

**At a meeting of the ENVIRONMENT AND ATTRACTIVE CITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE on MONDAY, 14<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2009 at 6.00 p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor Miller in the Chair

Councillors E. Gibson, Tye, Vardy, Wakefield, Whalen and Wood

**Also Present:-**

Councillor Tate, Chair of Management Scrutiny Committee

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Kelly and Stephenson.

**Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Environment and Attractive City Scrutiny Committee held on 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2009**

Councillor Wood advised that in addition to declaring a personal interest as a member of the Integrated Transport Authority he had also declared a personal interest as a member of the board for Compass Community Transport and asked that this interest be recorded.

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting be confirmed and signed as a correct record subject to the inclusion of the declaration of interest made by Councillor Wood.

**Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **Policy Development and Review 2009/10 – Evidence Gathering**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which enabled Members to consider the report produced by Jacobs Consultants regarding their review of national implementation of 20mph zones in residential areas along with an update from Acting Sergeant Emmerson from Northumbria Police regarding the approach of the police to 20mph limits and the issue of their enforcement. There was also an update by Councillor E. Gibson on the work of the Committee's Task and Finish Working Group.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Richard Hibbert, Director of Jacobs Consultants, presented the report. He advised that speed reduction was a means of road safety. The review had looked at all accidents over a five year period, this information had then been broken down into the number of child accidents and took into account the positions of schools, this information was shown in the maps included in the report. On major roads 20mph speed limits were not suitable.

There were two types of 20mph restriction; these were 20mph speed limits and 20mph zones.

The 20 mph speed limits were the same as other speed limits, there was an order in place along with legal signage and it was an offence to travel in excess of 20mph. The 20mph speed limits were most effective when the average speed was already at or below 24mph before the speed limit was introduced. There would not be a reliance on the police to enforce these limits. There were few locations where 20mph limits were preferable to speed zones.

The 20mph speed zones were backed up by traffic calming features designed to prevent people from driving over 20mph. The traffic calming could include speed humps, speed tables and parking management. These zones would be self enforcing.

The British Medical Journal had published an article showing the effect of 20mph zones in London over the last 10 years. There had been a reduction in Killed and Seriously Injured figures of 40 percent.

Councillor E. Gibson presented the feedback from the Task and Finish Working Group. She advised that other areas of the country had 20mph limits and zones. Limits were low impact given the cost of implementing them due to it being unlikely that there would be the resources for enforcement. For speed zones to be implemented there needed to be an order in place to create the zone. Temporary speed limits were a possibility however flashing signs and crossing patrols would be necessary to ensure that speeds were reduced.

The group had requested a report to be presented which would suggest potential areas for pilot 20mph zones.

There was a need to educate parents of the dangers caused by parking around schools and there would be another meeting of the group after a visit to North Tyneside had taken place.

Councillor Tye commented that in Concord there was a lack of footpaths and this was evident in the figures, the area had the highest number of casualties. Silksworth had a high number of injuries, he felt that this was possibly because there were three schools in the area and there had been a reduction in the number of crossing patrols.

Councillor Tye then stated that this was an excellent report and that the statistics for the number of child casualties were frightening. There was a need for 20mph zones to be implemented. There were flashing speed signs and speed camera vans and the issue was regularly reported to the LMAPS groups.

Councillor Wood commented on the report from Jacobs; it was necessary to find the reasons why there were more child casualties in less affluent areas. 20mph limits were not recommended as they were largely ineffective as they were unlikely to be complied with. 20mph zones were a very effective way of reducing collisions and injuries. He asked for clarification of the meanings of Mass Action and Route Action.

Mr Hibbert advised that Route Action was where the transport route was considered using a systematic approach and was engineering based. Mass Action was community based; it involved the community acting together in a way that affected those who were not acting in the same way. This could include walking buses to schools which would slow the traffic down.

Councillor Wood then stated that he would welcome the adoption of a policy that resulted in more 20mph zones being introduced within new housing developments. He had concerns over the information provided regarding Leechmere and Hill View; the information stated that there were no schools in the areas however Hill View Infants School fell within the area outlined as a prospective pilot area. The 20mph zones around schools would help to reduce concerns regarding accidents involving children however there was also concern over accidents involving the elderly.

The chairman commented that 20mph zones would improve safety for people of all ages.

Councillor Wakefield commented that there would not be regular enforcement of the 20mph speed limits and queried why there was a need for signage to be in place when the engineering works would reduce the speeds.

Mr Hibbert advised that the legal orders and signage helped to manage the risk of claims from motorists for damage to vehicles and would allow police enforcement if there were still problems with speed.

Councillor Wakefield then raised the issue of traffic around Newbottle Primary School. The school was based on the A182, a major trunk road, time based temporary 20mph speed limits could be used to reduce speeds during the peak times however it would not be possible to install any traffic calming measures and would therefore need to have police speed enforcement.

Mr Hibbert advised that the protocols would allow for a temporary 20mph speed limit, these temporary speed limits would need to be reinforced by speed limit signs with amber flashing lights and school crossing patrols.

Acting Sergeant Emmerson advised that 20mph limits could be put in place however drivers often did not slow down for them and it was difficult to enforce the speed limit in these areas. A 20mph zone would force drivers to slow down.

Councillor Vardy asked for clarification of what accidents were shown on the maps, did they show all road accidents including vehicle and pedestrian accidents.

Mr Hibbert advised that the map showed all casualties regardless of whether they were pedestrians, cyclists, bus passengers or car occupants.

Councillor Vardy then asked whether the final maps were produced using the same dataset as the initial map. Had the cause of the accidents been analysed, time of day and weather conditions could have been factors in causing the accidents.

Mr Hibbert confirmed that the same dataset was used for each of the maps. The causes of each accident had not been analysed and there had not been any pilot schemes designed.

Councillor Vardy then commented that accidents at night on unlit roads might not be caused by speed. He also suggested that railings be installed outside of school gates to slow down the children; there was also a need to educate the children about road safety.

Mr Hibbert advised that the best schemes would implement many different elements, particularly around schools. An engineered 20mph zone would be accompanied by education. Safety fences would help reduce accidents around the school gates however the inconvenience to pedestrians could have an effect on the willingness of people to walk to school. There were areas which already had traffic calming and these could be turned into 20mph zones, this would be a cheap and effective way of introducing the pilot.

Councillor Vardy then stated that in Manchester there had been a road with high vehicle speeds where chicanes had been installed to reduce speeds and that there had been head on collisions as a result of this.

Mr Hibbert commented that traffic calming on major roads would be advised against and that speed would be reduced gradually when moving from the city boundaries towards the city centre.

Councillor Vardy then asked whether the penalties were different for motorists who were speeding and caused an accident in 20 or 30mph zones.

Acting Sergeant Emmerson advised that if an accident was caused by a driver exceeding the speed limit then this would be careless driving and the incident would be treated the same regardless of the speed limit.

Councillor E. Gibson commented that there was a need to look at areas with children's play areas as well as schools as play areas were a magnet for children.

Councillor Tye commented that there had been 56 accidents and only 4 of them had involved children. There were areas with parking problems and these problems lead to accidents. The part time 20mph speed limit on Grindon Lane had been changed to a permanent limit as the variable limit had not worked as there was no engineered speed reduction measures in place. There had been a need to reduce speeds on Premier Road and there was a need for traffic calming in Plains Farm as traffic was entering a 20mph zone from a 40mph zone.

The Chairman thanked Mr Hibbert and Acting Sergeant Emmerson for their attendance. He felt that the report was excellent and it was pleasing to see the study of accidents in relation to the deprivation index. He was also happy to see that the report took into account all ages. He felt that the driver was always at fault in accidents and that there was a need for drivers to slow down and there was a need for education. There had been a study published by the British Medical Journal which had shown that there had been a 40 percent reduction in accidents over the last ten years in the areas of London covered by 20mph zones.

Councillor Wakefield commented that when planning applications for housing developments were submitted there should be a requirement to incorporate speed management measures into the application.

The Chairman stated that in the New Year there was a need to look at bringing forward pilot schemes.

2. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted, consideration be given to the evidence received as part of the Committee's study and a report be brought to the committee in the New Year detailing the proposals for the pilot 20mph zones.

## **Flood Planning – Implications for the Scrutiny Function**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which requested Members to agree to include flood planning within the remit of the Committee.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

The Chairman advised that the report had been withdrawn from the agenda as the presenting officer had been unable to attend the meeting. The report would be presented to the committee in January.

## **Sunderland City Council Local Development Framework: Annual Monitoring Report 2008/09**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which allowed Members to consider the report of the Deputy Chief Executive that was considered by Cabinet on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2009 which sought approval of the Council's Local Development Framework Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) for 2008/09 and also sought approval for submitting the AMR to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Neil Cole, Planning Policy Manager, presented the report and advised that this was the 5<sup>th</sup> annual report. This would be the last report to be produced in December as from 2010 the report would be submitted in the Summer which would allow more up to date information to be provided to Members.

Councillor Vardy commented on the renewable energy developments. He stated that there was currently 7.4MW capacity and that there was the potential for 19MW. He queried where this additional capacity was located.

Mr Cole advised that there was 7.4MW able to be produced from existing developments. There were other schemes, including wind turbines at schools, which were being developed.

3. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

## **Forward Plan – Key Decisions for the Period 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2009 – 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2010**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which enabled the Members to consider the Executive's Forward Plan for the period 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2009 to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2010.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Jim Diamond, Scrutiny Officer, advised that the item regarding the Seafront Regeneration would be presented to the next meeting of the Committee.

Councillor Tye expressed concerns regarding the lack of officers present who would be able to answer any queries from Members. He felt that this was not acceptable and that it showed a lack of respect for the Committee, the Senior Officers needed to be present.

The Chairman advised that Mr Lowes was in another meeting and that the Chief Solicitor and Directorate of Financial Resources representatives had been informed that their presence was not required at the meeting. He agreed that there was a need for more relevant officers to be present.

4. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted and consideration be given to the Forward Plan.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.

(Signed) G. MILLER,  
Chairman.

## Environment & Attractive City

### COMPREHENSIVE AREA ASSESSMENT (CAA) REPORTS AND PERFORMANCE UPDATE (APRIL - SEPTEMBER)

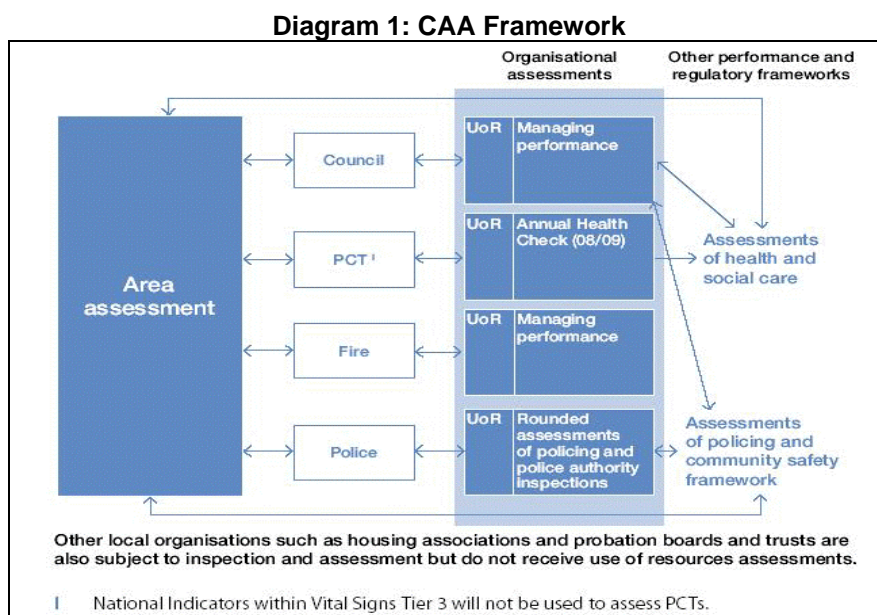
#### Report of the Chief Executive and Director of City Services

##### 1.0 Purpose of the report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Scrutiny Committee with the findings from the inaugural Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) and a performance update which includes those areas identified by the Audit Commission (AC) as being the focus of improvement during 2010.

