Men's Probus Club</b> – Contribution towards social activities, trips etc.,	200
<b>Cedars Park Residents Association</b> – Contribution towards erection of railings.	1894
<b>Mowbray Park Bowling Club</b> – Purchase of uniforms.	156
<b>St. George's Guides</b> – Contribution towards adventure holiday.	330
<b>Hill View Infant School</b> – Contribution towards installation of railings and paving in garden area.	2000
<b>Total</b>	<b>4580</b>
<b>Total of Projects</b>	<b>7451</b>

## Annex 2: SIB/SIP Application summaries

### Application One – People Power, Ryhope Community Association

Total Cost of Project	Total Match Funding	Total SIB Requested
£55,722	Nil	£55,722
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
2.5 years	April 2010	October 2012

#### The Project

The proposed project are seeking funds to support residents into volunteering and engagement opportunities, to complement and enhance the promotion of the Sunderland Community Network, with Area Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Networks, who will nominate representatives onto the Area Committee in 2010. The project is a pilot which involves employing a Community Development Worker for 20hrs per week to use community cohesion and development as a tool to encourage, engage and involve local people to look at how well local services are working together to improve the quality of life for local people, making straightforward independent information available to people about their local services, and help people understand if they are getting value for money for their local services, helping them make informed choices and to influence decisions with the main outcomes being: residents feel they can influence decisions; residents feel they would like to be more involved in the decision making process; increase positive attitudes towards the City and neighbourhoods; promote and encourage residents to volunteer and promote existing structures i.e. Area Committee.

#### The Need for the Project

Through a review of area arrangements and the Duty to Involve, it has been recognised that there is a clear need to improve processes in which local residents can become involved in decision making and influence those decision. This project is about establishing a pilot using different methods of engagement to see which techniques work and which don't, then learning from these practices and roll out lessons learned across the City, resulting in more residents attending and participating in Area Committee.

#### The Outputs for the Project

Output Code	Description	Target 2010/11	Target 2011/12
P3	Number of people employed in voluntary work	15	15
L2	Number of people accessing improved advice and support	75	75
H3	Number of older people receiving support	50	50
A2	Number of people using new and improved community facilities	25	25
A3	Number of community/voluntary groups supported	20	20
A5	Number of project feasibility studies funded	2	2
A6	Number of community or educational events held	4	4

#### The key milestones for the Project

Milestones and Key Events	Forecast 2010/11	Forecast 2011/12
15 people employed in voluntary work	Mar 11	Mar 12
75 people accessing improved advice and support	Mar 11	Mar 12
50 older people receiving support	Mar 11	Mar 12
25 people using new and improved community facilities	Mar 11	Mar 12
20 community/voluntary groups supported	Mar 11	Mar 12
2 project feasibility studies funded	Mar 11	Mar 12
4 community or educational events held	Mar 11	Mar 12
Evaluation and review of project	-	Oct 12

#### Comments:

## Annex 2: SIB/SIP Application summaries

- Key to this working will be to ensure good partnerships within the Councils Diversity and Inclusion Team, Performance Improvement Team and Community Development Team, along with key local stakeholders across all sectors.

### Recommendation: Approve

- The project strategically fit under the Attractive and Inclusive aim, to further develop communities that are confident and have an atmosphere of mutual support, respect and trust.
- The project is supported by the Community Development Service.
- In addition to delivering Sunderland East LAP the project will complement national indicators (local residents influencing decisions and volunteer within their communities) and the comprehensive area assessment (identify and encourage under represented groups to join the Councils residents panel, Community Spirit).

### Application Two – Miners Memorial Project, Sunderland City Council

Total Cost of Project	Total Match Funding	Total SIB Requested
£25,000 (£5,000 requested from each area)	£0	<b>£5,000</b>
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
5 months	January 2009	March 2010

### The Project

The proposed project will deliver a bespoke design for the glazed area above the entrance to the Civic Centre Suite. The aim is to provide visitors and Council members with a high quality art commission, which will be visually exciting and create an engaging and contemporary design that will complement the Civic Centre Building. The design will reference the past mining industry specifically the 1984 -1985 Miners Strike. The mining industry was a major determinant of the city's development and its heritage and culture.

The artist will create a design for the glass area above the entrance door to the Civic Suite ensuring that the work can be viewed from both inside and outside the civic centre and will:

- make a visually appealing feature of the entrance to the Civic Centre Council Chamber
- be robust in construction, require minimal maintenance, and adhere to health and safety requirements.
- reference the history of the 1984 -1985 strike
- be permanent (i.e. should function effectively on the site for a period of not less than 20 years)

With all parts of the City having a strong mining history this project will celebrate that history, provide a legacy, and develop an attraction which will encourage more visitors from all areas. Funding is therefore sought from each Area Committee, i.e. £5,000 per Committee.

### The Need for the Project

The project has been identified and supported by families and individuals connected to the City's mining history. The project will be delivered in partnership with the Durham Miners Association.

### The Outputs for the Project

Output Code	Description	2009/10
A6	Number of community/educational events	1
A2	Number of people using improved community facility	100

### The key milestones for the Project

Milestone and key event	Forecast Dates
Artist contracted and presentation of designs	Jan 2010
Technical development	Jan – Feb 10
Unveiling of artwork	6 Mar 2010

### Recommendation: Approve

## Annex 2: SIB/SIP Application summaries

- The project strategically fits under the Attractive and Inclusive aim, to promote the City Centre and celebrate heritage priorities.
- There are no legal or other approvals required.
- There are no implications for Council services arising from this project.
- The project does not require support or sponsorship from any Council Directorate.

