

COALFIELD AREA COMMITTEE

1 June 2011

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Work Plan for 2011/12

1. Why has it come to Committee?

- 1.1 Committee agreed in March 2011 the next steps regarding the process to be used in shaping and informing the final Work Plan for Area Committee, against the provisional emerging priorities for the Coalfield area. This included:
- Seeking views from local residents and the Community and Voluntary Sector, via the Coalfield VCS Area Network.
 - Using qualitative research available within the Council.
 - Draft final work plan presented to elected members for comment and observation.
- 1.2 The purpose of the Work Plan is to clearly identify the key priorities for Area Committee to discuss, deliver actions and monitor throughout the year, with the overall outcome to improve the quality of life for residents within the Coalfield area.
- 1.3 It provides a transparent framework for elected members, partners, and officers to work from, as well as acting as a focal point for local residents to find out what the Area Committee is undertaking to make a difference within their neighbourhood.
- 1.4 Key information for members to consider and agree is:
- Key priorities
 - Actions
 - Lead Agents
 - Outcome measure
- 1.5 If adopted, the Work Plan will inform the majority of work for the Coalfield Area Committee for 2011/2012, as it will form part of the standing agenda, along with progress updates being provided on Sunderland City Council's website after each Area Committee meeting. The Work Plan is made up of a number of work streams, each of which represents a key priority for Committee, these are:
1. Heritage
 2. Local Shopping Centres
 3. Youth Disorder and Activities for Young People
 4. Allotments and Community Gardens
 5. Child Poverty
 6. Unadopted Roads
 7. Play Provision
 8. Dangerous and Speeding Traffic
 9. Support for Older People
 10. Empty Properties
 11. Neglected Land
 12. Public Transport
- 1.6 The information and feedback received since March 2011, has been collated and the final plan is attached at **Annex 1**.

2. Key Priorities

2.1 Priorities 1-8 above are carried over from 2010/11 and will continue to be developed and actioned. Progress reports will be given at each Committee meeting, along with an updated Work Plan. One of the key priorities carried over from last year, and the newly selected priorities for 2011/12 are summarised below. New priorities are outlined on the attached Work Plan at **Annex 1**.

2.2 Activities for Young People and Play Provision

Youth activities across the City are based on a 3 Tier Youth Model (shown below).

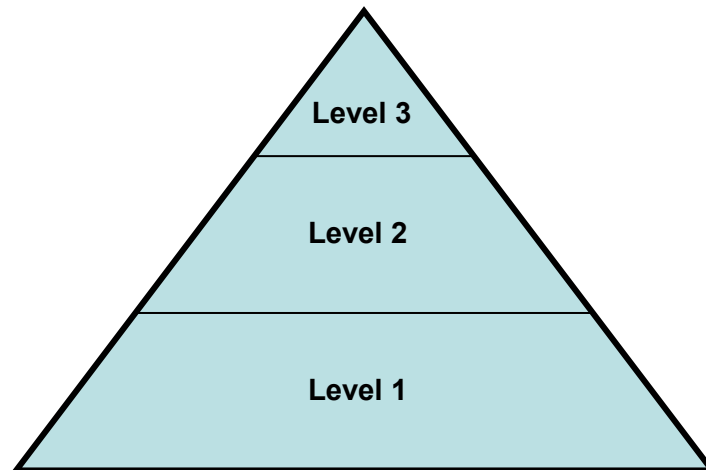


Table 1: Youth Tier Model

Level 1: Universal Services, accessible to the majority of children and young people.

Level 2: Targeted Services, preventative or intervention required.

Level 3: Specialist Services, vulnerable or at risk support required.