##### 2.0 Background

- 2.1 CAA 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 on the new Oneplace website ([www.oneplace.direct.gov.uk](http://www.oneplace.direct.gov.uk)) on 9 December 2009.
- 2.2 CAA comprises two main elements namely, an area assessment and an organisational assessment for each of the four main public sector organisations (i.e. council, fire, health and police). This is demonstrated in the diagram below.



- 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 and are a key consideration



in CAA in terms of the extent to which the partnership is improving outcomes for local people

### **3.0 AREA ASSESSMENT**

#### **3.1 Process and methodology**

3.1.1 The area assessment focuses on the prospects for better outcomes on local priorities and is an annual assessment of the work of the public services in the city by a range of inspectorates. It answers three key questions:

- How well do local priorities express community needs and aspirations?
- How well are the outcomes and improvements needed being delivered?
- What are the prospects for improvement?

3.1.2 Between April and September 2009 the Audit Commission CAA Lead (CAAL) assessed the work of the Sunderland Partnership (SP) as part of the inaugural CAA Area Assessment. This was achieved through a series of workshops, interviews and briefing notes and a review of evidence (e.g. key documents, performance indicators, consultation results, etc.). This was an iterative process and the CAA Lead shared the findings at regular intervals throughout.

#### **3.2 Findings – good practice and areas for improvement**

3.2.1 The area assessment is not scored and does not carry a star rating. It is a narrative report providing an overview of progress against key priorities for the area, overall successes and challenges.

3.2.2 Area assessments may award green or red flags. Red flags highlight those areas where there are significant concerns by the inspectorates about outcomes or future prospects, and where more or different actions are required. Green flags highlight exceptional performance or outstanding improvement in outcomes through an innovative approach, from which others nationally can learn. No red or green flags have been identified for Sunderland.

3.2.3 The fact that Sunderland has no red flags demonstrates that the inspectorates have no significant concerns and that the Council and its partners are clear about what needs to be done and has plans in place to secure the necessary impact on outcomes.

3.2.4 Although Sunderland was not awarded any green flags the report recognises the positive impact the Sunderland Partnership is making on quality of life. For example:

- There is a good record of attracting new businesses and investment to the city and this is likely to continue helped by an Economic Masterplan.
- The Sunderland Learning Partnership is helping to improve skills in the city and clear plans are in place for it to continue to deliver improved outcomes.
- There is a good understanding of the health, social care and wellbeing needs of the population.

- Easier access to treatment is reducing some health inequalities and this is likely to continue.
- Access to primary health care at a local level is easier and care services for adults are good.
- Overall crime is lower in Sunderland than similar areas in England and Wales and continues to fall and fear of crime is reducing.
- There are positive outcomes from a range of targeted work including drug treatment programmes, a safer homes programme improving quality of life, youth engagement projects and parenting initiatives.
- Sunderland's local environment is currently ranked joint third best of the UK's 20 largest cities. Social housing and transport are good.

3.2.5 The report highlighted a small number of areas for improvement, which are already priorities for the city, namely:

- To reduce the number of young people in Sunderland that are not in employment, education or training (i.e. NEETs) from the current levels of one in eight young people.
- To meet some key targets around health inequalities, which are not being met, such as reducing death rates for men to nearer the national average; reducing the teenage pregnancy rate; and smoking rates, particularly smoking during pregnancy.
- To continue to address child poverty, which is reducing faster than in other areas but remains high.
- To address the issue of affordable housing in Sunderland, through the implementation of developed plans.
- To ensure that City Region actions deliver improved actions in relation to transport and skills.
- To ensure the Alcohol Strategy delivers the planned outcomes, particularly in relation to alcohol related hospital admissions.

3.2.6 Good practice in relation to the services within the Environment and Attractive City Scrutiny Committee's remit and the council and Sunderland Partnership's own analysis of where we are at in relation to these improvement areas is contained in section 4 and 5. **Appendix 1** provides an overview of the position for relevant national indicators and also any local performance indicators that have been retained to supplement areas in the performance framework that are not well covered by the new national indicator set.

### 3.3 Improvement planning approach

3.3.1 The Sunderland Partnership's Delivery and Improvement Board considered the draft area assessment report, and in particular those areas identified as being in need of improvement at its meeting on 11 November, as part of a wider discussion on improvement priorities for the next year. Delivery Plans are currently being refreshed to ensure that the work programme is targeting the right issues, and outcomes can be demonstrated, minimising the risk of areas for improvement becoming red flags in 2010. These Delivery Plans will be presented to Scrutiny Committees in February 2010.

### 3.4 2010 approach

- 3.4.1 The CAA Lead has now shared his planned approach to undertaking the evidence gathering for area assessment in 2010, which will differ significantly to the approach undertaken in 2009. There has been an acknowledgement within the inspectorates that the level of resources allocated to the assessment is not sustainable and so a more proportionate approach is now planned.
- 3.4.2 In Sunderland (and the rest of Tyne and Wear) the CAA Lead plans to adopt an approach with two complementary elements, namely:
- A Risk Assessment Matrix
  - A small number of themed probes across Tyne and Wear (the exact nature and subject of the probes have yet to be agreed).
- 3.4.3 The Risk Assessment Matrix will be the primary tool against which the Sunderland Partnership will be assessed and is designed to provide greater clarity and certainty around the final outcome of the area assessment (for example the number of green and red flags that will be awarded in the final report).
- 3.4.4 The Matrix will incorporate those issues that were identified in the first year of the CAA area assessment as having the most potential to become red flags and green flags, as well as any themes that weren't considered in the first year of CAA that the CAA Lead wishes to explore in 2010 (e.g. mental health).
- 3.4.5 Once the Risk Assessment Matrix has been agreed, the CAA Lead will use it to monitor progress against the agreed performance trajectory (up until the end of September 2010) for each issue to arrive at his final area assessment judgement for 2010. Progress will be monitored through the Council and the Sunderland Partnership's performance management and reporting arrangements.

#### **4.0 Audit Commission Findings**

- 4.1 Sunderland's local environment is currently ranked joint third best of the UK's 20 largest cities. Sunderland's streets and green space are well maintained. Improvement is likely to continue through plans to identify a network of green corridors to increase opportunities for sport and leisure activities and for 'Legible City' to improve information and help people enjoy the City and find their way around.
- 4.2 Sunderland is clean and well kept with good levels of open green space including well maintained parks. Roker Beach was again awarded a "Blue Flag" for cleanliness in 2009. However, people have mixed views about the area they live in. Overall satisfaction with the local area is up to 76.8 per cent and satisfaction with cleanliness improved to 54.4 per cent in 2008 surveys, but both these figures remain slightly below average. Parks and open spaces satisfaction - at 63.3 per cent - is in line with the North East average, although below the national average.
- 4.3 There is good work in Sunderland to reduce partners' impact on the

environment. Waste going to landfill sites has reduced and the Joint Waste Partnership between Sunderland, South Tyneside and Gateshead is to use new waste handling facilities to further reduce waste to landfill.

4.4 Transport links are good, both by public transport and by road. There are good, well maintained road connections to the major road network, a frequent Metro train service to Newcastle, a regular train service to London and two nearby airports. There are high levels of satisfaction with public transport in Sunderland: 62 per cent with local bus services and 55 per cent with local transport information, both well above averages.

## 5.0 Areas for Improvement

5.1 In relation to Attractive and Inclusive City no issues have been identified in the first year of the CAA area assessment as having potential to become red flags.

5.2 Local Area Agreement indicators included within Environment and Attractive City are as follows:

Ref	Description	2008/09 Outturn	Latest Update	Trend	Target 2009/10	On Target
NI 195a	Improved street and environmental cleanliness (litter)	4%	4%	◀▶	9%	✓
NI 195b	Improved street and environmental cleanliness (detritus)	5%	5%	◀▶	7%	✓
NI 195c	Improved street and environmental cleanliness (graffiti)	4%	4%	◀▶	3%	✗
NI 195d	Improved street and environmental cleanliness (fly posting)	0%	0%	◀▶	1%	✓
NI 192	Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting	25.59%	30.8%	▲	30%	✓
NI 175a	% of households within 20 minutes of closest secondary school	100%	n/a	n/a	100%	n/a
NI 175b	% of households within 20 minutes of closest primary school	100%	n/a	n/a	100%	n/a
NI 175c	% of households within 30 minutes of closest A&E hospital	88.5%	n/a	n/a	88.20%	n/a
NI 175d	% of households within 20 minutes of closest GP surgery	99.7%	n/a	n/a	99.80%	n/a
NI 175e	% of households within 40 minutes of specific employment sites - Doxford	86.6%	n/a	n/a	86.90%	n/a
NI 175f	% of households within 40 minutes of specific employment sites - Nissan	78.3%	n/a	n/a	70.80%	n/a
NI 175g	% of households within 40 minutes of specific employment sites - Pattinson	74.3%	n/a	n/a	83.70%	n/a
NI 175h	% of households within 40 minutes of specific employment sites - City Centre	85.8%	n/a	n/a	89.70%	n/a
NI 159	Supply of ready to develop housing sites	145%	n/a	n/a	100%	n/a

*Nb. the figures for Ni195a,b,c,d represent the %'age of failing streets/ transects and in this case the lower the actual figure (and target) the better.*

There are no key risks in terms of LAA indicators at this point of the agreement.

- 5.3 In terms of other national indicators the following performance indicators are declining and not on schedule to meet the 2009/10 target.

#### **NI 47 People killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents**

NI 47 measures the percentage change in the number of people killed or seriously injured during the calendar year compared to the previous year. Figures are based on a 3 year rolling average up to the current year i.e.

Average for 2007/2008/2009 compared to the average for 2006/2007/2008 is -1.25% compared to -0.9% performance is declining as a positive percentage change indicates good performance.

The number of road accident casualties killed or seriously injured year on year can be found in the table below

Ref	Description	2007/08 Outturn	2008/09 Outturn	2009/10 Update	Trend	2009/10 Target	On Target
BV 99ai	No. Road Accident Casualties KSI All	120	93	66 (July 09)	▼	93	✘
BV 99bi	No. Road Accident. Casualties KSI Child	29	13	11 (July 09)	▼	13	✘

#### **Improvement activity**

The Council continues to attempt to reduce casualties arising out of road traffic accidents through education, promotion and implementation of traffic calming measures. Under the current mechanism, traffic accident data determines the priority of any future works. In addition the scrutiny committee's policy review during 2009/10 is focussing on road safety and traffic issues including casualty reduction initiatives such as 20mph zones and speed limits.

#### **6.0 Recommendation**

- 6.1 That the committee considers the continued good progress made by the council and the Sunderland Partnership, as described in the CAA reports, and those areas requiring further development to ensure that performance is actively managed.