### Subject to:

- The provision of information identifying the number of families and individuals consulted and involved in the creation of the design
- Confirmation no planning permission is required
- Confirmation of future repair, maintenance and cleaning programme in place

### Application Three – Sea Front Improvements, Sunderland City Council

Total Cost of Project	Total Match Funding	Total SIB Requested
£168,000 (£10,000 requested from each Washington, Coalfield, West and East Area Committee.	£128,000 (from North Area Committee)	<b>£10,000</b>
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
1 year 3 months	January 2010	March 2011

### The Project

The proposal is seeking £10,000 from this Area Committee towards a £168,000 package of public realm improvements at Seaburn upper and lower promenades. The project will resurface areas of the promenade, install new street furniture and planting and improve the soft landscaping of the area. This is the first phase in a more comprehensive improvement scheme for Seaburn.

### The Need for the Project

The community spirit survey in 2007 and, more recently, the Sea Front strategy consultation in Spring 2009 raised the need for a more attractive, improved sea front to represent the City. During 2009 road shows with young people, disability people, elected members and VCS were hosted and consultation took place with over 300 residents from Sunderland East who highlighted the importance of Seaburn public realm being refurbished to enhance the image and reputation of the City and attract more visitors.

### The Outputs for the Project

Output Code	Description	2010/11
A4	events/programmes of work to improve appearance of streets	2

### The key milestones for the Project

Milestone and key event	Forecast Dates
Develop detailed design proposals	Jan 10
Procure contractor	Apr 10
Commence works on site	May 10
Completion of first phase of works/project	Jul 10

### Recommendation: **Approve:**

- The project strategically fits under the Attractive and Inclusive aim, to make more of key attractions, and attract more visitors to the City priority.
- The project will enhance one of the City's key assets and help to improve visitor perceptions of the City as a whole.
- The project is not part of the scheme being developed under the £1m Sea Change funding. It is a separate project focusing on the improvement of Seaburn as a family resort.
- This key location will kick-start the wider regeneration of the seafront, attracting investment to the City. The Seafront Regeneration Strategy relies to an extent on investment from the private



## Annex 2: SIB/SIP Application summaries

sector. Investment in the public realm will demonstrate an improvement to the area and increase developer confidence and attract spend from the private sector.

### Application Four – Kool Kids, Sunderland Dance

Total Cost of Project	Total Match Funding	Total SIB Requested
£46,580. £11,645 from each East, Washington, Coalfield and West Area Committee	£985 – in kind	<b>£11,645</b>
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
1 year	February 2010	February 2011

### The Project

The proposed project is seeking funds from four of the five Area Committees to deliver a 48 weeks urban dance programme, in two community venues per area. Each venue will receive a weekly 2 hour session, 1<sup>st</sup> hour targeting the under 12's, 2<sup>nd</sup> hour 12 plus. Venues being considered for use are East Community Centre and Ryhope Community Centre, both need confirming. The Kool Kids programme was piloted in the North area of the City during 2008-09 which was funded by North Area Committee SIB. The project delivered against its objectives. The Lead Agents now wishes to roll the programme out across the City.

### The Need for the Project

The Lead Agent are currently commissioned via Youth Development Group to deliver dance, via the XL Youth Villages, in addition to working with local schools and community youth projects. Many of the currently participants of these projects and programmes have requested more dance activities. The Lead Agent refers to a strong connection towards a Safe City, and identifies how the programme can reduce ASB, also four individual Officers from Northumbria Police have written letters of support for the project.

### The Outputs for the Project per area

Output Code	Description	Target 2010/11
L7	Number of additional youth sessions delivered per week.	2
S5	Number of young people benefiting from youth inclusion/diversionary projects	100

### The key milestones for the Project

Milestones and Key Events	Forecast Dates
Promoting new Kool Kids projects completed	Feb 2010
25% of output numbers of young people met and engaged	Mar 2010
50% of output numbers of young people met and engaged	Jun 2010
75% of output numbers of young people met and engaged	Sep 2010
100% of output numbers of young people met and engaged	Dec 2010
Initial project statistical information on youth disorder supplied by police	Jan 2010
Mid project statistical information on youth disorder supplied by police	Jul 2010
End of project statistical information on youth disorder supplied by police	Dec 2010
Social Return On Investment information gathered to gauge the impact of the project	Jan 2011

### Recommendation: Reject

- Children Services, Youth Development Group are advertising tenders for the delivery of youth provision in each of the 25 wards across the City, with contracts to be awarded over the Winter. This will allow for a scoping document to be produced identifying all the needs/gaps in provision across an area, at ward level. This will be identified if this project will bring added value to existing provision.
- The application does not strategically fit under the Local Area Plan, but the Lead Agent already receives core funding to deliver dance across the City via XL youth villages. In addition, the suggestions that the participants who currently attend the youth villages, schools, etc are asking for more dance

## Annex 2: SIB/SIP Application summaries

sessions, would imply that the same participants would benefit from the extended provision, again questioning the added value, no new beneficiaries.

- If the need to supply a dance programme is identified, after the contracts have been awarded, the Area Committee can Call for Projects and seek competitive applications to deliver the project, with the Committee deciding upon the outputs and costs of the project.

