

COALFIELD AREA COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 21st September, 2011 at 6.00 pm

VENUE – Dubmire Primary School, Britannia Terrace, Fence Houses, Houghton-Le-Spring, DH4 6HL

AGENDA

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	-

* Denotes an item relating to an executive function

**E. WAUGH,
Head of Law and Governance**

**Civic Centre
SUNDERLAND**

13th September, 2011

**Contact: Matthew Jackson, Governance Services Officer Tel: 561 1055
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**This information can be made available on request in other languages.
If you require this, please telephone 0191 561 1055.**

At a meeting of the COALFIELD AREA COMMITTEE held at EASINGTON LANE COMMUNITY ACCESS POINT on WEDNESDAY, 13th JULY, 2011 at 6.00 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor D. Richardson in the Chair

Councillors Anderson, Blackburn, Ellis, Hall, Heron, Scott, D. Smith, Speding, Tate and Wakefield

Also in Attendance:-

A Allen		
Ron Barrass	Member of the Public	
Susan Brown	Area Community Co-ordinator	Sunderland Council
Allan Caddick	Head of Strategic Housing	Sunderland Council
Colin Curtis	Assistant Head of Street Scene	Sunderland Council
Cllr Juliana Heron	Member	Hetton Town Council
Pauline Hopper	Area Officer	Sunderland Council
Matthew Jackson	Governance Services Officer	Sunderland Council
Lisa Ketley	Empty Property Officer	Sunderland Council
Amelia Laverick	Member of the Public	
Vicki Medhurst	Cultural Heritage Manager	Sunderland Council
Malcolm Page	Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services and Area Lead Executive	Sunderland Council
Julie Parker	Public Health Practitioner	Sunderland TPCT
Ian Richardson	Assistant Head of Street Scene	Sunderland Council
Gerry Roll	Parks Manager	Sunderland Council
Beverley Scanlon	BSF Project Director	Sunderland Council
Alex Smith	Project Co-ordinator	North of England Civic Trust
Liz St. Louis	Head of Customer Services	Sunderland Council
James Third	Community Relation Officer	Nexus
Pauline Tsentas	Youth Development Group Manager	Sunderland Council
Lee Wardle	VCS Representative	

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Rolph and Inspector Finlay.

Declarations of Interest

Item 02e – Strategic Initiatives Budget and Community Chest – Financial Update and proposals for further allocation of resources

Councillors Hall, Heron, D. Richardson and Speding declared personal and prejudicial interests as Council Appointed Members of the Houghton Feast Steering Committee.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 1st June, 2011

Councillor Anderson stated that the reason for her apologies being submitted to the last meeting was that she had been unable to get to the meeting as she did not have a car and it would have taken three buses for her to get there. She asked that in future Members who are travelling by public transport be considered when setting the venues for the meetings. She asked that her reason for being unable to attend be recorded.

Councillor Blackburn stated that on page 6 he had actually stated that the managers on buses 'were there to be approached' rather than the recorded 'were rarely approached'

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 1st June, 2011 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record subject to the inclusion of the above amendments.

Community Action in Coalfield – Progress Review

Heritage

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which informed Members of the progress that had been made on the committee's heritage priority.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Vicki Medhurst, Cultural Heritage Manager, and Alex Smith, Project co-ordinator, presented the update and advised the Committee that this work had commenced last year and the final report had been circulated to Members in May. There were other Area Committees were also progressing heritage as a priority and a meeting on this matter had been arranged for the Area Chairs. The Committees would be able to achieve more if there was a more joined up approach taken.

There were proposals for learning resources provided to schools through a call for projects should Members agree. There would also be Collections Management training so that local groups and interested parties would know how best to handle

and store historic artefacts. This was also to be funded through a call for projects should Members agree.

Councillor Anderson referred to the work which had taken place in Hetton, there had been work done with the local schools for the 60th anniversary of the Eppleton Pit Disaster and there had been exhibitions held which had been excellent. At these exhibitions the children had been able to see the pit banners and had been able to feel a part of their local area's history. All of the schools had taken part in a memorial service. She thanked everyone who had been involved in the organisation of these events.

Ms Medhurst stated that the Community Heritage Worker would allow for more events like this to take place as it would help groups to work together.

Councillor Ellis commented that she was a member of the task and result group and that there was a wealth of heritage in the area; the celebration of the heritage brought the community together and helped to educate the next generation on the history of their area.

Councillor J. Heron stated that it was good to see so many people attend the events. It was hoped that a permanent miner's memorial would be erected in Hetton to commemorate all miners, not just those who had lost their lives in pit disasters.

Councillor Heron advised that the NUM used to organise memorial services however following the demise of the quarries the services had not been held as regularly. This heritage meeting had seen attendance from organisations from all across the area.

Councillor Anderson then commented that it had been excellent to see such a good turn out at the heritage meetings; there had been representatives from many different groups and from all of the local schools. There were fundraising events which had taken place to provide funding to rebuild Hetton Band Hall at Beamish museum. The historic crafts such as mat making had been fascinating to see. She had also joined the miners march in Durham and it had been fantastic to see the revival of community spirit this march had created.

Councillor Scott, in relation to Herrington Banner Partnership, advised that they were the first group to get their banner renewed and they had taken the banner into schools before setting up a permanent base in the YMCA. It was expensive to keep the banners travelling throughout the area and it was difficult to get the funding.

2. RESOLVED that:-

- a. The report be noted
- b. A Heritage Community Development Worker be appointed for 12 months via the SWITCH project.
- c. A maximum budget of £10,000 be made available for the Development Worker's on-costs and expenses.

- d. A call for projects with a £5,000 budget to produce learning materials and resources for schools be developed.
- e. A call for projects with a £5,000 budget to deliver collections management training be developed.
- f. A village atlas project with a budget of £7,000 be developed.
- g. Heritage trails and associated literature be further explored with the Wellness Team.
- h. The remaining budget be utilised by the Development Worker (via the Task and Result group) to progress further recommendations in the NECT report.

