

COMMUNITY AND SAFER CITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 9 FEBRUARY 2010

LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT DELIVERY PLANS

REPORT OF THE SAFER SUNDERLAND DELIVERY PARTNERSHIP

Strategic Priorities : Safe City

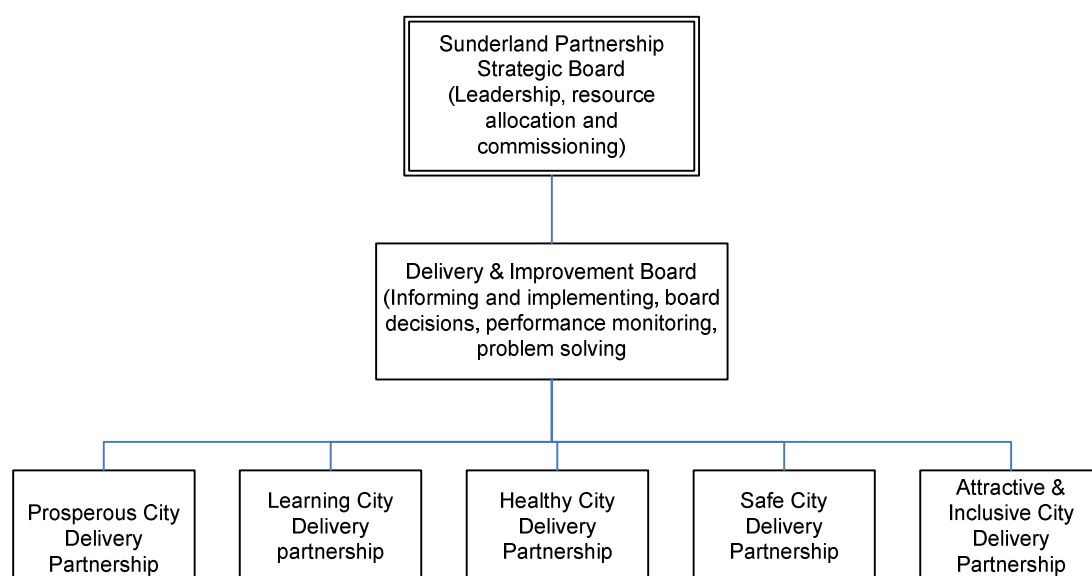
Corporative Improvement Objectives : CI01,CI04

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide Community & Safer City Scrutiny Committee with the Local Area Agreement Delivery Plan for those services delivered by partners who are members of the Safer Sunderland Delivery Partnership.

2. Background

- 2.1 The regeneration and development of the City is taken forward by the Council and its partners through the Sunderland Partnership, a body that was established in 1994. The Partnership in general operates at three levels: strategic, operational and delivery. The diagram below provides a brief summary of the key groups that make up the Partnership.



- 2.2 The five main delivery partnerships reflect the city's strategic priorities which underpin the long term vision for the future of Sunderland that is set out in the Sunderland Strategy (2008-2025). This document sets the context for the local area agreement (LAA) which sets out short term 3 year targets to deliver identified priorities. A key role of these Delivery Partnerships is the development and implementation of objectives, targets and actions and associated monitoring as part of the Sunderland Partnership's performance management framework.
- 2.3 Members will recall that a new national performance framework was implemented during 2008/2009. This includes 198 new National Indicators which replaces previous national performance frameworks. As part of this new framework 49 national indicators have been identified as key priorities to be included in the Local Area Agreement (LAA). Performance against the priorities identified in the LAA and associated improvement targets have been reported to Scrutiny committee throughout 2009 as part of the quarterly performance monitoring arrangements. They are also a key consideration in the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA), which was introduced in April 2009, to provide an independent assessment of how local public services are working in partnership to deliver outcomes for an area. The first results were reported to scrutiny committees in January 2010.

3. Progress to date

- 3.1 Significant work has been undertaken during recent months to develop links between the Councils scrutiny arrangements and its external partners who comprise the Sunderland Partnership and its associated delivery groups. This has included;
- Development and agreement of a protocol between the Sunderland Partnership and the Councils Scrutiny Committees to establish roles and responsibilities to ensure a shared understanding of aims of scrutiny in Sunderland
 - A meet and greet event between Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs and members of the Sunderland Partnership to develop relationships and understanding of accountability in relation to the delivery of different aspects of the local Area Agreement
 - Development of scrutiny committees links with the Sunderland Partnership and area arrangements including signposting and escalation of local issues for resolution where appropriate
 - Provision of performance management training for members to enhance knowledge and expertise in terms of the principles of effective performance management to ensure members are better placed to maximise their role in terms of using performance information to inform decisions and drive improvement in service provision.

This work will further enhance the role of members in scrutinising progress towards delivery of targets and achievement of outcomes across the Sunderland Partnership in addition to council services.

- 3.2 The Sunderland Partnership's Delivery and Improvement Board have considered the CAA area assessment report, and in particular those areas identified as being in need of improvement, as part of a wider discussion on improvement priorities for the next year. As a consequence Delivery Plans have been refreshed to ensure that the work programme is targeting the right issues, and outcomes can be demonstrated, maximising the value of improvement activity during 2010/11 which is the final year of the LAA.
- 3.3 As a consequence of these developments and the increasing importance of the local area agreement in terms of external assessment the LAA Delivery plans are being presented to relevant Scrutiny Committees by the Lead Officer for each Delivery Partnership, accompanied with key partners. The aim is to ensure transparency in relation to accountability for delivery of targets and also enable members to maximise developmental work undertaken with the Sunderland Partnership to date to scrutinise those areas where we aren't doing as well to ensure that improvement activity will deliver the necessary outcomes and meet local need.
- 3.4 The Safer Sunderland Delivery Partnership's Plan is attached as **appendix 1**. A PowerPoint presentation will also be delivered outlining:
- What the key aims of the Delivery Partnership are
 - Which council services and key partners are involved
 - Key achievements to date
 - Key challenges
 - Key improvement activity during 2010/11

This is attached as **appendix 2**

4. Performance Monitoring and Reporting

- 4.1 Progress in relation to the delivery of the Safer Sunderlands Delivery Partnerships plan will be reported on a quarterly basis as part of the performance monitoring arrangements in the committees work programme

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 That the committee considers the content of the Delivery Plan and where appropriate focussed its attention on those areas requiring further development to ensure that performance is actively managed