### Application Five – Community Leaders of the Future, Education Business Connections

Total Cost of Project	Total Match Funding	Total SIB Requested
£75,915 (£11,543 requested from each Washington, East, West, North and Coalfield Area Committees)	£18,200	£11,543
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
Two years	January 2010	December 2011

### The Project

It is a two-year project which includes a high profile citywide competition open to all secondary and special schools with a key theme of volunteering whilst developing both key employability skills, work readiness and entrepreneurship on participating young people. It will culminate in a high profile awards event to mark the European Year of Volunteering in 2011. There will be 4 large scale events during the two years. A secondary school from each of the five regeneration areas, with pupils in the range 11 to 13, will be invited, to take part in the competition and activities plus 2 citywide special schools and one citywide voluntary aided school.

The project includes a number of core elements all designed through a phased learning programme to raise awareness in targeted young people of the impact they can make in supporting local VCS organisations in their community. There is also accredited training for young people resulting in NCFE awards. In particular the programme will aim to develop young people's work readiness and employability skills, foster a sense of entrepreneurship and an understanding that volunteering makes a real difference to everyday life across the city and that young people can be positive about giving freely of their time and energy as a preparation for adulthood and citizenship.

### The Need for the Project

The project would appear to fill a gap for schools and young people. The applicant states that having worked with all the city's secondary schools, there is a clear demand and an unmet need to deliver more activities. In particular, the application states that schools have requested curriculum enhancing activities around involving business and enterprise activities, friendly competitions between schools, programmes which embed employability skills and which reward pupils' achievements, as well as connecting the schools to local communities. This project would actually meet all of these requirements, in particular for the 8 schools involved and their pupils (which will number 30 from each secondary and 10-15 in each special school).

There is evidence in the application around the importance of volunteering and the need to engage young people in this activity as early as possible in terms of developing their citizenship skills, an understanding of their communities as well as learning, life and employability skills.

### The Outputs for the Project (will be the same beneficiaries throughout project)

Output Code	Description	2009/10	2010/11
A3	Number of community/vol groups supported	8	8
P3	No of young people in voluntary work	230	230
S5	No of young people benefiting from youth inclusion/diversionary activities	230	230

### The key milestones for the Project

Milestone and key event	Forecast Dates
Market and recruit project to schools	Feb 2010
Presentations and initial classroom work	March – May 2010

## Annex 2: SIB/SIP Application summaries

Official launch	June 2010
Project activity: Classroom activities; Pupils review business plans, etc; re-profile income generating target etc; Mix of face-to-face and online support from third sector organisations and EBC to complete gathering of evidence for NCFE qualification submissions; Cut off for completion of NCFE qualification portfolios Updating of website based on project activity Mid term evaluation	June – October 2010
Skills/industry/employment Event	October 2010
Project activity	November – June 2011
Third Sector Event	May 2011
Fundraising Enterprise Event	July 2011
Project activity	August – November 2011
Celebratory Event	December 2011

### Recommendation: Defer

Although the project is innovative and ambitious, it requires a high level of support from schools, including a commitment to identifying and supporting at least 30 young people over a 2 year period. Therefore until the project has been discussed with the schools identified and they have given, at least, their initial commitment to supporting the project for a two year period, the project should be deferred. The project is also reliant on commitment from a number of voluntary sector organisations to ensure success of the project. Again, an indication of the support from these organisations would strengthen the application.

### Application Six – Refurbishment, Sunderland Young People’s Bike Project (SYPBP)

Total Cost of Project	Total Match Funding	<b>Total SIP Requested: Ryhope Ward</b>
£21,000	£2,000	<b>£19,000</b>
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
2 months	March 2010	May 2010

### The Project

The proposed project are seeking funds from the Ryhope ward SIP allocation to part-fund the refurbishment of the old library building in Ryhope to provide a permanent base for Sunderland Young Peoples’ Bike Project. The funds will be used to re-configure the internal layout of the building and improve security measures to provide young people with a safe and comfortable environment providing a training facility; a service workshop; customer service area; storage room; drying room; multi use area; staff office; small kitchen and toilets.

### The Need for the Project

There is no longer sufficient space within Blue Watch youth building to accommodate the expanding SYPBP staff team, particularly during school holiday periods when several other youth work activities operate from the Centre. There is a need for the project to re-locate to larger premises that will provide the much needed facilities to develop SYPBP further. The project needs the space to develop workshop facilities to maintain and store its fleet of approximately 45 cycles and associated cycling equipment i.e. outdoor clothing, tents, trailers, minibuses etc. Office space, a training room (to teach cycle safety, first aid, navigational skills, diet and exercise workshops, and cycle maintenance) and a recreational space that can be used by young people before and after the sessions are also necessary to support the project’s future development and sustainability.

### The Outputs for the Project

Output Code	Description	Target 2010/11	Target 2011/12
P3	No. of people employed in voluntary work	2	10

## Annex 2: SIB/SIP Application summaries

P4	No. of current businesses supported	1	0
L6	No. of NEET young people encouraged into further education or employment.No. of people receiving job training	2	10
S5	No. of young people benefiting from youth inclusion/diversionary projects	10	30
H1	No. of people benefiting from healthy lifestyle projects	40	80
H2	No. of people engaged in sports activities	60	150
A2	No. of people using new/improved community facilities	0	300
A3	No. of community/voluntary groups supported	0	8

### The key milestones for the Project

Milestones and Key Events	Forecast Dates
Contractors appointed	Jan 10
Internal and external works commence	Feb 10
Refurbishment of building complete	Mar 10
Project launch	Apr 10
Project reviewed and feedback into Area Committee Annual Report	Mar 11

### Recommendation: Approve

- The project strategically fits under the Healthy area aim, regarding subsidise access to sport and exercise and improving methods of engagement to tackle obesity priorities.
- Previously discussed at a SIP panel meeting with local Councillors, with the recommendation that the application is approved and presented to Area Committee for endorsement.
- There are no implications for Council services arising from this project.