Youth Disorder/Activities for Young People

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which updated Members of the progress that had been made on the Youth Disorder and Activities for Young People priority and provided an update from the task and result group.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Pauline Hopper, Area Officer, presented the report and introduced Pauline Tsentas, Youth Development Group Manager, who was available to answer any questions.

Ms Hopper advised that £30,000 had been provided by Children's Services for the provision of positive activities including school holiday provision. £3,000 of this had already been allocated to holiday provision so far. The Task and Result group had created a timetable of activities for the summer.

The Committee was asked to consider the extension of the Ear 4 U project, this would cost approximately £7,600 to continue at the current level for 6 months or approximately £14,500 to increase the number of people the project could reach.

In the areas where interventions had taken place there had been a reduction in antisocial behaviour of 19 percent.

Beverley Scanlon advised the Committee that Keith Moore, Executive Director of Children's Services, was intending to attend the next meeting.

Councillor Speding stated that Sunderland North Community Business Centre (SNCBC) currently had a contract to provide youth provision in the Coalfield Area. He felt that a representative from SNCBC should attend the Committee and provide a report on what provision was being delivered across the area. He also expressed concerns that a group based in the North Sunderland Area was receiving the funding, it would be better if the funding could stay within the Coalfield Area.

Councillor Anderson stated that in Hetton there was a problem with young people hanging around in the bus station on the evenings.

Ms Tsentas advised that SNCBC's contract was to deliver three sessions per ward per week and it was planned that during the holidays there would be an extra session in each ward every week. She agreed to provide Members with a programme of activities.

Councillor Tate commented that the wards within the area were quite large geographically and while there was youth provision within each ward it was possible that areas within the ward could be neglected. He stated that Easington Lane had a lot of provision while Hetton did not get as much.

Ms Tsentas advised that there were activities held at the Hetton Centre and there were the XL Youth Villages which moved around the area.

Councillor Anderson then asked what activities were taking place in Hetton and Councillor Tate asked how many people attended the activities.

Ms Tsentas advised that there was information collected at every session which showed how many people had attended and also where they were from, Members should be receiving this information and she agreed to provide the information to the Members.

Councillor Speding then stated that it was important to ensure that there was no duplication in the provision of activities; if the XL Youth Village was at Herrington Country Park then there should not be other activities taking place in the vicinity at the same time.

Lee Wardle stated that when the XL Youth Villages were operating other organisations lost out. It was important to remember that it would take special activities to attract young people on a Friday night.

Ms Tsentas advised that it was a responsive project and there would be the XL Youth Village operating on the Racecourse Estate. There were proposals being looked at for the provision of activities in the Penshaw area.

3. RESOLVED that:-

- a. The report of the task and result group be noted
- b. £10,000 of the Children's Services budget be used to increase the Responsive Youth Provision (RYP) project
- c. A programme of summer holiday provision for 11-19 and under 11 year olds be developed by SNCBC
- d. £30,000 SIB be allocated to youth provision to ensure junior provision is available
- e. A call for projects process be implemented for 'junior youth provision'
- f. Funding for the Ear 4 U project be continued for a further 6 months at a cost of £7,700
- g. The Executive Director of Children's Services be invited to attend the September 2011 meeting to provide an update on the future provision/ restructure of the service and what this means for area working
- h. Consideration be given to merging the Youth priority and the Play priority to form 'Activities for Young People'

Allotments and Community Gardens

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with an update on the progress made on the Allotments and Community Gardens project and provided an update from the task and result group.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Pauline Hopper, Area Officer, presented the report and introduced Gerry Roll, Parks Manager, and Colin Curtis, Assistant Head of Street Scene, who were available to answer any questions. Ms Hopper advised that the task and result group had met since the last meeting of the Committee and they had agreed that there was a need for some funding to be made available to cover the costs of starting the works and it would be useful to arrange for workers from the SWITCH team to be brought in to assist the project. The group would be meeting again in early August and would report back to the September meeting. There needed to be a site visit to the allotments at Britannia Terrace in order to see what issues there were.

Susan Brown, Area Community Co-ordinator, distributed some photographs showing the results of a previous project and advised that the young people had taken part in a lot of activities and these activities linked in to all of the priorities, not just the Allotments priority. There was a lot of feedback from residents regarding empty allotments; people on the waiting list wanted to be able to take on the vacant allotments. Larger plots could become unmanageable and because of this there had been a lot of people had asked if they were able to move to smaller plots.

The Chairman commented that before and after pictures documenting the works undertaken were important.

Councillor Anderson stated that there was a lot of demand for allotments and referred to the popular Community Allotment in Peat Carr.

Councillor J. Heron advised that there was a Community Allotment at the Easington Lane Community Access Point and Gillas Lane Primary School had its own allotment. There were a lot of volunteers who were willing to give their time to help maintain these allotments.

Councillor Heron advised that it took a lot of money to tidy up the derelict allotments.

Councillor Scott stated that the two sites had been chosen as Burnside was a good site which needed only minor work while Britannia Terrace was a very poor site and would need a larger programme of works. The poor condition allotments were difficult to let as people did not want to take on sites which needed a lot of work. The allotments needed to be let to people who were going to use them however they needed to be tidied up first.

Councillor Anderson queried whether the Britannia Terrace allotments were council owned and having been advised that they were then stated that Ethel Wilson, Allotments Officer, had forced people to tidy up council owned allotments in the past.

The Chairman advised that it could be difficult to force people to tidy allotments as there were procedures which needed to be followed.

Mr Roll advised that there were now three Allotments Officers and the Coalfield Area had an Allotments Officer dedicated solely to the area. There was a survey of the allotments within the Coalfield and the possibility of offering unkempt allotments to people on the waiting list or to community groups was being looked into. Fencing, footpaths, water supplies and other facilities needed to be improved and new fencing was being priced. At Burnside the costs were expected to be around £30,000. Some new fencing had been installed at Burnside as the original fencing was in a dangerous condition.

Councillor Speding stated that it was important to look at the difference between allotments and gardens; a lot of areas were leased as gardens. He suggested that allotments and gardens be consolidated. He also advised that the rents on allotments kept on going up but there was no investment in facilities on the sites.