#### **7.0 Background papers**

Area assessment report – Sunderland  
 Organisational assessment report – Sunderland City Council  
 Use of resources report – Sunderland City Council

## Environment and Attractive City Scrutiny Committee Appendix 1

Ref	Description	2008/2009 Outturn	Latest Update	Trend	2009/2010 Target	On Target	Comments	
<b>Outcome - By 2025 Sunderland will be one of the cleanest cities in the country with an established reputation for care of its public realm</b>								
<b>Local Area Agreement Indicators</b>								
NI 195a	Improved street and environmental cleanliness (litter)	4%	4% (Oct 09)	◀▶	9%	✓		
NI 195b	Improved street and environmental cleanliness (detritus)	5%	5% (Oct 09)	◀▶	7%	✓		
NI 195c	Improved street and environmental cleanliness (graffiti)	4%	4% (Oct 09)	◀▶	3%	✗		
NI 195d	Improved street and environmental cleanliness (fly posting)	0%	0% (Oct 09)	◀▶	1%	✓		
<b>National Indicators</b>								
NI 196	Improved street and environmental cleanliness - fly tipping	2	n/a	n/a	2	n/a		
NI 197	Improved local biodiversity- proportion local sites with positive conservation management	10%	n/a	n/a	13%	n/a	Review of sites commenced in Sept 09 and should have full year end position by end of Dec 2009	
<b>Outcome - By 2025 50% of all domestic waste will be recycled and less than 25% will be sent to landfill</b>								
<b>Local Area Agreement Indicators</b>								
NI 192	Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting	25.59%	30.80%	▲	30%	✓	An increased level of waste has been recycled compared to the previous year. This has influenced a reduction in the amount of residual waste collected and total waste sent to land fill.	
<b>National Indicators</b>								
NI 191	Residual household waste per household	819 kgs	400.9 kgs	▲	800 kgs	✓		
NI 193	Percentage of municipal waste land filled	73.85%	67.30%	▲	70%	✓		
<b>Outcome - By 2025 all people in the city will have a viable choice of travelling regularly by public transport, cycling or walking as an alternative to travelling by private car</b>								
<b>Local Area Agreement Indicators</b>								
NI 175a	% households within 20 minutes of closest secondary school	100%	n/a	n/a	100%	n/a		
NI 175b	% of households within 20 minutes of closest primary school	100%	n/a	n/a	100%	n/a		
NI 175c	% of households within 30 minutes of closest A&E hospital	88.5%	n/a	n/a	88.20%	n/a		
NI 175d	% of households within 20 minutes of closest GP surgery	99.7%	n/a	n/a	99.80%	n/a		
NI 175e	% of households within 40 minutes of specific employment sites - Doxford	86.6%	n/a	n/a	86.90%	n/a		
NI 175f	% of households within 40 minutes of specific employment sites - Nissan	78.3%	n/a	n/a	70.80%	n/a		
NI 175g	% of households within 40 minutes of specific employment sites - Pattinson	74.3%	n/a	n/a	83.70%	n/a		
NI 175h	% of households within 40 minutes of specific employment sites - City Centre	85.8%	n/a	n/a	89.70%	n/a		
<b>National Indicators</b>								
NI 47	People killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents	-0.9%	-1.25% (July 09)	▼	4.70%	✗	The Council continues to attempt to reduce casualties arising out of road traffic accidents through education, promotion and implementation of traffic calming measures. Under the current mechanism, traffic accident data determines the priority of any future works.	
NI 48	Children killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents	12%	7.59% (July 09)	▲	13.60%	✗		
NI 167	Congestion - average journey time per mile during the morning peak	3 mins 11 secs (200708)	n/a	n/a	3 mins 12 secs (200809)	n/a		
NI 168	Principal roads where maintenance should be considered	1%	n/a	n/a	1%	n/a		
NI 169	Non-principal classified roads where maintenance should be considered	2%	n/a	n/a	2%	n/a		
NI 176	Working age people with access to employment by public transport (and other specified modes)	84%	n/a	n/a	84%	n/a		
NI 177	Local bus passenger journeys originating in the authority area	32981642	n/a	n/a	33300000	n/a		
NI 178i	Bus services running on time - % non-frequent services on time	84%	n/a	n/a	84%	n/a		
NI 178ii	Bus services running on time - excess waiting time of frequent services	65 seconds	n/a	n/a	65 seconds	n/a		
NI 198	Overall proportion of children travelling to school by car							
NI 198a	% of children travelling to school by car	22.79%	n/a	n/a	18.10%	n/a		
NI 198b	% of children travelling to school by car share	8.2%	n/a	n/a	9.13%	n/a		
NI 198c	% of children travelling to school by public transport	14.13%	n/a	n/a	14.71%	n/a		
NI 198d	% of children travelling to school on foot (walking)	53.07%	n/a	n/a	55.55%	n/a		
NI 198e	% of children travelling to school by bike (cycling)	0.5%	n/a	n/a	1.19%	n/a		
NI 198f	% of children travelling to school by other means of transport	1.31%	n/a	n/a	1.31%	n/a		
<b>Local Indicators</b>								
BV 99ai	No. Rd Acc. Cas: KSI All	93	66 (July 09)	▼	93	✗	The Council continues to attempt to reduce casualties arising out of road traffic accidents through education, promotion and implementation of traffic calming measures. Under the current mechanism, traffic accident data determines the priority of any future works.	
BV 99bi	No. Rd Acc. Cas: KSI Child	13	11 (July 09)	▼	13	✗		
BV 99ci	No. Rd Acc. Cas: Slight Inj.	909	488 (July 09)	▲	910	✓		

Ref	Description	2008/2009 Outturn	Latest Update	Trend	2009/2010 Target	On Target	Comments
<b>Outcome - By 2025 the council and its partners will have created sustainable and environmentally friendly housing developments that open up and connect neighbourhoods with each other and to town centres and create common spaces shared by all communities</b>							
<b>Local Area Agreement Indicators</b>							
NI 159	Supply of ready to develop housing sites	145%	n/a	n/a	100%	n/a	Collected annually
<b>National Indicators</b>							
NI 157a	Processing of major applications within 13 weeks	95%	100%	▲	80%	✓	Although negative performance has been identified in terms of minor applications, time taken to process major and all other applications has improved on the previous year and remains on track to achieve its intended target in 2009/10.
NI 157b	Processing of minor applications within 8 weeks	97.35%	95.08%	▼	93.50%	✓	
NI 157c	Processing of other applications within 8 weeks	98.04%	99.12%	▲	98%	✓	
NI 170	Previously developed land that has been vacant or derelict for more than 5 years	1.06%	n/a	n/a	0.98%	n/a	Collected annually
<b>Outcome - By 2025 feelings of safety will be at their highest level</b>							
<b>Local Indicators</b>							
BV 215a	Rectify Street Lights-non-DNO	6.23	4.65	▲	7	✓	Between Apr 09 to Sep 09 there has been a 46% decrease in the number of faults which can be attributed to the completion of the Street Lighting PFI Core Investment Programme. The reduction in the number of faults coupled with an increase in the severity of the faults has somewhat distorted the figures. Although the Council has power over NEDL to improve their response time to faults, arrangements are in place with Aurora to assess the risk attached to the lighting fault and to implement temporary measures to ensure adequate lighting is in place within at 25 days at the latest until the fault is resolved by NEDL.
BV 215b	Rectify Street Lights - DNO	23.39	32.31	▼	35	✓	

**STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS 2010/2011  
REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: ALL**

**CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES: ALL**

**1.0 WHY HAS THIS REPORT COME TO COMMITTEE**

- 1.1 To apprise Committee of the proposals for the Strategic Planning Process 2010/2011 and the role of the Committee in the Process.

**2.0 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The council undertakes an annual Strategic Planning Process to identify service improvement actions that will contribute to the delivery of its improvement priorities, to achieve improved outcomes for Sunderland residents.

- 2.1 The Process is regularly reviewed and updated to ensure that it is fit for purpose and:

- Focuses on priorities, improving performance, value for money and meeting local needs
- Communicates improvement objectives and priorities
- Focuses on budget planning and service planning activities – supporting the alignment of resources to priorities
- Ensures outcomes are customer focused.

- 2.2 The Process is of particular importance in respect of:

- The integration of the Corporate Improvement Plan (CIP) with the Sunderland Strategy 2008-2025
- Linking the Sunderland Strategy to work plans
- Supporting the council's response to the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA)
- Sunderland Way of Working
  - Community Leadership Programme
  - Economic Development and Regeneration
  - Business Improvement Programme
  - Directorate Improvement Programmes

**3.0 CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS**

- 3.1 Council improvement planning is based on the identification of improvement actions in respect of the Corporate Improvement Priorities:

- CIP1: Prosperous City
- CIP 2: Healthy City
- CIP 3: Learning City
- CIP 4: Safe City
- CIP 5: Attractive and Inclusive City
- CIP 6: Customer Focused Services
- CIP 7: One Council



- CIP 8: Efficient and Effective Council
  - CIP 9: Partnership Working
- 3.2 In the past, the Strategic Planning Process commenced in September with completion in March of the following year with the publication of the CIP.
- 3.3 Services identify contributions to the achievement of the Corporate Improvement Priorities in the form of “Actions for Service Improvement”. These are included within the relevant Service Plan, with those of the greatest importance included in the service’s content for the CIP as “Key Actions For Service Improvement”.
- 3.4 During the course of the year Service Plans should be monitored and updated to ensure the achievement of the “Actions For Improvement” and re-prioritise actions based on service requests and changing resources.
- 3.5 The “Key Actions for Service Improvement” also form the basis of “Key Actions for Portfolio Improvement” for each Portfolio. These identify “Areas For Improvement” each Portfolio will address to contribute towards achieving the Corporate Improvement Priorities. Progress towards the achievement of the “Key Actions for Portfolio Improvement” should be monitored during the course of the financial year by the relevant Director and Portfolio Holder, in line with the monitoring of the “Key Actions for Service Improvement”.
- 3.6 In addition to the publication of Service Plans and the CIP the 2009/2010 Strategic Planning Process required each directorate to produce a Directorate Improvement Plan.

#### **4.0 ANALYSIS OF CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS**

- 4.1 The Strategic Planning Process has a number of strengths including:
- A consistent approach, with all services considering the same factors in their service improvement planning
  - All services undertaking improvement planning at the same time
  - A cyclical approach using each year’s process and outputs to inform the next
  - The alignment of policy and budgetary planning to ensure improvement actions are financially appropriate and that provision is made for them
  - Mapping objectives and actions in support of priorities.
- 4.2 Shortcomings with this approach have proven to be:
- A lack of commitment to and understanding of the Corporate Improvement Priorities
  - A lack of engagement with the Process amongst some Heads of Service and Team Managers
  - The use of the Corporate Improvement Priorities too strategically, resulting in a “bottom-up” approach to improvement planning

- A lack of understanding of the difference between service improvement activity and “business as usual” activity
- The questionable value of the CIP in its current format.

## **5.0 STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS 2010/2011**

5.1 In the light of the above the Strategic Planning Process has been developed to ensure:

- The council identifies a clear set of Corporate Improvement Priorities for 2010/2011
- The Corporate Improvement Priorities reflect the council’s new phase of improvement activity
- The Corporate Improvement Priorities are articulated to better enables services to focus their improvement planning activity
- Improved ownership of and responsibility for the Corporate Improvement Priorities
- Heads of Service are supported to be empowered and accountable for the delivery of improvement activity
- Improvement planning reflects service delivery
- Improvement planning, performance management and improvement programme delivery are more closely aligned
- Improvement planning is understood as an annual process responding and adapting to circumstances during the year
- Improvement planning reflects and links to the council’s area arrangements via Local Area Plans
- Improvement planning takes account of the contents of the Local Area Agreement 2008-2011 Thematic Delivery Plans and can influence the council’s contribution to the Delivery Plans via the annual refresh process

5.2 Based on the above, the developments comprise:

- Reconsideration of the Corporate Improvement Priorities to ensure they support the council’s improvement agenda
- The identification of priority themes for each Corporate Improvement Priority to provide greater focus on the issues that the council needs to address,
- The allocation of each Corporate Improvement Priority to a lead officer, to promote ownership and establish accountability
- The development and publication of a Corporate Improvement Planning Framework to describe the council’s key improvement and change actions for each Corporate Improvement Priority
- The publication of a new form of CIP, to achieve greater understanding, strategic corporate ownership of and direction to the council’s improvement priorities
- Service improvement planning will take place on the basis of Head of Service designations, to promote understanding, ownership, and accountability in respect of the delivery of improvement actions
- Service planning by Heads of Service will be informed by a self-assessment to determine the key issues affecting service improvement and the issues for service redesign

- The establishment of an ongoing process of reviewing and updating improvement activity to ensure it remains responsive to needs and challenges, and informs the production of future Service Plans
- The engagement of Portfolio Holders and Scrutiny Committees throughout the Process to ensure their participation in the development and monitoring of the council's improvement priorities
- The production of Portfolio Improvement Programmes to detail how the actions identified in the Service Plans will be delivered and to support existing budgetary and improvement planning links.

## **6.0 ROLE OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEES**

6.1 It is proposed that the Scrutiny Committees are engaged as part of the preparation of Service Improvement Plans during the Strategic Planning Process 2010/2011 and in their monitoring and review during the course of 2010/2011. This report (and those to the other Scrutiny Committees) forms the first stage in that process:

### **February/March 2010**

Reports to each Scrutiny Committee, detailing:

- Service specific improvement planning details of relevance to each Scrutiny Committee
- Next steps in respect of reporting completed Service Improvement Plans to Scrutiny Committees

### **April 2010**

Reports to each Scrutiny Committee detailing relevant Service Improvement Plans.

### **June, September, December 2010, March 2011**

Reports to each Scrutiny Committee reporting progress and performance (on an exception basis) in respect of service improvement actions of relevance.