### Subject to:

- Confirmation that all staff are CRB checked and evidence provided.
- Provide an explanation of the Lease arrangements once in place.
- Discussions held between Lead Agent and City Services regarding the connections to the Local Transport Plan and existing cycle ways.
- Establish a formal link with the Council (via the new Community Sport Network website) i.e the club to register its details and contribute to the website.

### Application Seven – Refurbishment – Olympians Boxing Club

Total Cost of Project	Total Match Funding	<b>Total SIP Requested: Ryhope Ward</b>
£44,000	£19,000	<b>£12,995</b>
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
2 months	February 2010	April 2010

### The Project

The proposed project are seeking funds from the Ryhope ward SIP allocation to fund the delivery for a one off capital project to refurbish and improve the security and re-glaze all windows with anti smash polycarb, providing a fully functional community asset for hard to reach people in disadvantaged areas of Ryhope and surrounding area, potentially day and night, six days a week delivering sessions on fitness development around: well balanced diet; nutritional advice; rest; hydration; boxing techniques both contact and non contact.

### The Need for the Project

Membership figures have increased from an initial 5 to over 100, providing evidence for the demand for the project. Ryhope has higher than City average levels of people with: Limiting long term illness; Lower life expectancy; Higher levels of smoking; % of people who self report being obese (BMI of 30 or over). In addition, the 2007 IMD indicates that the LSOAs of Hollycarrside, Cherry Knowle Area, Central Ryhope fall in the top 10% most deprived areas, with Hillview and Leechmere falling in the top 5% most deprived area under Health domain.

## Annex 2: SIB/SIP Application summaries

### The Outputs for the Project

Output Code	Description	Target 2010/11	Target 2011/12
L7	Number of additional youth sessions been delivered per week.	3 per week, for 48 wks a year	5 per week, for 48 wks a year
L8	Number of additional young people engaged and participating in youth provision	200	250
H1	Number of people benefiting from healthy lifestyle projects	200	250
H2	Number of people engaged in sports activities	200	250

### The key milestones for the Project

Milestones and Key Events	Forecast Dates
Contracts appointed and work commences.	Feb 10
Works completed, quality checked and sign off.	Mar 10
Invoices and paper work completed and returned.	Apr 10
Launch and marketing of facility with official opening by Olympic Bronze Medal Winner Tony Jefferies, involving BBC, Sky and local TV companies. April 2010	Apr 10
Project reviewed and feedback into Area Committee Annual Report	Mar 11

### Recommendation: Approve

- The project strategically fit under the Healthy area aim, regarding subsidise access to sport and exercise and improving methods of engagement to tackle obesity priorities.
- Previously discussed at a SIP panel meeting with local Councillors, with the recommendation that the application is approved and presented to Area Committee for endorsement.
- There are no implications for Council services arising from this project.

### Subject to:

- Provide confirmation of appropriate insurance cover.
- Add age, gender and ethnicity identifiers to monitoring records.
- Formal link with the Council (via the new Community Sport Network website) i.e the club to register its details and contribute to the website.

### Application Eight – Alarm System, St Mark’s Community Association

Total Cost of Project	Total Match Funding	Total SIP Requested: Millfield Ward
£102,762	£100,000	£2,762
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
1 months	February 2010	February 2010

### The Project

The proposed project are seeking support from Millfield SIP ward allocation to provide funds to replace the current security and alarm system to comply with fire regulations and general health safety of the premises for members of the public, and increase the likelihood of attracting new members to use the centre for their leisure and educational needs.

### The Need for the Project

The security and the alarm system for the centre has been checked by professionals who advised that both are in need of an upgrade. Local ward Cllrs and young people who attend St Marks have been consulted about the project, and are in agreement that the centre needs to update the security system, with additional outside lighting provided for their safety.

### The Outputs for the Project

## Annex 2: SIB/SIP Application summaries

Output Code	Description	Target 2010/11
S1	Number of community facilities with improved security	1
L7	Number of additional youth sessions delivered per week	3
L8	Number of additional young people engaged and participating in youth provision, over a 10 week period	30

### The key milestones for the Project

Milestones and Key Events	Forecast Dates
Contractor appointed	February 10
Work carried out	February 10
Project reviewed and feedback into Area Committee Annual Report	March 2011

### Recommendation: Approve

- The project strategically fits under two strategic aims: i) Learning: better support for children and young people ensuring emotional health and wellbeing ii) Safe: reducing youth disorder and ASB.
- Previously discussed at a SIP panel meeting with local Councillors, with the recommendation that the application is approved and presented to Area Committee for endorsement.
- There are no implications for Council services arising from this project.

### Application Nine – Demolish wall at Holly Court, Northumbria Police

Total Cost of Project	Total Match Funding	Total SIP Requested: Millfield Ward
£3,000	£1,200 (Cheviot Housing)	£1,800
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
1 months	February 2010	February 2010

### The Project

Holly Court in Millfield is small block of housing owned by Cheviot Housing. At the gable end of no.18 is a wall about 2m high x 15m long, with a large expanse of grassed land in front of it leading onto St. Marks Road. Since 2004 the area has become a focal point for local youths to congregate and consume alcohol. The only feasible solution would be to remove the wall altogether giving long term solution to the problem. Not only would this provide much reassurance for the older population, it would be a very cost effective solution compared to any future police led operations. Should the proposal be granted it is believed it would lead to the following: 1) Increased reassurance to a predominantly older population; 2) Reduce the fear of crime at this location; 3) Reduce the number of anti-social behaviour incidents reported to the police, thereby increasing police patrol time for other priorities. 4) Improve the environment through not having the littering issues which have been associated with this problem.

