

**Item 2b**  
**North Area Committee**

**6<sup>th</sup> June 2011**

**Report of the Office of the Chief Executive Directorate**

**COMMUNITY ACTION IN NORTH – PROGRESS REVIEW**  
**2011/12 Priorities and Workplan**

**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 provisionally agreed emerging priorities for the North area. This included:
- Seeking views from local residents and the Community and Voluntary Sector, via the Sunderland North 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 Sunderland North.
- 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 are undertaking to make a difference within their neighbourhood.
- 1.4 Key information for members to consider tonight and agree are:
- Key priorities
  - Actions
  - Lead Agents
  - Deadline Date/Forward Plan
  - Call for Project (SIB 2011-12 budget)
  - Outcome measure
- 1.5 If adopted, the work plan will inform the majority of work for Sunderland North 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.
- 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 Attractive and Cared for Environment**

- 2.1.1 Service requests, complaints and resident surveys and satisfaction levels indicate that an attractive and cared for environment is one of the top priorities for the area. The main issues within this include, litter, unkempt areas of land and locations, lack of usable and attractive greenspace, graffiti and dog fouling.
- 2.1.2 The workplan attached at Annex 1 outlines the actions which North Area Committee will focus on throughout 2011/2012 to support the achievement of this priority.

2.1.3 It is proposed that the membership of the Greening Task and Finish Group is reviewed and agreed to take forward the work under the priority Attractive and Cared for Environment.

## **2.2 Anti Social Behaviour**

2.2.1 Statistics, anecdotal information and resident surveys indicate that the North area continues to experience hot spots of anti social behaviour and experiences varying types of antisocial behaviour including motorcycle disorder, youth disorder, fire ASB, noise nuisance, rubbish and litter.

Residents are also most likely to perceive and deem anti social behaviour a problem in the North area.

2.2.2 The workplan attached at Annex 1 outlines the actions which the North area Committee will focus on to support a reduction in anti social behaviour, improvements in the perceptions of anti social behaviour and improve satisfaction levels for residents in the North area.

2.2.3 It is proposed that a Task and Finish Group be established and membership agreed, to develop and implement the actions that will support the achievement of the priority in reducing anti social behaviour.

## **2.3 Activities for Young People**

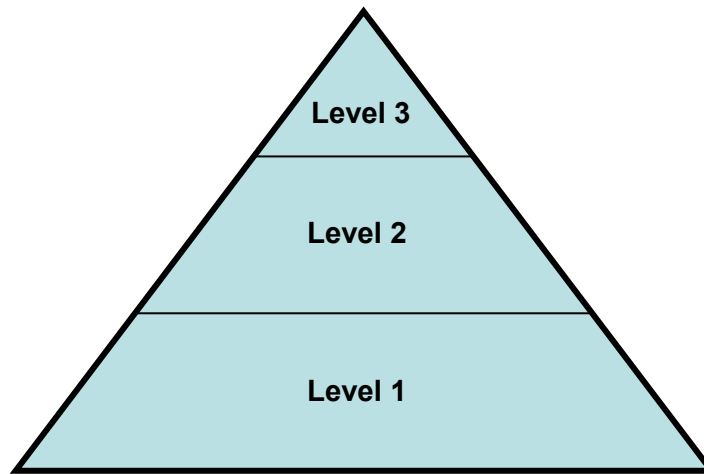
2.3.1 Residents have identified through numerous surveys that one of the top priorities/issues for the North area of Sunderland is around teenagers hanging around the streets and the need for activities for young people to be improved.

It has been acknowledged that the activities for young people put into place, in the North area have been very successful and assisted in the reduction of youth related anti social behaviour.

2.3.2 The workplan attached at Annex 1 outlines the actions which the North area Committee will focus on in order to build upon the success of the work completed to date and ensure that this success is not adversely affected by any reduction in funding in this area.

2.3.3 Children's Services have provided a position on youth activities currently funded and are seeking proposals for the distribution of additional resources to enhance provision throughout 2011/2012.

2.3.4 Youth activities across the city are based on a 3 tier youth model (shown below).



**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.

- 2.3.5 The core youth offer delivers at least 3 weekly sessions per week in every ward, supplemented by XL Youth Village and mobile bus provision in each area is universal provision and has been maintained at existing levels for 2011/12.
- 2.3.6 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 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011.
- 2.3.7 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 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. 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 North this was £2,000 in total to deliver a programme including activities in each ward and area wide for the two weeks. A similar programme has been considered for May half-term costing £1,000 in total. Detail of the activities delivered over the Easter Holidays is included in Annex B
- 2.3.8 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.
- 2.3.9 It is proposed that a Task and Finish Group be established and membership agreed, to develop and implement the actions to support the achievement of this priority.

## **2.4 Heritage**

2.4.1 Heritage was a priority identified as part of the workplan for 2010/2011 and will be carried forward into the workplan for 2011/2012. Heritage was identified as a means to address a number of issues in the North area including:

- Community Cohesion
- Pride of place
- Sense of belonging and understanding of heritage
- Raising aspirations of individuals and local communities

2.4.2 It is proposed that the membership of the Heritage Task and Finish Group is reviewed and agreed to take forward the work under the Heritage priority.

## **3. Alignment of SIB Funding Against Priorities**

3.1 The Strategic Initiatives Budget is funding aimed to add value to and accelerate improvement in delivering activity across the key strategic priorities identified in the work plan of the North Area Committee. To achieve this, the governance of SIB was refreshed (April 2009) to allow Committees to commission activity that would address the priorities as outlined in the area work plan.

3.2 In commissioning activity or calling for projects the Committee can devise a project brief which would allow the expected outcomes, budget and timescales to be defined by Committee. This would afford Committee greater opportunity in funding activity that would meet the agreed priorities within the workplan.

3.3 It is proposed that the Task and Finish Groups be allowed to propose allocated 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.
- Agree the Call for Projects protocol to be used in the allocation of SIB funding.
- Agree the establishment/maintenance of Task and Finish Groups to take work against the priorities forward.
- Request nominations and agree membership of Task and Finish Groups
- Consider previous young people's activities as described at Annex 2 and identify whether these should continue as a priority and be funded from the identified £30,000.
- Note the use of £3,000 funding for activities during school holidays as described at 2.3.7.
- Consider allocating a proportion of 2011/2012 SIB budget in line with Children's Services funding of £30,000 per area to deliver positive activities for children and young people as part of the Task and Finish group.

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**Background Papers:** Sunderland City Council Constitution, Section 10.2  
Performance delivered against priorities 2010/11  
Terms of Reference of LAP Task and Finish Group  
Sunderland North 2011/2012 Workplan

**Annex 1:** Sunderland North Area Committee: Work Plan 2011-12  
**Annex 2:** School holiday activities