## **7.0 SELF ASSESSMENTS**

7.1 As the first stage of the Strategic Planning Process 2010/2011, all Heads of Service have undertaken a self assessment of their service to determine the key issues affecting service improvement and the issues for service redesign.

7.2 Details of the key issues arising from the self assessments of relevance to the Committee will be reported to the meeting.

## **8.0 CONCLUSION**

8.1 The new approach in respect of the council's improvement planning process will be adopted for the 2010/2011 Strategic Planning Process, with the view to its refinement and adaptation in due course.

## **9.0 RECOMMENDATION**

- 8.1 Committee is recommended to note the contents of the report and the key issues identified by the self-assessments undertaken in respect of services of relevance to the committee.

**ENVIRONMENT AND ATTRACTIVE CITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
18 JANUARY 2010**

**WASTES MANAGEMENT AND RECYCLING- UPDATE**

**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CITY SERVICES**

**Strategic Priorities: Attractive and Inclusive City**

**Corporate Improvement Objectives CI01,CI04**

**1. Why has this report come to Committee?**

- 1.1 The Committee's workplan for 2009/10 includes the provision of an update report on progress with future wastes management arrangements and recycling performance.
- 1.2 To advise the Committee of the bidders shortlisted to submit tenders in respect of the PFI supported contract for the provision of a strategic residual waste treatment facility.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 The amount of municipal waste handled by the Council has reduced from 162,048 tonnes in 2004/05 to 149,221 tonnes in 2008/09. The amount of waste produced by each household has reduced over the same period. This and the improved recycling and composting performance have reduced reliance on landfill as a means of disposal with 73.85% of municipal waste being landfilled in 08/09.
- 2.2 The reduction in the quantities of waste handled has continued into the first half of 2009/10. Compared to the same period in 2008/09 waste arisings have reduced by 5.05% (3937 tonnes). This continued reduction is largely attributed to the prevailing economic conditions and reduced household spending particularly since October 2007.
- 2.3 The Partnership authorities commissioned a series of household waste composition surveys which resulted in a comparative report. The surveys were carried out in March 2007 (pre- Credit Crunch), November 2008 and June 2009.

The results reinforce the point that residual waste arisings i.e. what's placed in the (original) green bin; has reduced (from 18.67kg/ household/ week in March 2007 to 14.62kg/ household/ week in June 2009).

### **3. Recycling Performance**

- 3.1 The 08/09 figures for household waste recycling indicated a reduction in the amount of waste being recycled- 15.24%; compared with the same period in 07/08-17.34%. The quantities of materials collected via Kerb- It reduced by 976 tonnes compared to 2007/08. The reverse was true for Green- it, however, with 1155 tonnes more garden waste being recovered for composting.
- 3.2 The reasons for the reduction in recycling are, as at 2.2 above, linked to prevailing economic conditions and considered to include the following:
- Fewer recyclable commodities within the waste stream as a result of reduced consumption
  - Reduced circulation and pagination of all newspaper titles
  - The number of bulky collection requests continued to fall with an outturn of 64,721 in 2008/09 compared to 69,639 in 07/08. In 2007/08 recovery rates from this waste stream were over 50% but in 2008/09 were below 40% due to the quality of material presented. The amount of material recovered for recycling consequently fell significantly.
- 3.3 The impact that the collapse in the market for recyclable materials (late 2008) and the resultant adverse media coverage is more difficult to measure. This may well have changed some peoples' perceptions as to the value of recycling.
- 3.4 Recycling and composting performance for the period April to September 2010 is 30.8%. Seasonal variations, however, will affect that figure.
- 3.5 In the first half of 2009/10 approximately 1200 tonnes of additional recyclable materials was recovered from residual waste- this being the result of a commissioning exercise for plant installed by one contractor. Weights of materials recovered through the Kerb- It and Green- It schemes, however, are very similar to the same period in 2008/09. The reduction in the quantity of material recovered from the bulky waste stream has continued in 2009/10 as the quality of that waste diminishes.

### **4 Recycling Participation**

- 4.1 Between 2 November and 11 December 2009 a participation monitoring exercise, commissioned by WRAP on behalf of the South Tyne and Wear Waste Management Partnership (STWWMP) authorities, was carried out on the existing kerbside recycling scheme

(black box). WRAP best practice requires that monitoring is undertaken over three consecutive collections.

- 4.2 A minimum of 1100 households were required to be monitored in each local authority area. In Sunderland a total of 2,846 households were monitored .The areas chosen covered a number of socio- economic (Acorn) groups and included Silksworth, Barnes, Plains Farm, Eden Vale and Durham Road.
- 4.3 The exercise revealed that (for the sample areas) the number of households that placed their boxes out on each of the collection days ranged from 36- 41% and that 52% of households placed their boxes out for collection at least once in the six- week period. Only 23%, however, participated in every one of the three collections.
- 4.4 There was much greater participation from areas with wealthier households compared to those with more moderate means. Households that had a second box appeared to be more consistent (and committed) in their recycling habits.
- 4.5 This information will provide a useful benchmark for the new blue- bin scheme.

## **5. New Recycling Scheme**

- 5.1 Cabinet considered outline proposals for the new collection scheme to replace the black- box system on 29 April 2009.
- 5.2 The award of the Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) contract has confirmed that the standard container will be a 240 litre wheeled bin inside of which will be housed a 40 litre caddy to separately store waste paper. This will allow more value to be extracted from the paper from improved quality and, therefore, easier reprocessing.
- 5.3 The new system will allow additional materials e.g. plastic bottles and card; to be collected from the kerbside.
- 5.4 The new system will also address many of the issues previously raised by householders in respect of the black box as potential barriers to recycling e.g. manoeuvrability, absence of a lid, weather affecting the contents of the box.
- 5.5 Orders have been placed for the new bins, caddies and vehicles and detailed work is underway on the planning and phasing of the new system. The current plan is to commence collections on the first round in week commencing 12 April 2010.

## **6. Other Recycling**

- 6.1 There are 47 bring sites which are accessible to the general public with 7 others provided at high- rise flats and sites with limited access.
- 6.2 There are now 14 sites able to accept plastic bottles and 12 sites have facilities for books/ cd's. Twenty- one sites now cater for cartons with recent enhancements at:

Fatherley Terrace, F.Houses,  
Harraton - James Steel Park,  
Welfare Road, Houghton

- 6.3 Following the relaxation of a previous reprocessor moratorium on new sites an additional 7 sets of glass banks have been provided at:

Welfare Road, Houghton  
Rickleton Village Centre  
Holiday Inn, Washington  
Wickes, Wessington Way (along with facilities for textiles and paper)  
Harraton, James Steel Park

- 6.4 Plans are being progressed for the provision of shoe banks at:

Welfare Road, Houghton  
Lidl, Ryhope Road  
Holiday Inn, Washington  
Wickes, Wessington Way  
Harraton, James Steel Park

- 6.5 On- street recycling facilities have been provided at Hetton and Concord bus stations for some months. More recently units have been located at:

Park Lane Interchange  
Fawcett Street  
Brougham Street/ Market Square  
Crowtree Rd (Leisure Centre).

Other potential sites in shopping areas across the City have been identified should funding become available.

## **7. Communications**

- 7.1 On average, each UK resident throws away 70kg of avoidable food a year. It is estimated that buying and then throwing away good food costs the average UK household £420 and for households with children £610 a year.



- 7.2 The Waste Resources action Programme (WRAP) has promoted a nationwide “Love Food Hate Waste” campaign which coincided with the STWWMP’s own communications programme. Locally the campaign involved roadshows in local supermarkets and the Civic Centre. The “love food” page on the Council’s web site encouraged residents to send in tips and recipes for leftover food. Anyone sending in such a tip received a free leftover cookery book.
- 7.4 Nine families from Gateshead, South Tyneside and Sunderland took part in a six-week competition to slash their food waste and the closing event was held at the Glass Centre on 30 September 2009.

The winning family were able to cut the amount of food they threw away by 100% saving themselves £57 a week on their shopping bill. All the participants managed to dramatically reduce their food waste, by between 16% and 100%, and to save up to £90 a week on groceries.

- 7.5 A sponsorship arrangement with the breakfast show on Sun FM between May and August aimed to promote recycling and waste minimisation. It is estimated that relevant messages reached 107,000 adults (40% of the population of Sunderland adults) with each hearing the sponsorship credit around 40 times.
- 7.6 A draft marketing strategy for the Partnership has been developed in conjunction with WRAP. In the first year the principle objective of the strategy will be to complement the introduction of the new recycling (blue bin) scheme.

## **8. Ancillary Contracts**

- 8.1 The Environmental and Planning Review Committee considered a Cabinet report regarding the procurement of ancillary contracts on 19 January 2009. These contracts are to cover the period from 1 April 2010 up to the commencement of the PFI contract. Longer term contracts for recyclable and compostable materials will then be awarded as the strategic residual waste facility becomes operational.

### **8.2. *Green waste contract***

The invitation to tender was issued to 7 bidders and submissions were received from 5 contractors. The preferred bidder has been identified and the contract award is expected to be confirmed in mid- January 2010. It is not expected that the contract will have any significant impacts on collection arrangements and will provide for savings over current arrangements.

### **8.3 *Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) contract***

The award of this contract was a determining factor in future kerbside recycling arrangements. In the case of each of the Partnership

authorities the successful bid provides for the separation of paper from other recyclable materials delivered to the contractor's facility. This will help maintain high material quality standards and has significantly influenced the value for money offered by the successful bids. A common system will, therefore be adopted across the three councils.

The contractor for Sunderland will not, however, be the same as that to be employed by Gateshead and South Tyneside. Sunderland's appointed contractor expects to establish materials recycling facilities within the City's boundaries.

#### 8.4 *Waste management contract (residual waste 2010- 2013)*

The invitation to tender has been issued to ten companies with submissions now required by mid- January 2010 with a view to contract award in February 2010.

Care has been taken to ensure that there is as seamless a transition as possible between this and the PFI contract.

#### 8.5 *Short- term contract (diversion from landfill and some recovery from residual waste)*

None of the Partnership authorities was able to award such a contract. Alternative arrangements are being explored by officers with existing contractors for the remainder of 2009/10 with a view to recovery of some materials from an element of residual waste and to divert some further waste away from landfill. Tenders for the waste management contract (8.4 above) may provide opportunities for additional recycling and recovery.

### **9. PFI Contract (Residual Waste)**

9.1 Eight bidders were originally invited to participate in the competitive dialogue process. Three bidders were then shortlisted; following evaluation against the criteria agreed by the respective Cabinets of the Partnership authorities in July 2008, for the Invitation to Submit Detailed Solutions (ISDS) stage in July 2009. They were:-

- i) MVV Umwelt
- ii) United Utilities/Galliford Try
- iii) Sita/CLL

The preferred technologies of the remaining bidders all involved the eventual production of energy from the wastes treated.

9.2 As with the previous stage several rounds of dialogue were conducted with all of the remaining bidders during the ISDS stage. Detailed solutions were submitted by 19 October 2009 and further dialogue sessions were held, for the purposes of clarification, prior to the

evaluation of submissions. That evaluation involved the processing of large volumes of material from each bidder and its assessment against the criteria previously agreed.

- 9.3 As a result of that evaluation Sita/ CLL and United Utilities/ Galliford Try will be invited to submit final tenders for the required solution. The Joint Executive Committee of STWWMP was advised of that outcome on 18 December 2009.
- 9.4 The indicative timetable for the remainder of the procurement will involve the call for final tenders being issued in February 2010, the preferred bidder being determined in May 2010; and with financial closure being secured in September 2010. The residual waste facility will then be operational by 2014

## **10. Recommendation**

- 10.1 The Committee is requested to consider the report and note the measures being taken to improve recycling levels; and to note the position reached with the PFI supported procurement of a strategic residual waste facility and the shortlisting of two bidders to proceed to the "call for final tenders" stage of the process.