### The Need for the Project

This issue has been highlighted over the years to the local police community team, both in terms of calls from the public, but also referrals through the Anti Social Behaviour team at the Council and also the local Cllrs. Numerous meetings have taken place and short term solutions put in place through police operations which have proved costly year on year. However, the police operations are merely a short term solution. The long term approach would be to remove the focal point of the disorder, which would address this community issue using a problem solving approach.

### The Outputs for the Project

Output Code	Description	Target 2009/10
S4	Number of victims of crime supported	20
A4	Number of programmed work to improve appearance of streets	1

### The key milestones for the Project

Milestones and Key Events	Forecast Dates
Contractor appointed	Feb 10
Work carried out	Feb 10

**Annex 2: SIB/SIP Application summaries**

Project reviewed and feedback into Area Committee Annual Report	Mar 2011
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**Recommendation: Approve**

- The project strategically fits under the Safe area aim, to reduce ASB and to target crime hotspots priorities.
- Cheviot Housing are provided 50% of the overall costs as match funding.
- Previously discussed at a SIP panel meeting with local Councillors, with the recommendation that the application is approved and presented to Area Committee for endorsement.
- There are no implications for Council services arising from this project.

**SIB: Sunderland East SIB Statement 4th January 2010**

£277,456 was allocated for 2009-10, £4,355 was carried over from 2009-10: Balance £281,811

	<b>Committee Date</b>	<b>Main Fund 80% Approvals</b>	<b>Opportunities: 20% Approvals</b>	<b>Total 100%</b>
<b>Available funding 2009/10</b>	29.06.09	£225,449	£56,362	£281,811
Project Name	-	-	-	-
Phoenix Project	05.11.09	£14,426	£0	£267,385
<b>Balance</b>	-	<b>£211,023</b>	<b>£56,362</b>	<b>£267,385</b>

**SIP: Sunderland East Statement 4th January 2010**

Wards eligible for SIP funding Hendon, Millfield, St Michaels and Ryhope wards only

	<b>SIP Budget</b>	<b>Approvals</b>	<b>Balance</b>
<b>Available funding 2009/10</b>	£227,293	-	-
Hendon	£56,823	£0	£56,823
Millfield	£56,823	£0	£56,823
Ryhope	£56,823	£12,650	£44,173
St Michaels	£56,823	£0	£56,823
<b>Balance</b>	<b>£227,293</b>	<b>£12,650</b>	<b>£214,643</b>

**Community Chest: Sunderland East Statement 4th January, 2010**

£10,000 was allocated per ward from 2009-10, Budget includes carry over from 2008-09 of £7,895

	<b>Community Chest Budget</b>	<b>Approvals</b>	<b>Balance</b>
<b>Available funding 2009/10</b>			
Hendon	£10,250	£9,259	<b>£991</b>
Millfield	£10,532	£10,325	<b>£207</b>
Ryhope	£12,708	£8,627	<b>£4,081</b>
St Michael's	£11,570	£4,961	<b>£6,609</b>
Doxford	£12,835	£10,122	<b>£2,713</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£57,895</b>	<b>£43,294</b>	<b>£14,601</b>



## **Sunderland East Area Committee**

**4th January 2010**

### **Report of the Chief Executive**

#### **AREA REVIEW PROCESS: - INTRODUCTION OF A REFERRAL CRITERIA AND PROCESS FOR DEALING WITH ISSUES OF LOCAL CONCERN INCORPORATING A REVISED MECHANISM FOR COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION - INITIAL PROPOSALS**

##### **1. WHY HAS IT COME TO AREA COMMITTEE?**

1.1 During the development of the new Area Governance arrangements agreement was given to the introduction of an Area Review process (outlined as Protocol 4 of the Area Committee Handbook). This report outlines the proposed introduction of a Referral Criteria and process for dealing with such reviews and which can be used by Area Committees, Scrutiny Committees and the Sunderland Partnership, and includes amalgamation with the Councillor Call for Action mechanism (CCfA).

##### **2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

2.1 The CCfA mechanism came into force on 1 April 2009 namely through the Police and Justice Act 2006 and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. Such provisions provide Members with the opportunity to ask for discussions on issues where local problems have arisen and where other methods of resolution have been exhausted.

2.2 In Sunderland, two local issues have been raised through the CCfA mechanism and as a result of those referrals; it has become apparent that the current procedure should be reviewed to ensure both current and future CCfAs are addressed in a timely, open and transparent way.

2.3 At the same time work is also being undertaken to develop the Area Committees links with both Scrutiny Committees and the Sunderland Partnership, one of which is the signposting and escalation of local issues to the most appropriate body for resolution where appropriate as referred to in the current Area Review process.

2.4 The remainder of this report outlines the initial proposals for Referral Criteria and process for dealing with such reviews which can be used by Area Committees, Scrutiny Committees and the Sunderland Partnership, and includes amalgamation with the Councillor Call for Action mechanism

##### **3. INITIAL PROPOSALS**

3.1 Consideration has been given on a practical level as to how best to implement a 'referral' mechanism within existing policies and practices to escalate / re-direct issues of local concern either raised by an Elected Member/Committee, member of the public or external partner to the appropriate body namely the Area Committees, the City Council's Scrutiny and Sunderland Partnership.