Ms Brown advised that there were a number of small organisations who were doing good work; an example of this was Penshaw C.A. who had a community garden and had received SIB funding to enable the installation of benches and other features.

Councillor Scott commented that in general, allotments across the Coalfield were in an appalling condition; there was a need to get the sites cleaned up and then let out to people who wanted allotments.

4. RESOLVED that:-

- a. The report of the task and result group be noted
- b. The £5,665 approved at the March 2011 meeting be used for improvements at the Burnside allotment site
- c. A comprehensive audit of the Britannia Terrace site take place before any programme of work be planned
- d. £30,000 be allocated to the improvement of allotment sites throughout the Coalfield area.

Empty and Problematic Properties

The Chief Executive submitted a report (Copy circulated) which informed Members of the progress which had been made on the empty and problematic properties priority.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Alan Caddick, Head of Strategic Housing, presented the report and advised that within Sunderland there were 2,255 empty properties and within the Coalfield Area there were 379 properties which had been empty for over 6 months. In the last year the target for properties brought back into use had been exceeded however there was still the desire to perform even better.

There were benefits for the Council if empty properties were brought back into use as it would result in Council Tax being paid on the property and there was the New Homes Bonus which would see the Council receiving further funding should the property meet the criteria. An empty property was a wasted property.

He asked that Members provide feedback on the action plan; this would then be used when developing the final plan which would be presented to Cabinet for approval in September 2011.

Councillor D. Smith queried how many Empty Dwelling Management Orders had been issued. Mr Caddick advised that there was a briefing note which he would provide to Ms Hopper for circulation to Members. He also advised that properties needed to be empty for at least 2 years and also attract vandalism for it to be possible to issue an Empty Dwelling Management Order (EDMO). There had only been approximately 20 of these orders used across the whole country.

Councillor Hall stated that this was a huge project and expressed concerns that there was a concentration on Copt Hill and Hetton wards; there was an issue in Shiney Row with there being a number of empty properties within a couple of streets which had a negative impact on the area. In Herrington there was a property which had been boarded up for years.

Mr Caddick advised that the priority was reducing the number of empty properties in Wards which were above the city average; the other areas would not be forgotten though. There was a need to look into preventing houses from becoming empty. It was possible that some long term empty houses would be well looked after and there was a need to find the owners of empty properties and find out why the property was empty.

Councillor Hall then suggested that regular feedback would be useful, especially for the properties Members had raised as issues. Mr Caddick advised that there was a plan of the whole city which showed all of the empty properties and also showed which properties had been empty for over 2 years and identified Gentoo and former Gentoo properties.

Councillor Scott queried how many of the empty properties are in a condition where they could be let out immediately. Mr Caddick advised that approximately 80 percent of the empty properties were in good condition. Councillor Scott then stated that orders should be put onto properties requiring them to be brought back into use or should be compulsorily purchased. Mr Caddick stated that empty properties were not desirable and Members should provide him with details so that he could investigate them.

Councillor Anderson stated that it was pleasing to see that this subject was receiving so much attention. It was unbelievable that there were so many properties which had been empty for so long. Housing was a big problem; there was a lack of decent, affordable housing. She queried how the council could track owners down and what powers could be used to acquire these properties. In the past powers had been used to gain possession of houses owned by the National Coal Board (NCB) in order to modernise them.

Mr Caddick advised that the briefing note would contain details of the powers the Council had. The government was changing the way housing was allocated and also the Council's responsibility for homeless people. Currently homeless people needed to be asked if they would consider private rentals in addition to social rentals; there would be a change which would see the privately rented housing being treated the same as social housing and as such there would be an increase in the number of houses available to be offered to people and an increase in the usage of properties. The Council wanted to be able to refer people to high quality housing.

Lisa Ketley, Empty Properties Officer, advised that it was not always easy to find property owners; the council tax and land registry lists were used however the land registry was not always up to date.

Councillor J. Heron stated that the Hetton Downs area had been blighted by empty properties however the empty properties were preferable to some of the private landlords who let the properties to nightmare tenants who cause a lot of problems for their neighbours. Some private landlords did not care what their tenants were like or what problems they caused for neighbours as long as the rent was paid. The NCB houses used to be desirable until the coal board sold them off in blocks of 6 to the private landlords.

Councillor Heron stated that 20 years ago there had been a problem with empty council houses; over the last 10 years these empty houses had been demolished however despite 300 of these houses being demolished there were still 260 empty properties in the area and 300 people on the list for Gentoo houses. There had been demolitions going on for the last 10 years and there were still no plans for development.

Councillor Blackburn suggested that the Ward Bulletin service could be used for listing empty properties; this would enable Members to see what progress was being made on tackling properties they had reported. Properties which were at risk of becoming empty were a concern as there was a need to work to prevent these properties from becoming empty. 'Ghost Streets' caused by long stretches of empty properties were also a major concern; in Easington Lane there were terraces along the main road which were completely empty.

Mr Caddick advised that methods of communicating more effectively were being examined. Private landlords were an issue across the city and there had been studies into the regulation of private landlords; the government wanted to see the introduction of minimum standards for private rented accommodation. There was a need to look at how the Council's powers could be used to tackle landlords in

problem areas. He suggested that someone could attend the next meeting to advise the committee of the work involved in the action plan.

Councillor Heron stated that he did not think that the authority had the powers to be able to deal with the problem.

Councillor Speding commented that this was one of the biggest problems the Council faced and that in the area there was a lot of housing which had been constructed to provide housing for people working in the industries. In Shiney Row there was a property which had been empty for 18 years, it had been bought by an investor and left empty and had cost the area a lot. In Stanley Street there had been some of the worst condition housing in Sunderland and it was now empty land. One empty property on a street was enough to kill the street and the cost of taking the landlord to court would be less than the loss to the street should no action be taken. There was a chain reaction as people were forced out of their neighbourhoods by private landlords which then resulted in more private landlords moving into the area.

The Chairman agreed that a high profile court case against a nuisance property owner could have a good effect on encouraging others to tidy up their property.