## **11. Background Papers**

- 11.1 The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:
- i) Report of the Director of Community and Cultural Services- Wastes Management- Ancillary Procurements; Cabinet 14 January 2009
  - ii) Report of the Director of Community and Cultural Services- Kerbside Recycling; Cabinet 29 April 2009
  - iii) Report of the Director of Community and Cultural Services- South Tyne and Wear Waste Management Partnership- Evaluation Methodology and PFI update; Cabinet 30 July 2008

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**MARINE WALK MASTERPLAN AND SEAFRONT REGENERATION STRATEGY**

**REPORT OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**Strategic Priorities: Strategic Priorities: Attractive and Inclusive City**

**Corporate Improvement Objectives CI01,CI04**

**1.0 Purpose of report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Committee of the responses received following public consultation on the draft Marine Walk Masterplan and the draft Seafront Regeneration Strategy and to seek Committee's comments on the revised strategy and masterplan.
- 1.2 The Committee's comments will be reported to Cabinet on 3 February 2010 when agreement will be sought to adopt the Marine Walk Masterplan as a Supplementary Planning Document and to approve the Seafront Regeneration Strategy as planning and investment guidance.

**2.0 Background**

- 2.1 At its meeting on 29 July 2009, Cabinet approved the draft Marine Walk Masterplan and Seafront Regeneration Strategy for the purposes of public consultation.
- 2.2 The main proposals contained in the draft Marine Walk Masterplan included:
  - New flexible cultural spaces at Holey Rock Corner and the roundabout on Marine Walk.
  - Feature lighting in key areas at Roker including the cliff face at Holey Rock Corner, Roker Bridge and Spottee's Cave.
  - An interpretation trail covering the length of Marine Walk from Roker Ravine to the Volunteer Life Brigade Museum which may include artwork, vinyls, bespoke display and notice boards, and sculptures.
  - New sculptural gates to the pier and the restoration of the lighthouse and resurfacing of the pier.
  - A number of new facilities including an education space, a retail space and an information point located in kiosks designed to complement and reflect Roker's rich heritage and attractive natural environment.

- Public realm works including resurfacing of key areas at Marine Walk, the footpaths linking the upper and the lower promenades and the replacement of street furniture.
- The masking of substations and the opening up of Spottee's Cave at the entrance to Roker Park from Marine Walk.

2.3 The main proposals contained in the draft Seafront Regeneration Strategy included the creation of four character areas:

- Ocean Park - which will continue to be central to the resort of Seaburn providing visitors with a range of leisure facilities and complementary uses.
- Seaburn Promenade - which will be enhanced to create a promenade area with a coordinated palate of high quality street furniture, materials and lighting.
- Cliff Park and Recreation Park – which will support landscaping in key areas using plants native to the Durham coast.
- Marine Walk – improvements in this area will enhance Roker's distinctive built heritage and natural assets.

2.4 Other proposals contained in the strategy included:

- Environmental improvements and soft landscaping that integrate with and add to the coastal location and existing green spaces.
- The provision of new street furniture in key areas along the seafront using high quality materials, such as granite, which are able to withstand the marine environment.
- A bespoke range of signs to improve legibility and way finding to and within the seafront including signage to and from Seaburn Metro Station.
- The addition of public artwork along the seafront and the use of feature lighting to enhance key features such as the cliff face at Holey Rock Corner and the old South Pier Lighthouse.
- Improved signage, surfacing and layout of cycle routes along the seafront to attract visitors to the area and promote sustainable modes of transport.
- Guidance on development quality and sustainable design to ensure the unique character of the seafront is enhanced in an appropriate manner.

### **3.0 Consultations on the draft masterplan and strategy**

- 3.1 The draft Marine Walk Masterplan and the draft Seafront Regeneration Strategy were the subject of public consultation between 8 August and 18 September 2009.
- 3.2 During this period all information relating to the consultation, including the draft Seafront Regeneration Strategy and the draft Marine Walk Masterplan was available online at [www.sunderland.gov.uk/seafront](http://www.sunderland.gov.uk/seafront).
- 3.3 Letters were delivered to all households and businesses within the Seafront Regeneration Strategy study area. The letter notified recipients of the consultation period, invited them to see the main proposals plan at exhibitions displayed at the Civic Centre, Seaburn Leisure Centre, Sunderland Aquatic Centre, the Independent Living Centre at Leechmere and the Tourist Information Centre on Fawcett Street, throughout the consultation period. The letter notified them of a 9 hour drop-in session at the Seaburn Leisure Centre, one three hour and one two hour session at Marine Walk in Roker and two three hour sessions on Seaburn lower promenade where they could see the exhibition and discuss the proposals with council staff. Freepost comments cards and summary brochures of the draft masterplan and strategy were available at all venues as well as all local libraries across the city. Responses could also be made by email or by completing an online consultation form at the website [www.sunderland.gov.uk/seafront](http://www.sunderland.gov.uk/seafront).

#### **4.0 Consultation responses and changes to the Marine Walk Masterplan**

- 4.1 50 comment forms were completed and returned by members of the public. In addition 28 emails were submitted. 55 respondents supported the masterplan proposals, 9 objected to the proposals and 14 respondents did not specify if they supported or objected.
- 4.2 Thirteen responses were received from formal consultees. They were generally supportive of the draft Marine Walk Masterplan. Further consideration of representations submitted by Natural England, Northumbrian Water, the Environment Agency and the Sunderland Branch of the Green Party have resulted in minor changes to sections of the Marine Walk Masterplan.
- 4.3 A full list of the representations received, together with the City Council's response and how, if necessary, the masterplan has been amended to reflect the representations are set out in Appendix 1 to this report.
- 4.4 The main comments received are summarised below.
- 4.5 Quality of the plan  
Thirteen respondents complimented the quality of the plan and its content. In particular, respondents were in support of the landscaping proposals, including planting of native species in the grass banks at Marine Walk.
- 4.6 Proposal for greater traffic restrictions

The majority of objections related to the proposal in the draft masterplan for greater traffic restrictions on Marine Walk. These restrictions were included in the draft masterplan due to concerns raised in the initial seafront consultation regarding conflict between pedestrians and vehicle users on Marine Walk. Businesses located at the north end of Marine Walk commented that imposing traffic restrictions there would reduce trade and threaten the viability of their businesses. All representations received were fully considered and as a result the masterplan has been amended to allow for vehicular access up to the roundabout on Marine Walk. It is felt conflict between vehicle users and pedestrians can be adequately reduced through greater enforcement of existing traffic restrictions and improved traffic calming.

#### 4.7 Toilet facilities

A number of respondents felt there is a requirement for better toilet facilities at the seafront, including improved provision for people with disabilities. Toilet provision was highlighted as a key issue in the initial seafront consultation which took place between 16 February and 3 April 2009. Many people commented that toilets at the seafront should be open throughout the year. As a result the council has secured funding to ensure toilets at Seaburn Shelter, Cat and Dog Steps, Marine Walk and Pier View will remain open throughout the year. Only the toilet located under the tram shelter at Seaburn will close during the winter. The council is now in the process of undertaking a full review of toilet provision at the seafront including disabled facilities, with a view to allocating funding to improve provision as necessary.

#### 4.8 Maintenance

Four respondents commented that there is need for better maintenance at the seafront. The council is in the process of reviewing the management and maintenance of the seafront. These comments will be considered as part of this review.

#### 4.9 Roker Pods

Mixed comments were received in relation to the Roker Pods. The pods are kiosks which will contain facilities such as education space, an information point and potentially retail. Three respondents were in favour of the pods, three objected on the grounds of the appearance of the pods and one respondent was undecided. Nobody objected to the principle of providing education facilities and an interpretation point at Marine Walk. The design of the pods shown in the masterplan is a design concept for illustrative purposes. Funding has been secured from the Commission of Architecture and the Built Environment Sea Change fund to deliver a first phase of improvements at Marine Walk, including the pods. A design team will now be established to develop the concept further. The objective of the design team will be to create the required facilities in a structure which is functional, attractive and reflective of the heritage of Sunderland's unique coastline.

#### 4.10 Events

A small number of respondents stated more events should be held at the seafront. Establishing new events at the seafront is outside the scope of the masterplan; however the masterplan does propose the installation of

infrastructure which will support the development of the extensive events calendar, including the creation of two flexible event spaces and improved lighting to extend the lifetime of the seafront into the evening. The events team is seeking to build on the existing events calendar to ensure these new spaces will be used to their full potential.

## **5.0 Consultation responses and changes to the Seafront Regeneration Strategy**

5.1 87 comment forms were completed and returned by members of the public. In addition 28 emails were submitted. 72 of the respondents supported the proposals and 43 respondents did not specify if they supported or objected. There were no objections to the strategy.

5.2 Thirteen responses were received from formal consultees. They were generally supportive of the draft Seafront Regeneration Strategy. Further consideration of the representations submitted by the Sunderland Branch of the Green Party, the Campaign to Protect Rural England, the Environment Agency and Natural England have resulted in minor changes to the Seafront Regeneration Strategy.

5.3 A full list of the representations received, together with the City Council's response and how, if necessary, the masterplan has been amended to reflect the representations are set out in Appendix 1 to this report.

5.4 The main comments received are summarised below.

### **5.5 Toilet facilities**

A number of respondents felt there is a requirement for better toilet facilities at the seafront, including improved provision for people with disabilities. Toilet provision was highlighted as a key issue in the initial seafront consultation which took place between 16 February and 3 April 2009. Many people commented that toilets at the seafront should be open throughout the year. As a result the council has secured funding to ensure toilets at Seaburn Shelter, Cat and Dog Steps, Marine Walk and Pier View will remain open throughout the year. Only the toilet located under the tram shelter at Seaburn will close during the winter. The council is now in the process of undertaking a full review of toilet provision at the seafront including disabled facilities, with a view to allocating funding to improve provision as necessary.

### **5.6 Wet weather facilities**

Sixteen respondents commented on the need to provide 'all weather facilities' at the seafront. Similarly there were a number of separate comments about the need to provide 'wet weather' facilities, another eleven comments about the need for play facilities for children and young people and three for family activities. The Seafront Regeneration Strategy identifies that the Ocean Park site presents the opportunity for mixed-use leisure-led development including wet weather facilities. It is proposed that a detailed masterplan is drawn up for Seaburn which will help guide the regeneration of the Ocean Park site.



5.7 Dog litter/dog ban zones

Seventeen comments received related to dogs. Seven of these were opposed to a dog ban on the beaches but supported better enforcement of the existing by-laws, three were against dogs on the beaches, two others raised concerns about the control of dogs, four complained about dog litter and the need for more dog bins and one asked for provision of drinking bowls for dogs. Dog-bans are by-laws and are set out in the councils Coastal Code. It is not the purpose of the strategy to deal with day to day management issues but the comments are noted and will be referred to the relevant Council Directorate. These comments will also be considered in the ongoing review of the management and maintenance of the seafront.

5.8 Quality of the strategy

There were twelve comments praising the strategy and commenting positively about it.

5.9 Maintenance

There were twelve comments about the need for better maintenance of the public realm and seven relating to the need for more litter bins. The council is in the process of reviewing the management and maintenance of the seafront. These comments will be considered as part of this review. The strategy proposes street furniture including litter bins will be renewed. This will be carried out in consultation with the team responsible for the cleansing of the seafront and where necessary additional bins will be provided.

**6.0 Reasons for decision**

6.1 The adoption of the Marine Walk Masterplan as a Supplementary Planning Document and the approval of the Seafront Regeneration Strategy as formal planning and investment guidance will help facilitate the planning and regeneration of the seafronts at Roker and Seaburn. The masterplan and strategy will be used by the council and developers as a basis for preparing and assessing detailed proposals for the seafront and would be afforded weight as a material consideration when determining future planning applications. In addition the strategy will identify opportunities for public investment in the seafront.

**7.0 Alternative options**

7.1 The alternative option is not to adopt the Marine Walk Masterplan or approve the Seafront Regeneration Strategy as proposed. The consequences of this would be not to have clear guidance from the council as Planning Authority on appropriate forms of development for the seafronts at Roker and Seaburn. This would weaken the council's ability to control the type of development and the design quality of new structures at the seafront and would allow for an ad hoc approach to be taken to the redevelopment of the area. The failure to adopt a strategy or masterplan would result in a lower standard of development than would otherwise be achieved, making the city less attractive to residents, visitors and investors.

## **8.0 Recommendation**

8.1 Committee is recommended to consider the amended Marine Walk Masterplan and Seafront Regeneration Strategy and refer its comments to Cabinet for consideration

## **9.0 List of appendices**

Appendix 1: Draft Marine Walk Masterplan and draft Seafront Regeneration Strategy public consultation – schedule of representations on the Masterplan and Strategy and City Council responses.