- 2.2.1 The core youth offer which delivers at least 3 weekly sessions per week in every ward, supplemented by XL Youth Village and mobile bus provision in each regeneration area is universal provision and has been maintained at existing levels for 2011/12.
- 2.2.2 Some of the additional activity provided in the area which was level 1 and 2 provision was funded by Positive Activities for Young People Grant (PAYP) and the Youth Opportunities Fund (YOF). The PAYP grants were specifically used to provide enhanced weekend activities and activities in school holidays, as well as activities targeted at young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET). Both of these grants ended on 31st March 2011.
- 2.2.3 In recognition of the priority given to youth activities, and to mitigate the impact of the ending of the specific grants, Council agreed to the allocation of £30,000 for each regeneration area which was to be allocated to fund activities in consultation with the Area Committees. It was suggested that this might be enhanced by any allocation which the Area Committee might also make to fund youth activities in the area.
- 2.2.4 In addition to the area allocation, a city-wide allocation of £15,000 was also made which is to support activities for BME communities. Separate consideration is being given to the use of this allocation specifically with Young Asian Voices (YAV) who have successfully delivered previous activities in partnership with other voluntary sector providers.

Current Position:

- 2.2.5 Examples of the activities which were funded by PAYP and YOF funding are:
- Activities across 13 weeks of school holidays
 - Houghton Sunday morning Drop in for younger people (10-13) (average participation 5)
 - Schools work – informal education opportunities for young people at risk of exclusion (average participation of 19)

- Targeted NEET work via Job Club in partnership with Connexions (average participation of 4)

2.2.6 In response to the timing of the Easter Holidays and May half-term holidays, relative to funding decisions and Area Committee meetings, a decision was taken to provide a programme of holiday activities across the city which was funded from the £30,000 allocation. In Coalfields this was for a range of activities over two weeks in each ward and £2,000 in total. A similar programme has been considered for May half-term costing £1,000 in total. Participation information for Easter activities is outlined below and the project evaluations are available for member's consideration if required.

Participation Information:

Male 32
Female 9

Age Breakdown:

Age	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Number	2	5	4	10	6	1	7	5	1

Attendance by Postcode:

Of the young people who provided a postcode, the breakdown is as follows:

Copt Hill 9
Hetton 3
Houghton 2
Shiney Row 8
Other wards 2

2.2.7 Service providers will need time to plan activities across the school summer holidays if it is agreed that a programme should be put in place, and it would be helpful for Committee to agree or otherwise that a funded programme of activities is a priority.

2.2.8 Area Committee has allocated £10,000 SIB to pilot a targeted youth project for six months from March 2011. Committee may wish to consider utilising a proportion of the £30,000 described above to extend this pilot to March 2012 (subject to evaluation).

2.2.9 Area Committee has identified Play Provision (social and play activities for those under 13) as one of their priorities. Committee may wish to consider allocating a proportion of SIB funding to deliver activities against this priority to enhance the £30,000 as described above.

2.2.10 Area Committee has set up a Task and Result group for youth, which has now been incorporated, with a separate agenda item, into the XL Youth Village Steering Group. This group oversees the youth work in the Coalfield area and makes recommendations to Area Committee.

2.3 Support for Older People

Older People (women over 60 and men over 65) in Coalfield make up 20.2% (9,505) of the population. In Coalfield 1,657 residents over 65 are receiving nursing, community based or residential care services, this is 20.5% of the area's population. In relation to individual wards more residents in Shiney Row (22.1%), and Copt Hill (24.2%) are in receipt of care than the average for the area.

It was agreed that 'support for older people' would be a key priority for the area during 2011/12 and the actions outlined in the attached Work Plan have been developed as a result of meetings with Members and Partners throughout recent months.

It is proposed that a Support for Older People Task and Result group be established, and membership agreed, to develop and implement the actions to support the achievement of this priority

2.4 Empty Properties

As at January 2011 there were approximately 400 empty homes (private sector) across the area. Health, Housing and Adult Services are responsible for working with owners of residential properties in the private sector. A private sector housing officer (empty properties) has been in post since November 2010. The officer is dedicated to the Coalfield area.