Councillor Hall stated that Councillors worked on weekends and evenings in addition to during the day and if officers were to be working at weekends then the Members would be available to be able to help them. Mr Caddick welcomed this as he wanted there to be a good relationship between Members and officers.

5. RESOLVED that:-

- a. The information on the New Homes Bonus be noted
- b. The action plan be given consideration
- c. The empty property targets be agreed
- d. Updates be provided by the lead agent through the Work Plan progress reports.

Work Plan 2011/12

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which allowed Members to consider the Committee's work plan for the year 2011/12.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Pauline Hopper, Area Officer, presented the work plan and advised that if Members had any questions they could either raise them in the meeting or alternatively contact her directly outside of the meeting.

Ms Hopper then introduced Liz St. Louis, Head of Customer Services, who would be presenting an update on the review of means of residents accessing Council information.

Ms St. Louis advised that 40 percent of the respondents had stated that they wanted more information to be available online. The work to increase the level of information available was commencing with welfare rights information being added.

It was understood that not everyone had internet access at home and as such there were plans for public access computers in libraries and customer service centres which would allow residents to access online information.

6. RESOLVED that the work plan and update from Ms St. Louis be noted.

Community Chest, Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) and Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) – Financial Statement and Proposals for Further Allocation of Resources

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which requested Members to consider proposals for the allocation of SIB and Community Chest to support initiatives which would deliver activity against priorities for 2011/12.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Pauline Hopper, Area Officer, presented the report and advised Members of the three proposals for SIB funding which were detailed in paragraph 2.1 and Annex 4 of the report and the 13 requests for Community Chest funding which were outlined at paragraph 2.2 of the report and detailed in full at Annex 5 of the report.

Councillor Hall advised that the application for Community Chest for Penshaw Community Association was for 'Penshaw Scarecrow Trail' rather than 'Penshaw School Trail' as was shown in Annex 5.

7. RESOLVED that:-

- a. The financial information set out in paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2 be noted
- b. The SIB applications totalling £65,000 be approved.
- c. The 13 proposals for Community Chest funding be approved.

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

(Signed) D. RICHARDSON,
Chairman.

21 SEPTEMBER 2011

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CITY SERVICES

ALLOTMENTS AND COMMUNITY GARDENS – PROGRESS UPDATE

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The report provides an update of progress against agreed actions in the current year's (2011/12) Work Plan

2 Background

- 2.1 Information from the Scrutiny Policy Review and allotments and parks officers was been collected and reviewed and has formed the basis of developing improvement to the allotments in the Coalfield area.

3 Progress

- 3.1 The Allotment Task and Result Group met on 9 August 2011 and discussed the following:-
- Draft Allotment Strategy 2011 – 2020 which will be presented to the Environment and Attractive City Scrutiny Committee when finalised.
 - Audit of Sites
 - Issues relating to Seaham Road Allotments
 - Attendance by a City Solicitor who gave advice on allotments and tenancy agreements.
 - Switch resources have been used to audit all sites and accurate plans have been produced
 - The audit has identified unkempt gardens, type of livestock being kept and plots where flytipping has occurred.
 - Burnside Allotments, Houghton le Spring and Britannia Terrace Allotments, Fence Houses were identified as the two sites to focus on.
 - As a result tenancies on Burnside Allotments have been terminated and plots reallocated
 - Strimming and weed treatment has taken place outside of fencelines at Burnside Allotments and fencing has been erected making five plots more secure for tenants. However further fencing is required to improve the site.
 - An SIB application has been submitted for further fencing to secure a plot which was the subject of extensive fly tipping
 - Britannia Terrace Allotments, tenancies have been terminated and will be offered once remedial works have been carried out
 - Replacing fencing on two plots at Fletcher Crescent Allotments, New Herrington, has been carried out further improvements.
 - Unkempt garden letters have been sent out for breach of the tenancy agreement.
 - Work is still progressing with issues relating to horses.
 - Hutton Street Allotments, Hetton le Hole. Derelict plots have been cleared by Parks Staff in partnership with Springboard Adventure.
 - Springboard Adventure will section off plots with materials provided by Street Scene.
 - Springboard Adventure will be allocated plots which will be used for horticultural training to NVQ standard, the remaining plots allocated to those on the waiting list.
 - In conjunction with Community Payback, strimming works have been carried out at Burnside Allotments, Houghton le Spring, South View and Henry Street, Shiney Row. Also an overgrown derelict plot has been brought back into use.

4 Next Steps

- Purchase and erection of further fencing and access gate to Burnside Allotments, Houghton le Spring, purchased with SIB funding. An 'A' frame will be installed to deter vehicle access and to allow wheelchair and buggy access.
- A meeting was held between the Parks and Allotment Development Officer and Community Co-Ordinator to set up a programme of community projects in the Coalfield Area.
- The introduction of a self help programme providing materials to improve derelict plots.
- To meet with Community Payback to agree an ongoing programme of maintenance works.
- Costings have been produced to replace fencing and install water supplies. A programme of works to be agreed and prioritised. The cost of these works is substantial and will need to be carried out over a phased period of time.
- Investigate the possibility of including community challenges at a range of locations
- The Task and Result Group will meet to review progress of the audit and report to a future meeting of the Coalfield Area Committee

Recommendations:

Members are requested to note the report.

This update of the Task and Result Group be noted.

Contact Officer: Gerry Roll, Parks Manager Tel: 0191 5613930
Email: gerry.roll@sunderland.gov.uk

21 SEPTEMBER 2011

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CITY SERVICES**PRIVATE STREETS REVIEW****1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to advise Committee on the updated estimated costs for the making up and adoption of private streets in Coalfields and to review the appropriateness of the council's existing policy

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The statutory definition of a private or unadopted street is one not maintainable at public expense. Private streets generally fall within in the boundary of a property and are the responsibility of the property owner. Most private streets therefore have multiple owners and are accessible to multiple users.
- 2.2 The term used, to describe the works required to bring a private street up to adoptable standard acceptable to the Council as Highways Authority to maintain at public expense, is 'making up'. The Council does not pay for the cost of making up of private streets (except where the Council owns property in a private street where the Council would contribute its proportion of the costs).
- 2.3 A review of the condition assessment and costs of making up private streets was previously requested by Coalfield Area Committee and recently this has been completed by the council's Highway Asset Management team.
- 2.4 In 2006/7 it was estimated that there were 260 private streets in the City and the cost of making these up to adoptable standards was estimated as £26 million.. In Coalfields area there were 113 private streets at a cost of £11.3m.