3.2 To assist those bodies in determining the appropriateness of undertaking an investigation triggered either by the non-mandatory / CCfA referral route, the following selection criteria is proposed for future use by such bodies, at the point of the referral being considered at the next available meeting:-

- (i) Clear evidence that reasonable attempts have been made to resolve the issue with relevant partners / council departments?
- (ii) Has a significant impact on a group of people living within the Sunderland area;
- (iii) Relates to a service, event or issue in which the Council has direct responsibility for, significant influence over or has the capacity to act as public champion;
- (iv) Not be an issue which Overview and Scrutiny, Area Committees or LSP have considered during the last 12 months (unless circumstances have changed substantially);
- (v) Not relate to an on-going service complaint or petition (including the ability to exclude any matter which is vexatious, discriminatory or not reasonable) ;
- (vi) Not relate to matters dealt with by another Council committee, unless the issue deals with procedure and policy related issues; and
- (vii) If meets the criteria, agree which body most relevant to consider further, Overview and Scrutiny, Area Committees or LSP.

3.3 The proposed selection criteria outlined above, clearly makes provision for the processing of referrals to be undertaken in an open and transparent way and provides a formal record as to whether the issue is worthy of further investigation together with the agreed course of action and any associated / prescribed timescales.

3.4 **Appendix A** outlines the revised procedure for determining the appropriateness of undertaking such an investigation.

3.5 Furthermore, it should be noted that the CCfA measure requires the Councillor to use every available tool to resolve the issue in the first instance without involving the relevant Area Committee or Scrutiny Committee, therefore any additional burden should be minimal as the mechanism is designed as a last resort after all other avenues have been exhausted.

## 4. RECOMMENDATIONS

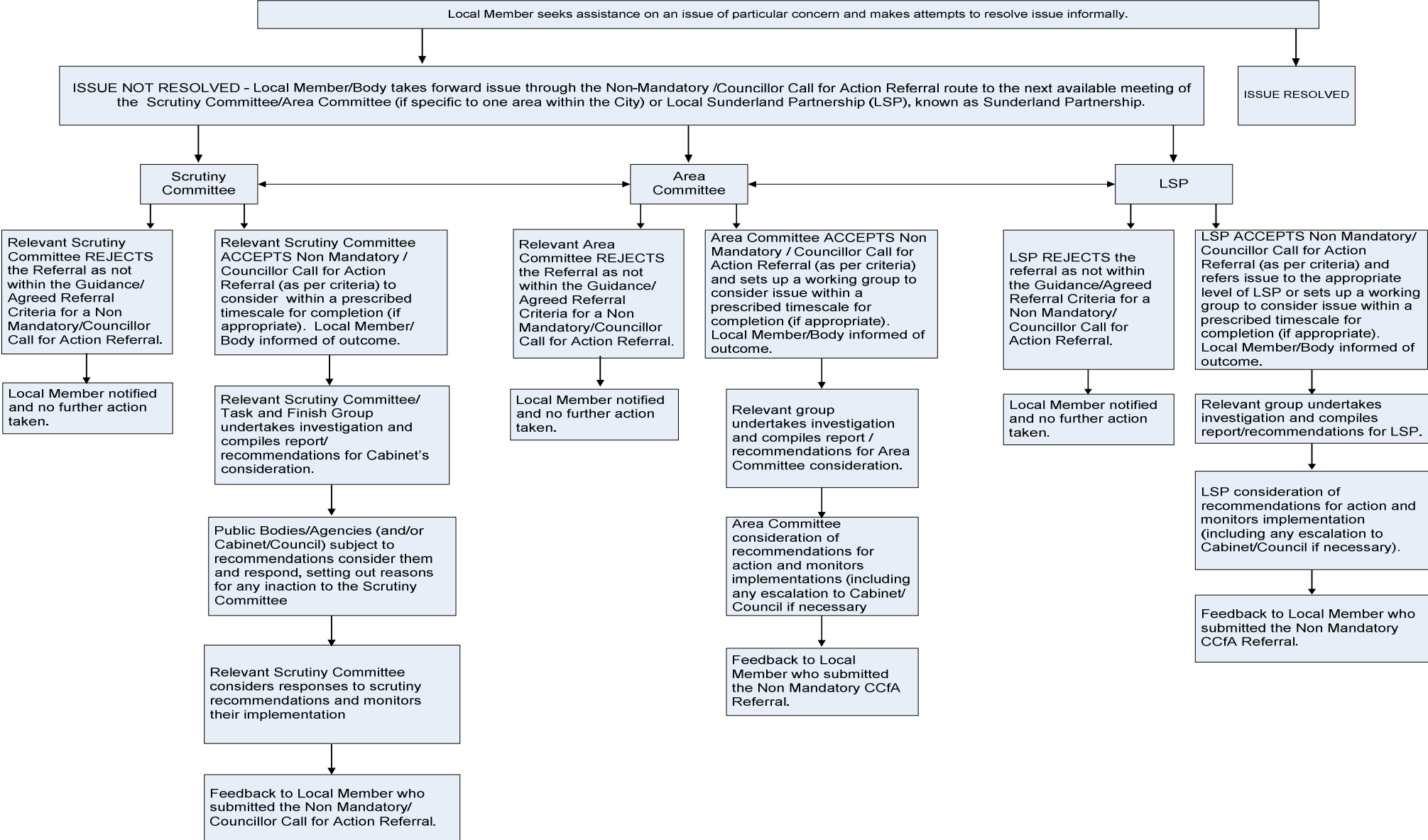
4.1 It is recommended that the Area Committee:-

- (a) Supports the introduction of the referral criteria and process for determining the appropriateness of undertaking an investigation triggered either by the non-mandatory referral / Councillor Call for Action route;
- (b) Subject to the comments received from the Area Committees (along with the Scrutiny Committees and Sunderland Partnership), the revised procedure be referred to Cabinet for approval, implemented and included in the Area Committee Handbook.