During discussions and meetings with Members and relevant partners, it was agreed that 'empty properties' would be a key priority for 2011/12 and that the Assistant Housing and Neighbourhood Renewal Manager (Graeme Wilson) would develop an area based Empty property Action Plan in consultation with Area Committee.

It is proposed that the Lead Agent will regularly consult with, and update, Area Committee with regard to the development of the Action Plan.

2.5 Neglected Land

It has been identified by Area Committee, residents and partners that patches of unmanaged land (large and small) across the Coalfield area cause a problem and are visually unattractive. Land such as derelict garage and garden sites, industrial areas and unfinished developments need to be considered, along with patches of grassed and overgrown land.

It was agreed to add 'neglected land' to the key priorities for 2011/12 and the actions outlined in the attached Work Plan have been developed as a result of meetings with Members and Partners throughout recent months.

It is proposed that a Neglected Land Task and Result group be established, and membership agreed, to develop and implement the actions to support the achievement of this priority.

2.6 Public Transport

Residents within the Coalfields report the lowest satisfaction (57%) within the city with their local bus services. Residents aged 65+ are most likely to be very satisfied (40%) whilst those in the age group 25-34 being more likely to be dissatisfied (24%) with this service. Similarly residents within the Coalfields are least satisfied with the provision of local transport information (49%). Those residents aged 65+ are most likely to be satisfied (73%) with the service whilst those within the 35-54 age group most dissatisfied (17%).

A representative from Nexus attends Area Committee as a key partner and the membership of the Integrated Transport Authority (ITA) includes 3 Coalfield Area Councillors.

It was agreed that public transport issues would be dealt with through the existing mechanism, but that Area Committee would consider any local issues when addressing all other priorities. Therefore, it is proposed that Public Transport is removed from the Work Plan and added as an action against each of the other priorities.

3. Alignment of SIB Funding Against Priorities

3.1 It has always been an ambition of the Committee, through its Work Plan, to take a more proactive role in the identification, development and funding of projects, which fulfil its priorities. The development of 2010/11 Task and Result Groups has begun this process.

- 3.2 It is proposed to further this process whereby the Area Committee will invite funding applications, where appropriate, from organisations, in order to deliver specific strategic priorities identified in the Work Plan. This process, known as a 'Call for Projects' will require the relevant Task and Result group, or Area Committee, to devise a project brief defining expected outcomes, budget and timescales.
- 3.3 It is proposed that the Task and Result Groups be allowed to recommend allocation of funding, which would be agreed by Committee, allowing the commissioning of activity that would provide the outcomes required to successfully contribute to the priority.

4. Recommendation

Members are requested to:

Agree Annex 1

Youth Activities and Play Provision

- Consider previous activities delivered and agree if any should continue as a priority
- Identify other priorities for enhanced youth activity, either at a universal or targeted level, which the Area Committee would request are progressed
- Note the use of £3,000 of the funding to provide activities during school holidays
- Agree that a programme of holiday activity be developed
- Agree that the Task and Result Group (youth) develop a recommendation for allocating a proportion of SIB 2011/12 budget, in line with Children Services Area funding of £30,000 to deliver positive activities for children and young people living in Coalfields
- Agree to receive a further report on the programme of activities to be delivered following Committee considerations as well as later report to evaluate the success of the programme

Support for Older People

- Agree to set up a Task and Result Group
- Agree membership of the Task and Result Group
- Agree the Lead Agent for this priority

Empty Properties

- Agree to work with the Lead Agent to develop and implement a Coalfield Empty Property Action Plan

Neglected Land

- Agree to set up a Task and Result Group
- Agree membership of the Task and Result Group
- Agree the Lead Agent for this priority

Public Transport

- Agree to remove this priority from the Work Plan and add as an action against each of the other priorities.

Agree the Call for Projects protocol to be used in the allocation of SIB funding.

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Background Papers: Sunderland City Council Constitution, Section 10.2
Terms of Reference of LAP Task and Finish Group
Coalfield area Work Plan

Annex 1: Coalfield Area Committee: Work Plan 2011/12