3. LATEST CONDITION ASSESSMENT OF PRIVATE STREETS

- 3.1 Since the previous assessment advances in digital mapping and data integration have allowed a more accurate assessment of the number and condition of private streets to be made. The latest condition assessment of private streets carried out in 2011/12 indicates that there are 113 private streets in Coalfields Area which would cost £13.25m to make up to adoptable standard.
- 3.2 Changes to the number and condition of private streets can be expected as some of these streets may become part of new developments which are made up by the developer and adopted by the council as Highway Authority.

4. CURRENT PROCEDURE, FUNDING AND APPROVED POLICY

- 4.1 Cabinet agreed the current policy on private streets on 17th January 2007. The policy states:

"All owners of properties in a private street should be consulted regarding any proposal to make up the street. Should all owners be willing to contribute to the costs, consideration can be given to commencing the formal process as set out in the Private Streetworks Code contained in the Highways Act 1980 ." It was noted that a significant factor regarding whether to proceed would be the availability of Council funding, the liabilities which may fall upon the Council, together with the extent of external funding.

- 4.2 A capital provision of £50,000 was made from contingencies to allow the Council to fund its potential responsibilities and liabilities as landowner in private streets and to cover costs where newly made up streets join the adopted highway.
- 4.3 Additionally Council uses its powers under S38 of the Highways Act to reach agreement with developers to secure the adoption of private streets through the planning process.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The estimated cost of making up private streets in Coalfields to adoptable standards is £13,245,200 . This includes the Council's liabilities as landowners in these streets .as well as costs of design and implementation.
- 5.2 This can be considered a conservative estimate as it does not include the cost of protecting or diverting utilities which can only be known once detailed site investigations and scheme designs have been completed.
- 5.3 Both the council's capital and revenue highway maintenance budgets have been significantly reduced as a result of recent central government cuts. The table below highlights the revised Local Transport Plan (LTP) Capital and Revenue maintenance budgets for 2010-2011 and for 2011-2012.

Year	LTP Capital	Revenue	Contingencies	Total
2010-2011	£1.98m	£2.93m	£400,000	£5.31m
2011-2012	£1.00m	£2.63m	£300,000	£3.93m

- 5.4 The council will continue to explore funding options through developer contribution and external funding agencies although both will be scarce in the current economic climate.

6. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The estimated cost of making up private streets in Coalfields Area has increased to at least £13.25m at a time when available funding has significantly decreased.
- 6.2 The current policy is recent and robust and therefore it is considered that maintaining this existing policy is the most practicable and sustainable option for the council in the current circumstances.
- 6.3 However as the overall scale of costs have increased then the potential scale of the Council's liabilities have increased also. Practical experience has also indicated that the current £50k allocation may not be sufficient to cover Council contributions to practical schemes as they arise. It is therefore intended to propose an increase in this capital allocation to £150k as part of the capital programme review for 2012/13.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 Project files – held in Streetscene office.
- 7.2 Cabinet Report - 17th January 2007.
- 7.3 Environmental and Planning Services Review Committee Report – 23rd January 2006.

8. APPENDIX

8.1 Appendix A – Number of private streets in Coalfields Area.

Unadopted Streets

Count

Count by Regeneration Area

Count of Total cost	Residential / Commercial / Other			
Regen area	Residential	Commercial	Other	Grand Total
Coalfield	107	4	2	113

Count by Ward

Count of Total cost	Residential / Commercial / Other			
Ward	Residential	Commercial	Other	Grand Total
Copt Hill	25	1		26
Hetton	38	1		39
Houghton	23			23
Shiney Row	21	2	2	25
	107	4	2	113

Summary of Adoption Costs

Costs By Regeneration Areas

Sum of Total inc design and legal	Residential / Commercial / Other			
Regen area	Residential	Commercial	Other	Grand Total
Coalfield	£11,453,700	£1,159,700	£631,800	£13,245,200

Costs by Ward

Sum of Total inc design and legal	Residential / Commercial / Other			
Ward	Residential	Commercial	Other	Grand Total
Copt Hill	£2,425,700	£413,700		£2,839,400
Hetton	£3,692,700	£81,500		£3,774,200
Houghton	£2,958,700			£2,958,700
Shiney Row	£2,376,600	£664,500	£631,800	£3,672,900
	£11,453,700	£1,159,700	£631,800	£13,245,200

21 SEPTEMBER 2011

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

COMMUNITY ACTION IN COALFIELD – PROGRESS REVIEW

Progress Report on 2011/12 Workplan: Neglected Land Priority

1 Why has it come to Committee?

- 1.1 The report provides an update of progress against the Neglected Land priority and agreed actions in the current year's (2011/12) Work Plan (**Annex 1**). The report is presented on behalf of the Task and Result group for this priority.

2 Background

- 2.1 It was identified by Area Committee, residents and partners that patches of unmanaged land (large and small) across the Coalfield area cause a problem and are visually unattractive. Land such as derelict garage and garden sites, industrial areas and unfinished developments need to be considered, along with patches of grassed and overgrown land.
- 2.2 It was agreed to add 'neglected land' to the key priorities for 2011/12 and the actions outlined in the attached Work Plan were developed as a result of meetings with Members and Partners throughout recent months. It was agreed to form a Task and Result group with Dave Ellison, Area Response Manager for the Coalfield area acting as lead agent. Membership of the group was agreed as Dave Ellison, Councillors Rolph (Chair), Wakefield, Blackburn and Speding, John Chapman from Gentoo, Susan Brown, Coalfield Community Co-ordinator and Pauline Hopper, Area Officer.