## **10.0 Background Papers**

- Marine Walk Masterplan (2010)
- Seafront Regeneration Strategy (2010)
- Sustainability Appraisal of Marine Walk Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document (2009)

# ENVIRONMENT AND ATTRACTIVE CITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

## FLOOD PLANNING – IMPLICATIONS FOR THE SCRUTINY FUNCTION

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

18 January 2010

### 1. Why has this report come to the Committee?

- 1.1 This report considers the implications of the Pitt Review and the future role of scrutiny in relation to flood planning.
- 1.2 To recommend that flood planning be formally included within the remit of the Environment and Attractive City Scrutiny Committee.

### 2. Background

- 2.1 The Pitt Review into the floods of summer 2007 was published in June 2008.
- 2.2 The review was a comprehensive appraisal of all aspects of flood risk management in England. The review contained 92 recommendations addressed to the Government, local authorities, Local Resilience Forums, providers of essential services and the general public.
- 2.3 The review considered the measures for reducing the risk and the impact of flooding, improving the emergency response and better preparing of the public. The report highlighted the need for strong and effective leadership at the local and national level and a clear commitment to improve the resilience of the UK to flooding.
- 2.4 The Government has since published its response to Sir Michael Pitt's review and have accepted all of the recommendations. Key recommendations include:-
  - A 25 year plan to address the issue of flooding, along with the creation of a dedicated Cabinet Committee;
  - Local authorities will be responsible for managing the risk of surface water flooding and compile a register of local water assets. Local authorities will be expected to assess and if necessary enhance their technical capacity to deliver flood risk;
  - Stronger planning and building controls for construction and refurbishment in flood risk areas;

- A joint nerve centre run by the Met Office and the Environment Agency to produce more accurate flood warnings based on pooled information;
- Definitive electronic maps of all drainage ditches and streams, making clear who is responsible for maintaining them – these to be drawn up by local authorities, which must take a stronger overall lead on flooding in their area;
- More investment by utility companies to protect key infrastructure sites such as electricity sub station – companies must be more involved in flood defence planning in order to build greater resilience into the system to cope with times of crises;
- Greater openness in the property market to ensure that buyers have a clear understanding of the risks of buying in a flood prone area;
- Better preparation of the public with at risk households receiving support and assistance.

2.5 Overall, the recommendations mean a more strategic leadership role for local authorities on flooding will be seen as being best placed to understand the risks to communities and their concerns.

2.6 The Council's Emergency Planning Manager is coordinating the full implications for the Council. However, it is important to bear in mind that the recommendations will impact on a wide range of services provided by the Council and not just Emergency Planning and Response.

### **3 Implications for Scrutiny Function**

3.1 Of the 92 recommendations contained in the Pitt Review, there are two recommendations that have particular implications for the Council's scrutiny function. These are:-

- i. "All upper tier local authorities should establish Oversight and Scrutiny Committee to review work by public sector bodies and essential service providers in order to manage flood risk, underpinned by a legal requirement to cooperate and share information.
- ii. Each Oversight and Scrutiny Committee should undertake an annual summary of action taken locally to manage flood risk and implement this review and these reports should be public and reviewed by Government Offices and the Environment Agency".

3.2 Clearly, the nature of the recommendations reflects the increased role for scrutiny set out in the Local Government and Public Involvement Act and the potential of scrutiny to provide community leadership on this issue.

- 3.3 It is intended that scrutiny committees will provide a means of helping to improve accountability at a local level, raise the priority of flood risk management within local authorities and amongst partners and ensure good practice in reducing flood risk.
- 3.4 This should lead to greater transparency for the public, including a better understanding of local maintenance regimes, risk and options for managing risk.
- 3.5 It will also be important to obtain the active cooperation of partner organisations including the Environment Agency and the local water company.
- 3.6 The recommendations will represent a significant workload though it is recognised that most authorities will not choose to review flood risk management every year through a full scale scrutiny exercise and that for many authorities a large scale exercise followed by a light annual review would suffice.

#### **4 Next Steps**

- 4.1 It is suggested that given its existing remit, the Environment and Attractive City Scrutiny Committee would be the most appropriate Scrutiny Committee to take on the responsibility for flood planning. This will require an amendment to the remit of the Committee in order to include flood planning. This will require the approval of Council.
- 4.2 Further details of the way in which the Committee will actually undertake the scrutiny of flood planning will be developed over the coming months. Clearly, this will involve the Committee undertaking an annual summary of action taken locally to manage flood risk and the approach to be taken will be subject to a further report to this Committee.

#### **5.0 Recommendation**

- 5.1 That the Council be requested to amend the remit of the Committee to include the function of flood planning;
- 5.2 that a further report be submitted to the Committee on the measures to be taken to scrutinise flood planning as part of the work programme for 2010/11.

#### **6.0 Background Papers**

Pitt Report 2008

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**Contact Officer:** Barry Frost, Security and Emergency Planning Manager  
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**ENVIRONMENT AND ATTRACTIVE CITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –  
18 JAN 2010**

**SILKSWORTH HALL CONSERVATION AREA: CHARACTER APPRAISAL AND  
MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

**REPORT OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**1.0 Why has the report come to the Committee?**

- 1.1 To advise Environment and Attractive City Scrutiny Committee of the responses received following consultation on the draft version of the 'Silksworth Hall Conservation Area Character Appraisal and Management Strategy' and to seek Committee's comments on the revised document.
- 1.2 The Committee's comments will be reported to Cabinet at its meeting on 03 February 2010 when approval will be sought for a recommendation to adopt the revised Silksworth Hall Conservation Area Character Appraisal and Management Strategy as Formal Planning Guidance.

**2.0 Background**

- 2.1 The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (LB&CA) Act 1990 defines Conservation Areas as "areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance". The Act stipulates that Local Authorities are under a duty to formulate and publish proposals for the preservation and enhancement of their conservation areas.
- 2.2 The Council also has an obligation under the Unitary Development Plan (UDP) Policy B4 to produce supplementary guidance in the form of character appraisals for conservation areas in the City. This reflects national planning guidance in Planning Policy Guidance Note (PPG) 15 'Planning and the Historic Environment' which encourages Local Authorities to prepare detailed assessments of the special interest, character and appearance of their conservation areas. Such documents may also contain proposals for preserving and enhancing the character of a conservation area.
- 2.3 The Council's performance in preparing up-to-date character appraisals for its conservation areas is currently the subject of "Best Value Performance Indicator" (BV219). The purpose of BV219 is to monitor local authorities' performance in relation to Sections 71 and 72 of the above Act.
- 2.4 The Silksworth Hall Conservation Area Character Appraisal and Management Strategy is the tenth in a series of such studies that will address all fourteen of the city's conservation areas. It fulfils the Council's duties and obligations under the Planning (LB & CA) Act 1990. It will also help to satisfy the above BVPI target for 2009/10.

### **3.0 Current Position**

- 3.1 Silksworth Hall Conservation Area includes the former grounds of Silksworth Hall - originally the seat of Silksworth Manor, the former grounds of Doxford House - now Doxford Park, and the now disappeared medieval village of Silcesworth which developed around the spine of Warden Law Lane. Given the early history of Silksworth, it is likely that the Conservation Area could yield significant archaeological evidence should opportunities arise to investigate this in the future. It is clear that Silksworth has changed significantly throughout its lifetime, and while most physical evidence of the early history is long lost (including all of the medieval buildings), development from the 18th century onwards remains of great interest.
- 3.2 As with other conservation areas in the city, the integrity and character of the area can come under pressure from householder alterations and a desire to further develop land for housing. The Council's planning powers allow it to exercise tight controls over works to Listed Buildings, however, its powers to conserve unlisted structures are less rigorous. A Character Appraisal and Management Strategy (CAMS), adopted as formal Planning Guidance, strengthens the Council's policies for the Conservation Area and helps to protect its special interest (which springs from its historic buildings, significant open spaces and streetscapes) from the potentially adverse effects of property development.
- 3.3 The draft Silksworth Hall CAMS follows the relevant guidance set out in the joint Office for the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM)/ English Heritage publications 'Guidance on conservation area appraisals' and 'Guidance on the management of conservation areas' (2006). Part 1 of the document, the 'Character Appraisal', identifies and appraises the characteristics and features that give the Conservation Area its special interest. Part 2, the 'Management Strategy', addresses in detail the issues raised in the Character Appraisal by establishing objectives and proposals to secure the future preservation and enhancement of the Conservation Area's special character.
- 3.4 The draft document has now been subject to public consultation. Ward Councillors, the Portfolio Holders for Prosperous City and Sustainable Communities, the Historic Environment Champion, and relevant service providers within the Council were consulted on the draft document by memorandum in October 2009 prior to it being issued for public consultation. A copy of the document in compact disc form and a covering letter was then sent to all residents, businesses and other occupiers in the Conservation Area and to a range of other interested parties including English Heritage and national and local heritage societies. Paper copies of the document were also made available on request and available for viewing at the Civic Centre, Silksworth Library, Doxford Park Library and the City Library.
- 3.5 A public exhibition was held at St. Matthew's Church, Silksworth Lane on 1 December 2009 to discuss the document, with particular reference to the proposed Management Proposals.
- 3.6 The period of consultation expired on 11 December 2009. The Character Appraisal and Management Strategy has been modified in light of

representations received. A summary of the responses and modifications is given below and detailed in more depth in Appendix 1.

#### **4.0 Summary of Consultation Responses and Modifications**

- 4.1 In all, six written representations have been received out of a total of 96 letters / CDs issued. Thirteen people attended the public exhibition, one of whom completed a comments sheet; notes were however taken of the main issues raised in discussion and are included in the appendix which follows.
- 4.2 All who responded to the draft document were supportive and expressed interest in and concern for the character and appearance of the conservation area. Various minor additions and amendments have been made to the document in light of the comments received, including modifications to several of the maps to update boundary lines and correct the age of buildings and alterations to some of the text to correct terminology and add new information.
- 4.3 The schedule at Appendix 1 details the responses received and modifications to the document, where appropriate. A list of external consultees is also appended. Copies of the final (revised) version of the Silksworth Hall Conservation Area Character Appraisal and Management Strategy are available in the Members' library.
- 4.4 Whilst the number of consultation responses is low, this is perhaps a consequence of Silksworth Hall being a long established conservation area that has not been subject to any significant change in the last 20 years and the fact that there is little of a controversial nature in the CAMS.

#### **5.0 Recommendation**

- 5.1 The Committee is invited to make comments on the Silksworth Hall Conservation Area Character Appraisal and Management Strategy.

#### **6.0 Background Papers**

- Adopted City of Sunderland Unitary Development Plan
- Planning Policy Guidance Note (PPG) 15 'Planning and the Historic Environment'
- ODPM / English Heritage publication 'Guidance on conservation area appraisals'
- ODPM/ English Heritage publication 'Guidance on the management of conservation areas'
- Draft Silksworth Hall Conservation Area Character Appraisal and Management Strategy
- Responses to public consultation exercise



## Appendix 1: Schedule of Consultation Responses and Action Taken – Silksworth Hall Conservation Area Character Appraisal & Management Strategy

Consultee	Comments	Action / reason for no action
<b>Heritage Organisations</b>		
English Heritage	No specific comment.	No action required.
County Archaeologist	Commented on a very thorough document, noting that the history and notable connections sections were very interesting, and the photos are very good.	No action required.
	Noted that the text on p.5 states that there is “no evidence of pre-historic settlement”, recommended that this is re-phrased to “no pre-historic finds have been found”. Also suggested referring to HER 159 – Steeple Hill burials.	Text on p.5 amended accordingly. Additional HER entry added to appendix 2.
	Noted that the text on p.6 refers to a Fireplace Tax which was, in fact, a Hearth Tax.	Text on p.6 amended accordingly.
	Noted that the text on p.19 refers to the pump house and the ice house as one structure when, in fact, they are two separate structures.	Text on p.19 amended accordingly.
	Expressed support for the restoration and re-use of the walled garden, and the provision of interpretation boards.	No action required.
	Commented positively on the quality of the archaeology section and suggested an additional line referring to the importance of building recording prior to conversions.	Additional text added to Management Proposal 5a.
	Suggested the addition of UDP archaeology policies to the appendix.	Additional policies included in appendix 1.
<b>Architects/ developers</b>		
No comments received		
<b>Local Businesses /Residents</b>		
City resident	Overall expressed support for the document.	No action required.
	With regard to the existing boundary of the Conservation Area, stated that the inclusion in the Conservation Area of Silksworth Hall Drive is “unnecessary” but that a meaningful alternative boundary is not obvious. Agreed, therefore, that the boundary should not be altered.	No action required.  Silksworth Hall Drive is within the former gardens of Silksworth Hall and, whilst the houses are not of specific historic interest, the space that they occupy is.