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**PROPOSED NEW PROCEDURE FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF  
NON-MANDATORY/COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION REFERRALS TO  
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY**



# Sunderland East Area Committee

4<sup>th</sup> January 2010

## Report of the Executive Director of City Services

### Area Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Networks and Volunteering in Your Area.

#### 1. Why has it come to committee?

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Area Committees of progress and proposed future development regarding the involvement and representation of the Voluntary and Community Sector [VCS] within the new Area Arrangements, enabling a more proactive level of participation in the delivery of the Local Area Plans.
- 1.2 This report will also inform Area Committees of the intention to celebrate the contribution of volunteers within each of the five areas of the City and to seek feedback from Committee on arrangements for area based celebrations

#### 2. Background

- 2.1 VCS organisations provide an important route for individuals to become actively involved in their communities. This ranges from helping out with the local youth club to being a member of the Management Committee of the local Community Association. This results in more empowered and involved citizens who are contributing to the aims of the Sunderland Strategy, LAA and Local Area Plans.
- 2.2 Sunderland Community Network [SCN] is the vehicle for representation of the VCS to the Sunderland Partnership and, in the 2009 – 2013 Business Plan is seeking to engage smaller community based organisations. This aligns with the City Council's Area Arrangements which seek to involve local communities.
- 2.3 In order to achieve an environment where local people feel that they are able to have a say in decision making (NI 4) and where our local VCS organisations are thriving and vibrant (NI 7) the City Council, in partnership with SCN, has developed the Area VCS Networks.
- 2.4 Sunderland City Council is also committed to increasing levels of volunteering in the city (NI 6) by encouraging residents to become involved in volunteering opportunities both within the statutory and VCS organisations. Volunteering is an important expression of citizenship and essential to democracy, as recognised in the Sunderland Compact Volunteering Code of Practice. This commitment is recognised by Elected Members at Ward, Area, and at a City Wide level.

#### 3. Current Position

- 3.1 The Vice Chairs of all five Area Committees have agreed to co chair the inaugural Area VCS Networks with a nominated VCS representative. The networks will be unique as they will be made up of VCS organisations operating within the five distinct areas.
- 3.2 Area VCS Networks will be established following a series of inaugural meetings throughout all five areas in December 2009. The Area VCS Networks have been invited

to nominate three individuals to represent the sector at area committee level, this will include the VCS vice chair of the Area VCS Network. City Services (Community Development function) will administer the nomination process. SCN will ensure individuals from the organisations are supported to take their place on the three agreed VCS places on Area Committees.

- 3.3 Nominated individuals will represent the views of the VCS within their areas (rather than their own organisational interests) thus providing an opportunity for all VCS organisations within the areas to have a nominated and supported representative at Area Committee.
- 3.4 The Council will support the Area VCS Networks by officer involvement from the Council's Community Development function; this involves a dedicated Area Community Coordinator for each of the five areas of the City. This role is distinctly different to the role of the Area Officers, based in the Office of the Chief Executive. The Area Officers will continue to support Area Committees however the two council functions will be complementary as in the first instance the Area Community Coordinator in the Community Development function will ensure VCS organisations are supported to become involved in the Area Committees and associated Local Area Plan delivery arrangements.
- 3.5 Sunderland City Council and partner organisations from the Sunderland Partnership co-ordinate and fund an Annual Volunteer Celebration hosted by the Mayor of Sunderland at the Seaburn Marriott Hotel in National Volunteers Week [June 1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>]
- 3.6 To complement the annual volunteer event in 2010, it is proposed that area based celebrations are also held to ensure as many volunteers across the city are recognised for their contribution. The area based celebrations will be co-ordinated through the Area Committee process and held prior to the annual city wide celebration at the Seaburn Marriott Hotel. This will provide an opportunity for the Area Committees to thank volunteers for the invaluable contribution they make to their area.

#### **4. Recommendation**

- 4.1 To note this report as an update on the position of the Area VCS Networks and provide feedback in relation to the area based Volunteer celebrations.

#### **5. Background papers**

- 5.1 None

#### **6. Contact Officer:**

- 6.1 Jane Hibberd, Assistant Head of Service (Community Development)  
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**RESPONSIVE LOCAL SERVICES****REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CITY SERVICES AND THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE****1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To present current Service Standards to East Area Committee for the services currently being reviewed as part of the Responsive Local Services (RLS) project and to ascertain present service performance for the East Area.

**2. INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Area Committee agreed at their meeting in November 2009, to move forward with the Responsive Local Services project, focussing initially important high volume neighbourhood services - graffiti removal, refuse collection, litter, dog fouling and grass cutting services.
- 2.2 In essence the Responsive Local Services project provides each Area Committee with the tools required to tailor services in the locality and communicate the improvements effectively to residents to improve satisfaction and resident understanding of the elected Member's community leadership role.