3 Progress

- 3.1 The first meeting of the Task and Result group was held on 28 July 2011. A number of sites had already been identified and a booklet produced by the lead agent with support from John Patterson, Area Response Officer. The booklet included photos and maps of areas of neglected land, by ward, and it was agreed that this would form the basis of developing a portfolio of identified sites to be built up as the project develops. It was agreed that neglected land covers a very wide range of issues and that the Head of Land and Property, Land Terriers, Planning Enforcement, Planning Policy, Empty Properties team and Asset Management team should be requested to attend future meetings when appropriate in order to fully discuss related issues. The group agreed the next step would be to compare the work to date with the work carried out as part of the greenspace audit.
- 3.2 A further meeting was held on 19 August 2011 where the group discussed, with Clive Greenwood, the greenspace audit values and issues on particular sites. It was agreed that a matrix would be developed to assess each site identified as neglected land against a set of relevant criteria.
- 3.2 The group discussed limited funding available to address some of the issues raised. The negotiation and allocation of Section 106 money needs to be explored further to ensure that the provision of funding under this planning condition meets community need. The group would like the support of Area Committee to further explore this and, via the appropriate referral mechanisms, ensure that Area Committee and members have more influence over allocations.
- 3.3 Other agreed actions were:
- A map of the Coalfield area be produced marking all areas of neglected land
 - The current list be refined, adding and removing sites where appropriate, in order to build a 'portfolio'

- Some of the areas identified as 'neglected land' fall under the category of allotments. These issues should be referred to the Allotments Task and Result group
- An information matrix to include ownership, community value, sustainability etc be developed and applied to each site
- Once the audit and maps are produced the group should consider 'prioritising' or 'ranking' issues to action

4 Next Steps

- 4.1 The lead agent will begin to refine the 'portfolio' of areas of neglected land using the information available to date. A draft document will be produced to present at the next meeting of the Task and Result group to be arranged for October 2011.
- 4.2 Currently there is no identified SIB budget for the improvement of neglected land. Committee may wish to consider allocating a nominal amount of SIB which could then be utilised to develop individual projects identified by the group once the audit is complete. If Committee are agreeable to allocating a proportion of SIB, this will be further discussed at the next meeting of the Task and Result group and recommendations/options be presented to Area Committee in November 2011

Recommendations:

- This report, presented on behalf of the Neglected Land Task and Result group be noted
- Committee agree to escalate the issue of influencing Section 106 allocations and agreements using the relevant referral protocol
- The actions identified in 3.3 above be endorsed and agreed to take forward
- Committee agree in principle to the allocation of SIB funding for improvements of neglected land

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Priority	Issue	Local Action to Influence Services	Lead Agent	Progress Report	Area Committee's Influencing Role	Outcome Measure	RAG
Heritage	A co-ordinated approach required	Local Heritage Community Development Worker	Vicki Medhurst	The appointment of a temporary (1 year) Heritage worker will be taken forward in conjunction with HR and will seek to employ a full time worker with the responsibility of delivering the Coalfield and North area Heritage Action Plans. The worker's time will be split 50/50 between the two areas. An SIB application has been developed and is presented to this meeting.	Development of heritage projects	Community Development worker in post	A
	Lack of awareness/interest	Promote heritage within the Coalfield area	T&R Group	This has already begun through the VCS Network and the Coalfield Community Challenge and will be further developed once the Community Development worker is appointed.	Raising the profile of the area	Increase in heritage related enquiries and events	G
	Lots of uncaptured local knowledge and enthusiasm	Engage community groups and residents to work together to deliver heritage activities	Susan Brown	The VCS Network and partners have been involved in a number of heritage related activities. 18 local groups currently engaged. £5,000 of the heritage budget was allocated to the Coalfield Community Challenge project. The Heritage worker will develop this further.	Engagement of VCS and residents.	No of groups engaged	G
	Budget required to deliver small scale projects/ implement relevant recommendations	Allocate a proportion of SIB funding to address the heritage priority	Area Committee	A sum of £40,000 was 'ring fenced' for the Heritage priority. Individual projects are now being taken forward. £5,000 was awarded to Community Challenge project. An application for the remaining £35,000 is presented to this meeting	Influence budgets (Council/partners/external)	Projects being delivered	G
	Increase interest/participation of young people	Develop educational and participative heritage projects	Vicki Medhurst	The Community Development Worker, once appointed, will develop the education projects utilising the budget identified in the SIB project application	Engagement of young people	No of schools or youth groups involved	A
	Public transport	Identify venues which are accessible by public transport		Events and displays are being held in accessible venues using Community Transport to support this where necessary	Priorities events and services accessible by public transport	Increased community involvement	A
Priority	Issue	Local Action to Influence Services	Lead Agent	Progress Report	Area Committee's Influencing Role	Outcome Measure	RAG

Local Shopping Centres	No comprehensive area information available	Development of baseline information for three selected centres	Andrew Perkin	A report regarding the number, type and tenure of properties will be produced. Research is underway.	Engagement of stakeholders. Improvements suggested	Report produced	R
	Improve physical appearance of shopping centres	Target responsive local services to areas most in need	Dave Ellison	Area Response team are ensuring that street scene issues are tackled and queries and issues from residents are followed up. Without the outcome of the audit of the three centres this work has been delayed	Influence targeted service provision	Increase in satisfaction levels	R
	Support local traders	Carry out an audit to further investigate the current situation in local centres	Andrew Perkin	Audit underway. A meeting of the Task and Result group will be arranged for October 2011 to propose next steps	Consultation and engagement with local traders	No of local businesses supported	R
	Lack of new shoppers	Carry out a survey with local shoppers/non shoppers	Andrew Perkin	Survey designed and due to be carried out	Consultation with residents and visitors	Increase in shoppers	R
		Research best practice	Andrew Perkin	Research complete. Results will be provided as part of the final audit results	Identify new ways of working		A
	Public transport	Promote and use community and public transport			Identify issues and influence service provision		R
Priority	Issue	Local Action to Influence Services	Lead Agent	Progress Report	Area Committee's Influencing Role	Outcome Measure	RAG
Activities for Young People	Negative perceptions of young people in some areas	celebrate positive achievements	Pauline Tsentas	To be developed with Comms and via the Task and Result group. Some positive stories have emerged from the XL youth village activities and the additional provision through the Responsive Youth Provision (RYP) pilot.	Promote success	Positive news stories	A
	Hotspots of youth disorder	Provide targeted activity in areas most at risk	Pauline Tsentas	The Responsive Youth Provision (RYP) pilot project was set up with £10,000 SIB. The project has been successful and the police have reported an improvement in behaviour in the targeted areas. The budget has now been increased by a further £10,000 and Gentoo customer panel have also contributed £3,000 to the project	Influence service delivery and budgets	Reduction in youth disorder	G
	Relevant and adequate youth activities	Work with Youth Development Group to evaluate provision	Pauline Tsentas	This is done at each meeting of the Task and Result group (now part of XL Steering group). The group will help to identify issues and highlight gaps in provision in order to develop solutions.	Identify and review activities and services	Increase in use of contracted youth provision	G