	Suggested that the Council should consider taking a more pro-active approach to securing the restoration of Doxford House, by serving statutory notices or preparing a development brief for the building.	The Council's current position on Doxford House, and the powers open to the Council to take future action, are clearly outlined on page 44 of the Management Strategy. No action required.
	Supported the general principle of restoring the kitchen garden in Doxford Park and wider park, suggesting some additions to the walled garden such as a conservatory tea room and plant nursery.	No Action Required. Management Proposals 1b to 1f concern repair, restoration and improvement proposals for the park and include consideration of visitor facilities in the walled garden. It is noted however that these proposals are purely indicative and aspirational and there is no funding in place at the moment to implement any such proposals. They are intended to support any future bid for funding and identify conservation priorities at an early stage, without being overly prescriptive.
	With regard to the limestone walls to Warden Law Lane, fully supported the design guidance in the document but suggested that further protection needs to be given to those parts that are not listed.	Unfortunately, the wall is not listed in its entirety and is unlikely to warrant listing in its own right. The Council could potentially provide additional protection to the remainder of the wall through the making of an Article 4(2) Direction on the properties it bounds, removing their Permitted Development rights to undertake works to the wall without Planning Permission. This would not, however, provide control over minor repair works and there is no evidence to suggest parts of the wall are under threat from demolition or inappropriate replacement works. It is considered therefore that the imposition of an Article 4(2) Direction would be a disproportionate measure. It is hoped that the detailed guidance provided in the CAMS will encourage those responsible for the maintenance of unlisted parts of the wall to undertake works in a sensitive manner in order to ensure its preservation.
Local resident 1	Expressed general support for the conservation and improvement of the Conservation Area.	No action required.
	Noted that Cedar Cottage is a 1960s infill building and that, therefore the notations on the maps on pages 8 and 24 are incorrect.	Maps on pages 8 and 24 amended to reflect this information.
	Noted that the map on page 41 indicates a mature tree in the grounds of Cedar Cottage which was removed around thirty years ago.	Council's Tree Preservation Order data identifies a tree in this location, hence the origin of the error. Map on page 41 and TPO data amended accordingly.
	Commented that some statements in the document are subjective regarding the appearance and standards of private housing.	No action required. Some modern properties have been identified as being of neutral or negative townscape value in the context of the contribution they make to the essential historic character of the Conservation Area. They are not, however, regarded as being of poor quality or in poor condition. The only buildings which have, quite rightly, been identified as being in poor condition are Doxford House, which is on the national English Heritage Buildings at Risk Register, and the recently fire damaged "The Gardens", which is in Council ownership.

	Suggested that the document would have more credibility if it acknowledged mistakes the Council had made in the past relating to Development Control decisions.	No action required. Silksworth Hall Conservation Area was designated in 1973, prior to which much infill development had already occurred. The document does, however, acknowledge that much of the subsequent development on Silksworth Hall Drive was approved at appeal, following the refusal of planning consent.
Local resident 2	Expressed general support for the initiative to conserve the Conservation Area, but expressed considerable concern at the proposal to prevent additional development in the garden spaces to properties on Silksworth Hall Drive.	No action required. Management Proposal 2b, which is designed to prevent any further development of garden spaces, has been formulated to protect the historic layout, essential landscape character and open, green spatial qualities of the Conservation Area. It is a proposal that is commonly applied to Conservation Areas throughout the City and is generally in accordance with UDP conservation policies and national planning policy in PPG15. It is particularly relevant in Silksworth Hall Conservation Area where infill development in the past has substantially compromised its historic integrity and there is a need to prevent any further erosion of character. It is also noted that proposals to develop garden spaces are often contrary to Development Control policies on 'backland development'.
Local resident 3	Fully support the restoration and maintenance of the conservation area. Live outside the conservation area, but adjacent to Doxford Park. Expressed concern that they won't be consulted on plans to improve the park as they don't live within the conservation area.	No action required. Should funding become available in future to undertake works in Doxford Park then any proposals will be subject to a wide degree of public consultation by the Council. Currently, the proposals within the CAMS are purely indicative and intended to support any future bids for funding and identify conservation priorities at an early stage, without being overly prescriptive.
<b>Comments made at public exhibition</b>		
Attendee 1	Noted boundary of garden to Old School House incorrect on plans.	Maps in document altered accordingly.
	Queried the likelihood of improvement proposals for Doxford Park being implemented.	No action required. Management Strategy explains that the proposals for the Park in the document are purely indicative and aspirational and there is no funding in place at the moment to implement any such proposals.
Attendees 2 & 3	Commented positively on quality of document and expressed support for proposals in it.	No action required.
Attendee 4	No comments.	No action required.

Attendees 5 & 6	Queried the likelihood of improvement proposals for Doxford Park being implemented. Expressed concern over the positioning of any play facilities at perimeter of park close to houses due to problems of antisocial behaviour.	No action required. Management Strategy explains that the proposals for the Park in the document are purely indicative and aspirational and there is no funding in place at the moment to implement any such proposals. Attendees advised that in any case the indicative proposals show the potential location of play facilities away from the houses next to the entrance of the park on Silksworth Road, and that they should contact the Council's Parks Department for further advice on the prospect of future provision of play facilities in the Park.
Attendees numbers 7, 8 & 9	No comments.	No action required.
Attendees 10 & 11	Commented on poor quality of environment and parking problems at the turning head at the end of Warden Law Lane adjacent Morrisons.	No action required, land concerned outside boundary of conservation area and beyond scope of document. Issue referred to the Transportation Section of City Services.
	Expressed concern over future of Doxford House.	Issue addressed in Proposal 4b on page 44 of Management Strategy. No action required.
Attendees 12 & 13	Commented on poor quality of environment and parking problems at the turning head at the end of Warden Law Lane adjacent Morrisons.	No action required, land concerned outside boundary of conservation area and beyond scope of document. Issue referred to the Transportation Section of City Services.
	Expressed desire to see water features reinstated in Park. Supported Proposals in document, particularly with regard to limestone walls along Warden Law Lane.	Issue addressed in Proposal 1d on page 38 of Management Strategy.  No action required.

## Appendix 2 – List of external consultees

National Organisations / local amenity groups	Architects	Residents / businesses
English Heritage	Frank E. Hodgson	All owners and occupiers in the Conservation Area.
Victorian Society	John D. Waugh	
The Georgian Group	Ged McCormack	
Twentieth Century Society	Jane Derbyshire & David Kendall	
Institute of Historic Building Conservation	Mackellar Schwerdt Partnership	
Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings	Mario Minchella Architects	
Department for Culture, Media and Sport	Napper Architects	
Tyne and Wear Archaeology Officer	Red Box Design Group	
Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment	Anthony Watson Chartered Architect	
Sunderland Civic Society	Ward Hadaway Solicitors	
Sunderland Antiquarian Society	Purves Ash LLP	
Sunderland Heritage and History Forum	A.M. Watt	
Grace McCombie	Jeff Park Building Consultancy	
Living History North East	Wearmouth Architectural Design	
History Society of Sunderland	Gray, Fawdon & Riddle Architects	
Friends of Doxford Park	Howarth Litchfield	
Silksworth Local History Society	HLB Architects	
	Planit Design	
	Reid Jubb Brown	

# **COMMUNITY AND SAFER CITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

## **REVIEW OF COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION MECHANISM AND INTRODUCTION OF A SELECTION CRITERIA FOR DEALING WITH ISSUES OF LOCAL CONCERN – FURTHER REVISIONS TO INITIAL PROPOSALS**

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**12 JANUARY 2010**

### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To seek the views of the Committee on the proposed revision of the current Councillor Call for Action mechanism and proposed introduction of a Selection Criteria for dealing with non-mandatory referrals for use by the Sunderland Partnership, Scrutiny Committees and Area Committees to address issues of local concern.

### **2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 On 17 December 2009, the Management Scrutiny Committee considered a report outlining further revisions to the mechanisms in place for dealing Councillor Calls for Action.
- 2.2 At the meeting, the Management Scrutiny Committee agreed to:-
- a) Support the introduction of the selection criteria for determining the appropriateness of undertaking an investigation triggered either by the non-mandatory referral / Councillor Call for Action route;
  - b) Refer the draft proposals to the six Scrutiny Committees in the January cycle of meetings for comment with any comments being referred back to this Committee thereafter, in particular on whether it is appropriate for the two existing CCfAs to be subject to this revised procedure; and
  - c) Subject to the comments received from the Scrutiny Committees (along with the Area Committees and Sunderland Partnership), the revised procedure be endorsed, implemented and included in Scrutiny Handbook.
- 2.3 The report and the proposals therefore come to this Committee for comment.

### **3 CURRENT POSITION**

- 3.1 The Councillor Call for Action (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.

- 3.2 In Sunderland, two local issues have been raised through the Councillor Call for Action (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.
- 3.3 At the same time work is also being undertaken to develop the Scrutiny Committees' links with both the Sunderland Partnership and the Area arrangements, one of which is the signposting and escalation of local issues to the most appropriate body for resolution where appropriate.
- 3.4 At a meeting of the Management Scrutiny Committee held on 22 October 2009, consideration was given to the initial proposals for the processing of non-mandatory referrals to Overview and Scrutiny through the introduction of an agreed selection criteria which also reflects / combines the CCfA mechanism.
- 3.5 On 17 December 2009, the Committee received a report outlining further revisions to the initial proposals, as requested by the Committee. These are summarised below:-
  - (a) That upon receipt of a CCfA / Non-Mandatory Referral, that the request be considered by the relevant Scrutiny Committee in replace of the Management Scrutiny Committee as initially suggested (in consultation with the Head of Overview and Scrutiny), removing any possible delays in its consideration / re-direction; and
  - (b) That the flow chart **Appendix B** be further amended to clearly show the whole process, such as the other potential bodies who may either consider or re-direct the referral request.

### **3. FURTHER REVISIONS TO INITIAL PROPOSALS - REVIEW OF CURRENT COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION MECHANISM AND INTRODUCTION OF A SELECTION CRITERIA FOR DEALING WITH ISSUES OF LOCAL CONCERNS**

- 3.1 As outlined in the initial proposals, 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 Sunderland Partnership and the City Council's Scrutiny and Area Committees.
- 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 Arrangements 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) ; and
  - (vi) Not relate to matters dealt with by another Council committee, unless the issue deals with procedure and policy related issues.
  - (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 In response to Members observations in relation to the two local issues which have been raised through the existing Councillor Call for Action procedure, it is proposed that the current procedure will be strengthened through the introduction of such selection criteria and that any future CCfAs will be reported to the next available meeting of the relevant Scrutiny Committee for consideration, in replace of the Management Scrutiny Committee as initially suggested.
- 3.5 For ease, **Appendix A** outlines the current CCfA procedure and **Appendix B** details the revised procedure for determining the appropriateness of undertaking a scrutiny investigation triggered either by the non-mandatory / Councillor Call for Action referral route as requested by the Committee at its last meeting.
- 3.6 Furthermore, it should be noted that the Councillor Call for Action measure requires the Councillor to use every available tool to resolve the issue in the first instance without involving the relevant 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.