**3. CONTEXT OF AREA**

- 3.1 Sunderland East has 58,744 residents, 21% of the City's population. According to figures and categories used in the Census 2001, Sunderland East has a higher population of minority groups i.e. mixed, Asian or Asian British, black or black British and Chinese or other categories than city averages 4.9% or 2,878 people compared to a city average of 1.8%. Older People (women over 60 and men over 65) in East make up 16.1% of the population, slightly less than the City average and children under 16 make up 18.8% of the population, compared to a city average of 18.06%.
- 3.2 In relation to housing tenure the percentage of owner occupied property is higher than the city average of 60.2% in Doxford (67.8%), Millfield (61.9%) and St Michaels (71.5%). The number of private rented property is considerably higher in Hendon (15.5%) and Millfield (17.5%).
- 3.3 The East Area is made up of Hendon, Ryhope, St Michaels, Doxford and Millfield wards. In accordance with the Place Survey 2008, residents are generally satisfied with the services provided with 57% stating that rubbish or litter lying around was not a problem. 62% of residents do not see Graffiti as a problem and 82% are satisfied with refuse collection. 52% are satisfied with keeping public land clear of litter and refuse and 64% satisfied with grass cutting of open spaces.

**4. CURRENT SERVICE STANDARDS**

- 4.1 Refuse Collection and recycling
- carry out a weekly collection of waste from households in a green wheeled bin;
  - carry out fortnightly collections of green waste (brown wheeled bin) and other recyclable materials (black kerb-it box)

- collect, free of charge, bulky items of household waste or sacks of garden refuse or other waste which cannot be accommodated in the wheeled bin. 3 collections (of 8 items or less) in any one financial year (1st April to 31st March).

4.2 Graffiti removal – Graffiti is removed from highways and public buildings. The council also removes graffiti from private property subject to owners' authorisation. The target in 2009/2010 is to remove graffiti within 2 working days from the time it is reported.

4.3 Grass Cutting – General Standards

- Grass is maintained within the city on varied frequencies from 1 occasion per year to up to 30 occasions per year, depending on the site and growing conditions. The majority of grass is cut 18 occasions per year at 2 to 3 weekly intervals, depending on weather conditions.

4.4 Dog Fouling – Sunderland City Council has actively been promoting responsible dog ownership in the City through a rolling programme of education and awareness. However, in order to further the campaign against dog fouling the Council has now adopted the provisions of the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996.

Under the Act it is an offence for anyone in charge of a dog to fail to clear up after it has fouled in a designated area. The majority of land in Sunderland open to the public is designated land. Sunderland City Council is enforcing the law and offenders may receive an on the spot fine of £50.00 or up to £1000 if the matter goes before the Court.

The service standard that applies to the removal of dog fouling is 24 hours or immediately if an operative is at the location.

4.5 Litter removal - Sunderland City Council carry out regular and routine cleaning and litter-picking of pavements, footpaths, carriageways and verges throughout the City.

The service standard for litter removal is 24 hours for a standard response or 2 hours for an emergency response e.g. broken glass.

## **5. SERVICE PERFORMANCE – SEPTEMBER TO OCTOBER 2009**

5.1 Refuse Collection – Each month we empty on average 98,735 wheeled bins within the East Area and provide 1,187 assisted collections per week. At present we have an average of 144 missed bin collections reported each month (0.0015%) and 8 missed assisted collections (0.0067%).

5.2 Graffiti removal – The speed at which graffiti is reported to the council is removed is monitored. The target in 2009/2010 is to remove graffiti within 2 working days from the time it is reported. Across the city we are presently averaging removal within 0.29 working days.

5.3 Grass Cutting – 1 request for service was received to remove grass from paths.

5.4 Dog Fouling – 25 incidents of dog fouling were reported, 1 of which was reported via the Staff Reporting Line.

5.5 Litter removal – 164 reports of litter or debris were received, 64 of which were reported via the Staff Reporting Line.

5.6 An officer will attend the area committee in January to highlight the work being undertaken in this area.

5.7 It is intended that the Committee receives further updates relating to service performance at future meetings. The detail provided, including service responsiveness and levels of satisfaction, will also be improved to build a more detailed picture of environmental service issues in the area. Analysis of this data, including geographical distribution of incidents and service requests, will assist in allocating resources to solve local problems and tailoring services to meet local needs.

## **6. LOCAL AREA PLANNING**

6.1 The priorities within the East Local Area Plan for the Attractive and Inclusive Theme are to 'Make streets and the environment more attractive'.

6.2 The local objectives, related to the Responsive Local Services project are:

- promote clean up in the city centre
- improve recycling facilities

## **7. LOCAL PROBLEM SOLVING**

7.1 The current service standards coupled with current performance information provides committee with a sound platform to discuss area issues in relation to the five services noted. An issue log will be completed to ensure all discussions are recorded.

7.2 It is important to note that, at this time, the project can only consider any service tailoring on an area basis, not community or neighbourhood. As the project develops and becomes more sophisticated the potential for more localised tailoring can be considered.

7.3 Should the committee feel that the information provided highlights a local problem that should be addressed they can bring partners together via an existing group or sub group of the committee to undertake joint working to address the problem. Progress in this respect will be reported to the committee at the next meeting.

## **8.0 RECOMMENDATION**

8.1 The East Area Committee are requested to note this report for information and to accept further updates from the committee sub group.

## **9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

9.1 Staff Reporting Line information statistics – September to October 2009

9.2 Customer Services Requests for Service – September to October 2009

9.3 Place Survey 2008

9.4 East Local Area Plan