Allocation of Children's Services budget	Area Committee (via Youth Task and Result Group) to identify areas of need	Pauline Tsentas	Area Committee agreed to develop a programme of holiday activity and also to extend the RYP pilot as above	Influence mainstream budgets	Funding allocated	G	
Lack of out of school activity for 8-12 year olds	Map provision of existing services	Children's Services locality team	This has been discussed with Children's Services and will now be explored along with 13-19 provision at future Task and Result group meetings	Identification of gaps in service	Audit of local provision	R	
Development of services for 8-12s required	Work with Youth Development Group to evaluate provision and target resources	Pauline Tsentas	Area Committee agreed to provide £30,000 SIB to match the budget from Children's Services. A programme of activities will be developed for 8-12 year olds (further information in attached SIB project application)	Target mainstream and area resources		A	
No identified lead on provision for 8-12s issue	Work with Children's Services to identify lead agent	Sandra Mitchell	This will be taken forward once the Children's Services locality team is in place. Sandra Mitchell, Head of Performance Improvement and Policy will update Committee at this meeting (September)	Review current arrangements	Identified lead	R	
Holiday provision	Evaluate current provision to identify what should continue	Pauline Tsentas	A comprehensive programme of activity for the summer holidays was developed and delivered. An evaluation has been carried out and forwarded to members. A programme is required for the rest of the financial year and is summarised in the SIB application attached. Gentoo customer panel have agreed to contribute £1,878 for October holiday provision	Influencing mainstream budgets	No of holiday activities provided	A	
Play parks and play areas	Promote and utilise existing sites	Victoria French	The lead agent will provide an update to the November Area Committee and work with members to develop and agree a way forward for the next phase of play site improvements. This follows previous consultation with members regarding the prioritising and funding of play areas as part of the Play and Urban Games Strategy (PUGS)	Influence the next stage of the Play and Urban Games Strategy (PUGS) including maximising S106 funding	Number of new play areas	A	
Priority	Issue	Local Action to Influence Services	Lead Agent	Progress Report	Area Committee's Influencing Role	Outcome Measure	RAG
Allotments and gardens	Inaccurate or incomplete baseline information	Audit of all sites required	Gerry Roll	SWITCH resources being utilised to carry out an in depth audit of all sites to include occupied, vacant and derelict plots	Review and update of current information	Plan of each allotment site	A

	Derelict plots	Pilot programme on two allotment sites	Gerry Roll	Two sites selected - Burnside and Britannia Terrace		Reduction in vacant/ unkempt plots	R
	Waiting lists	Correspond with those on waiting list to confirm still interested	Ethel Wilson	All on waiting list have been contacted. Waiting lists have been revised	Review and revise current waiting lists	Reduction in waiting lists	G
	Community gardens	Develop community allotment plots within existing sites	Ethel Wilson/ Susan Brown	To be developed once audit is complete	Support development of community use	Community spaces created	R
	Budgets and funding	Identify ring fenced and mainstream budgets	Gerry Roll		Influencing mainstream budgets		R
		External funding and partnership working	Pauline Hopper/ Susan Brown	Gentoo and Groundwork are part of Task and Result group	Attracting funding to area	External funding secured	A
		Allocation of area budgets to support work	Pauline Hopper	A budget of £35,665 SIB has been 'ring fenced' for this priority. An application for £3,382 to make improvements to the Burnside site is presented to this meeting.	Targeting of resources	SIB allocated	G
	Public transport						
Priority	Issue	Local Action to Influence Services	Lead Agent	Progress Report	Area Committee's Influencing Role	Outcome Measure	RAG
Child Poverty	Development of Child and Family Poverty Strategy	Neighbourhood model of service delivery	Raj Singh	Phase 2 of the Strategy has now been developed	Consultation and involvement during development	Strategy produced	G
	Child Poverty needs assessment	Neighbourhood model of service delivery	Raj Singh	Results of pilot will be reported to Area Committee	Initiatives delivered to meet local need	Development of local services	G
Priority	Issue	Local Action to Influence Services	Lead Agent	Progress Report	Area Committee's Influencing Role	Outcome Measure	RAG
Unadopted Roads	Policy regarding unadopted roads	Information and issues provided to Lead Agent	Stephen Pickering	A significant amount of work has been carried out to determine a baseline position in regard to private streets. An extensive desktop study together with on site photography exercise to identifying all the unadopted streets in the Coalfield Area and across the city has been undertaken. An officer from City Services will attend this meeting (September) to update Committee	Requested review of current arrangements	Report to Area Committee	A