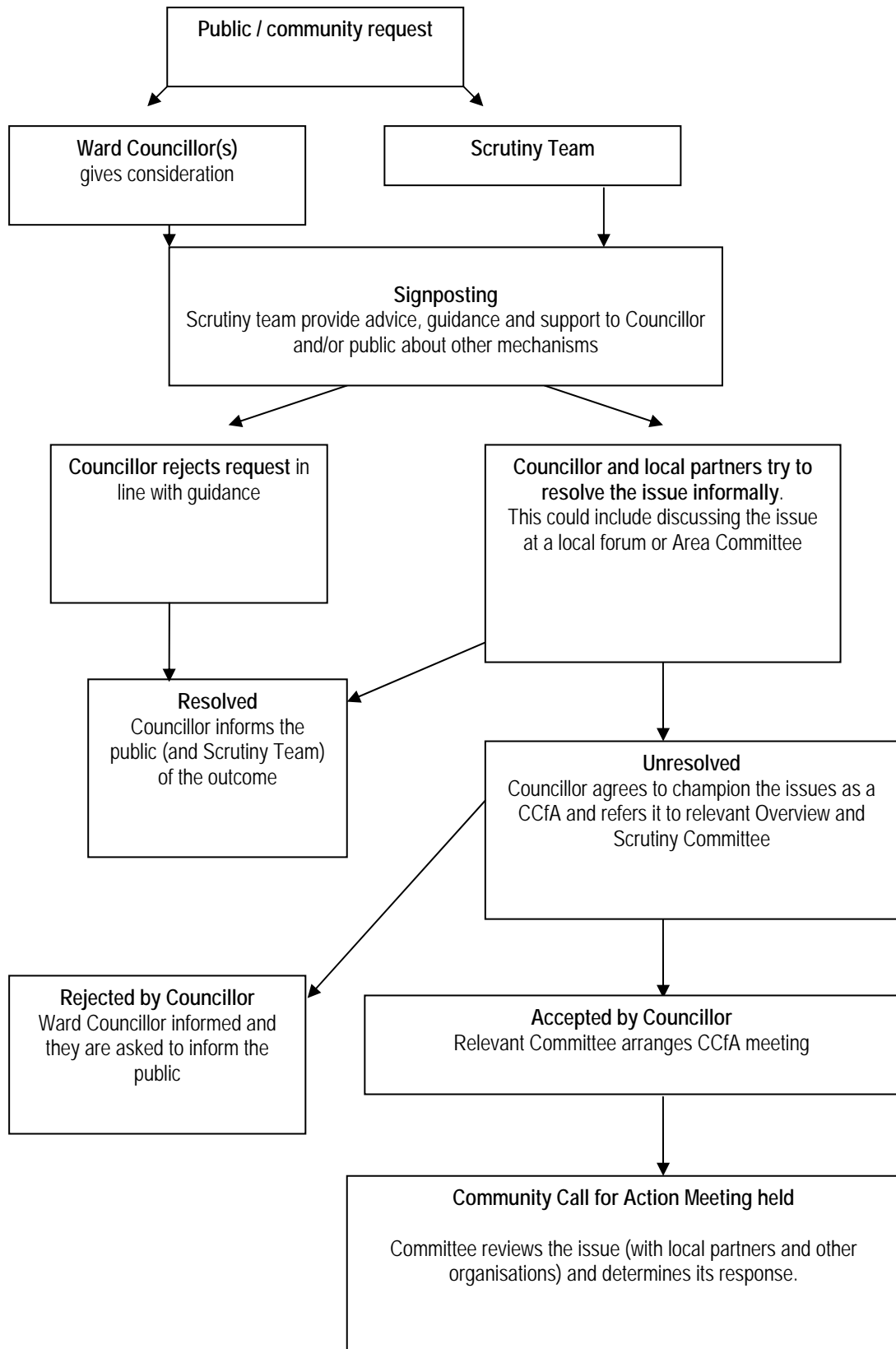
#### **4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 That the Committee consider and comment on the draft proposals, in particular on whether it is appropriate for the two existing CCfAs to be subject to this revised procedure and that any comments be submitted to the next meeting of the Management Scrutiny Committee.

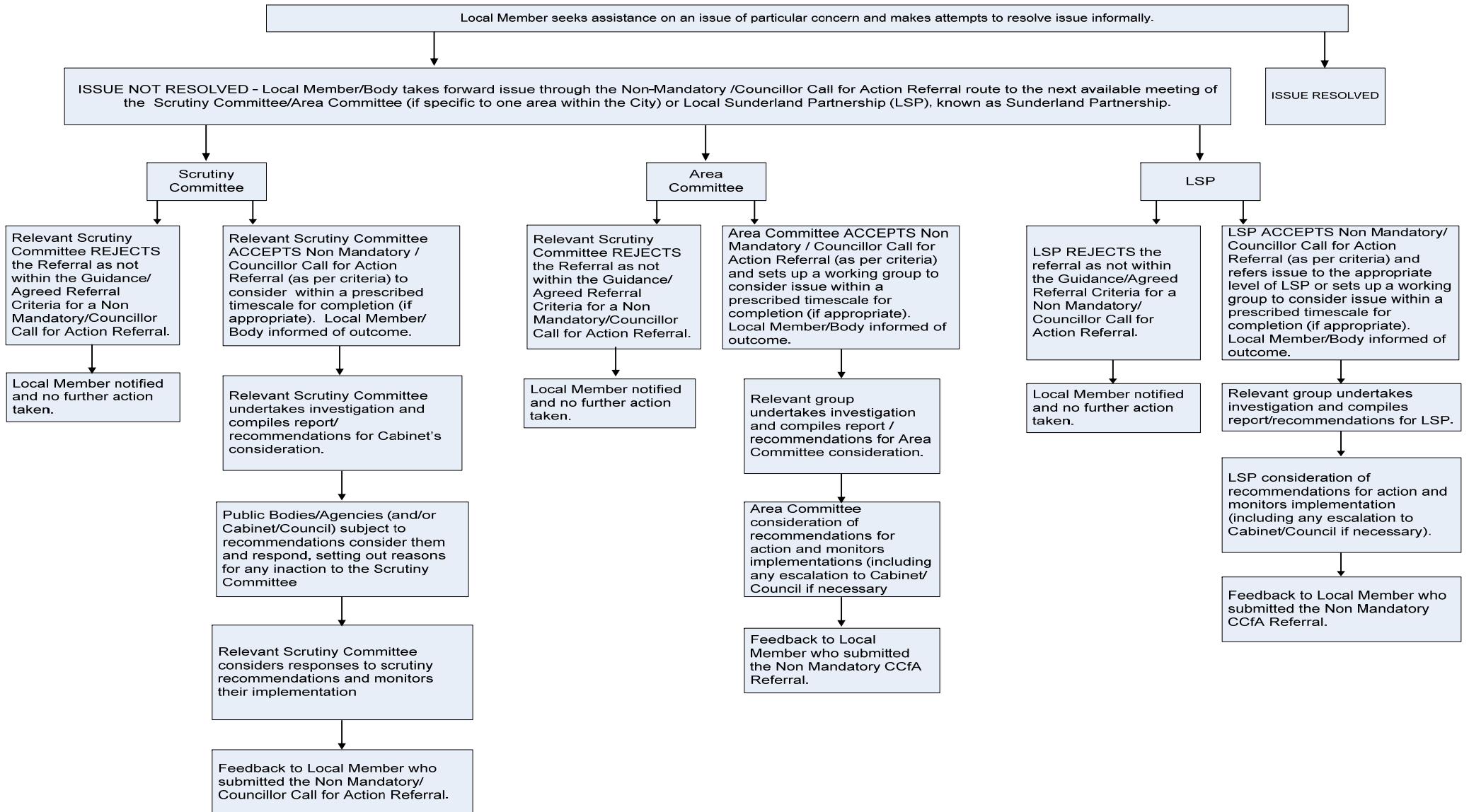
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**CURRENT COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION PROCEDURE**



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



**REQUEST FOR INCLUSION OF AN ITEM ON THE AGENDA**

**Report of the Chief Executive**

**1. Why has the report come to the Committee**

- 1.1 To consider a request from Councillor Richard Vardy to include an item on a future Committee agenda.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 Councillor Vardy has requested an item be included on the agenda of the next meeting of the Scrutiny Committee.
- 2.2 Councillor Vardy requests that "I wish to have the subject of gritting of roads and pavements on the agenda of the next scrutiny committee. I feel this is of such immediate concern to the City and its residents that it must be on the next agenda."

**3. Current Position**

- 3.1 In accordance with the Council's Constitution and approved scrutiny protocol for placing items on the agenda, the Committee may choose to respond in one of the following ways:
1. The Scrutiny Committee may determine that the item is not relevant to the functions of that particular Committee. In these circumstances the Committee can resolve to take no action or may refer the item to another Review Committee, or to the Management Scrutiny Committee to determine responsibility
  2. If the issue is linked to an existing work programme item (within the next two cycles) then it should be discussed as part of that item and included in any officer report
  3. If the issue is a new item of business within the remit of the Committee, the Scrutiny Committee may:
    - a. Request a response in writing (with copies to all Members of the Scrutiny Committee), or
    - b. Request a presentation to a future Scrutiny Committee meeting, or
    - c. Request a report to a future meeting, or
    - d. Decide that the issue raised does not merit any response beyond noting the matter, or

- e. Decide to express a view or make a recommendation, by resolving accordingly, if the Committee considers it has sufficient information to make a fully informed decision

#### **4. Recommendation**

- 4.1 The Committee is asked to consider the request from Councillor Richard Vardy.

#### **Background Papers**

Council's Constitution  
Overview & Scrutiny Handbook

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# ENVIRONMENT AND ATTRACTIVE CITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

## FORWARD PLAN – KEY DECISIONS FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY 2010 – 30 APRIL 2010

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

18 JANUARY 2010

### 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide Members with an opportunity to consider the Executive's Forward Plan for the period 1 January, 2010 – 30 April, 2010.

### 2. Background

- 2.1 The Council's Forward Plan contains matters which are likely to be the subject of a key decision to be taken by the Executive. The Plan covers a four month period and is prepared and updated on a monthly basis.
- 2.2 Holding the Executive to account is one of the main functions of Scrutiny. One of the ways that this can be achieved is by considering the forthcoming decisions of the Executive (as outlined in the Forward Plan) and deciding whether Scrutiny can add value in advance of the decision being made. This does not negate Non-Executive Members ability to call-in a decision after it has been made.
- 2.3 The Forward Plan for the period 1 January, 2010 – 30 April, 2010 is attached marked **Appendix 1**. As requested by members at the last meeting, only those items which are under the remit of the Committee have been included. The remit of the Committee covers the following themes:-

Building Control, Unitary Development Plan, Place Shaping, Local Transport Plan, Coast Protection, Cemeteries and Crematorium, Grounds Maintenance, Management and Highways Services, Allotments.

2.4 In the event of Members having any queries that cannot be dealt with directly in the meeting, a response will be sought from the relevant Directorate.

**3. Recommendations**

3.1 To consider the Executive's Forward Plan for the period 1 January, 2010 – 30 April, 2010.

**4. Background Papers**

None

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## Forward Plan: Key Decisions from - 01/Jan/2010 to 30/Apr/2010

### Items which fall within the remit of the Environment and Attractive City Scrutiny Committee

No.	Description of Decision	Decision Taker	Anticipated Date of Decision	Principal Consultees	Means of Consultation	When and how to make representations and appropriate Scrutiny Committee	Documents to be considered	Contact Officer	Tel No
01293	Agree St Peter's Riverside & Bonnersfield Planning Framework draft Supplementary Planning Document for public consultation.	Cabinet	13/Jan/2010	Strategic partners, Portfolio Holders and Chief Officers	Meetings, briefings and email	Via contact officer by 21December 2009 - Environment and Attractive City Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet report and St Peters Riverside and Bonnersfield Planning Framework: draft Supplementary Planning document.	David Giblin	5611540
01326	To adopt the Seafront Regeneration Strategy and Marine Walk Masterplan.	Cabinet	03/Feb/2010	Statutory consultees, people who live in, work in and visit Sunderland, Chief Officers, Members and Portfolio Holders.	Meetings, briefings, letters and memos, drop in sessions, workshops, exhibitions, sunderland.gov.uk	Via Contact Officer by 20 January 2010 - Environment and Attractive Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet report, Seafront Regeneration Strategy and Marine Walk Masterplan	Dave Giblin	5611540
01090	Approve submission document & sustainability appraisal for development in the Hetton Downs area to form part of the Council's LDF.	Cabinet	10/Mar/2010	Local residents, stakeholders, service providers, community reference group, Members	Meetings, briefings, letters, email, public exhibition, sunderland.gov .uk	Via contact officer by the 19 February 2010 - Environment and Attractive City Scrutiny Committee	Report on preferred option consultation responses, submission document for Hetton Downs Area Action Plan, formal sustainability report.	Dave Gilblin	5531564