	Poor road surfaces	Carry out minor repairs as part of area or mainstream budgets	Area Committee	A number of minor improvements have been undertaken using area SIP allocations. However, this one off budget is now fully spent	Ensure planned road and building works consider ways to improve roads	No of improved road surfaces	A
Priority	Issue	Local Action to Influence Services	Lead Agent	Progress Report	Area Committee's Influencing Role	Outcome Measure	RAG
Dangerous and speeding traffic	Co-ordinated or strategic approach required	Identification of road safety issues and development of an overall plan	Les Clark	The Lead Agent will attend the September meeting to provide an update regarding the strategic approach to traffic related issues. Information on accidents and other intelligence will form part of the information gathering exercise to inform next steps	Ensure services meet local requirements	Area action plan or strategy	A
Priority	Issue	Local Action to Influence Services	Lead Agent	Progress Report	Area Committee's Influencing Role	Outcome Measure	RAG
Support for Older People	Content and quality of current services	Audit of local services provided for older people	Steph Downey/ Victoria Brown	An audit of locally provided services (including statutory and voluntary sector) is underway. Coalfield Community Co-ordinator is assisting with this via the VCS network	Highlight areas of concern to HHAS	Improved service provision	A
	Accessibility to services	Audit of where local services are delivered/accessible	S Downey	As above			A
	Mobility and 'getting around' - including public transport	Highlight areas of concern and promote accessible services	S Downey	As above			A
	Money and debt advice – mobile and outreach services	Promote on line or telephone support. Develop outreach services -	Task and Result Group	Recent research has shown that there is an increased demand for advice. Locally delivered sessions are being reviewed e.g. SHARP	Partnership working e.g. DWP	More outreach and accessible advice	A
	Promote support available – market and advertise	Local groups to promote support to their members. VCS Network can assist in this	Task and Result Group	Once the audit is drafted the group will address these issues. An update will be given at the November 2011 Area Committee meeting.	Promote services to local people		A
	Volunteers for services available e.g. allotments	Encourage and develop local communities to become volunteers	Area Network Volunteer Centre		Identify volunteering opportunities and training available	Number of volunteers engaged	A
	Social interaction (especially those in residential care)	Promote and support services such as befriending and visiting schemes	Task and Result Group				A

Priority	Issue	Local Action to Influence Services	Lead Agent	Progress Report	Area Committee's Influencing Role	Outcome Measure	RAG
Empty properties	Planned approach	Development of an area based Empty Properties Action Plan	Liz McEvoy	A draft has been prepared and was presented to Area Committee by lead agent. Alan Caddick, Head of Housing, will attend the November 2011 meeting to update committee including further information on the Hetton Downs Area Action Plan. Final version of the Empty Property Action Plan will be presented to Cabinet for approval in November 2011.	Input into development of plan	Area Plan with targets agreed	G
	Enforcement	Identify nuisance properties	Liz McEvoy	nuisance properties identified using a matrix. Issues area addressed on an ongoing basis by the Empty Properties Assistant	part of matrix includes referrals from ward members	Number of notices issued	G
	Private landlords	Agree a date and hold a landlords' forum to discuss the Empty property Action Plan.	Liz McEvoy	Intend to use the next Landlord Forum to promote the Empty Property Action Plan with a particular focus on landlords with empty properties	Encourage local landlords to participate	Number of accredited landlords	A
	Learn from best practice (e.g. square root group)		Area Committee		Encourage partnership working and community ownership		A
	Identify 1 or 2 hotspots for improvement		Liz McEvoy	Statistics have shown which wards are above the City average for empty properties and these will be targeted. Additionally, areas that are displaying a number and range of problems with regards to the private rented sector will be targeted as "hot spots" such as "The Racecourse" are. These are agreed by SMT.	Develop improvements to meet local need	Properties brought back into use	A
	HCA funding - explore further and consider match		Liz McEvoy	An application for funding has been submitted to the HCA. The outcome should be known by September 2011	To help identify empty properties which are refurbished through the project.	Funding secured/ funding allocated	A
Priority	Issue	Local Action to Influence Services	Lead Agent	Progress Report	Area Committee's Influencing Role	Outcome Measure	RAG
Neglected land	Identify neglected land	Carry out audit of relevant sites	Dave Ellison	The lead agent has begun to prepare a portfolio of identified neglected sites which will be developed with the Task and Result group. An update report is presented to this meeting (September 2011)	Development of land use to meet resident need	Audit produced	A

Industrial sites/fly tipping	Report incidents	Dave Ellison	During the audit of sites some areas of regular fly tipping have been identified and measures are being put in place e.g. barriers and boulders to block access and the installation of flash cams where	Influence enforcement powers	Reduction in fly tipping	A
Ownership (SLM large and small plots)	Provide local intelligence to lead agent and Task and Result group	Craig Logue/Ian Crosby	The lead agent has been liaising with the SLM project staff and is in the process of setting up a system with Land Registry to identify ownership on specific pieces of	Development of land use	SLM system updated	A
Investigate adverse possession of appropriate sites	Provide local intelligence to lead agent and Task and Result group	Property Services	This issue will be addressed via the Task and Result group once the audit has further developed and been prioritised for action	Advise and influence policy regarding adverse possession	Identified sites	A
Involve Property Services in addressing issues		Colin Clark	The Head of Land and Property will be consulted where appropriate and will be invited to attend the Task and Result group once the audit is further developed	Development of land use		A
Work with landowners - eg Lambton Estates		Colin Clark	The Head of Land and Property will be consulted where appropriate and will be invited to attend the Task and Result group once the audit is further developed			R
Link with other priorities - greenspace, unadopted roads, empty properties etc..	Provide local intelligence to lead agent and Task and Result group	Pauline Hopper/Dave Ellison	The Task and Result group met with Clive Greenwood to discuss areas identified to date and how this would link to the work being carried out as part of the greenspace audit. The information collected will inform next steps for use of specific sites	Consider links to other strategies and identify joint working		A
Allocation of funding relating to Section 106 Agreements	Identify local community need	Area Committee	Area Committee are asked to agree to the 'referral' of this issue to the Head of Planning and Environment.	Influence allocation	Allocation of S106 influenced by Area	R
Unfinished developments		Building Control	The lead agent is liaising with the relevant officers who will be invited to attend the Task and Result group if required	Escalate relevant planning or policy issues		A

**COALFIELD AREA COMMITTEE
21 SEPTEMBER 2011
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I**

Title of Report:

Strategic Initiative Budget (SIB) and Community Chest - Financial update and Proposals for Further Allocation of Resources

Author(s):

Chief Executive

Purpose of Report:

This report requests Area Committee to consider proposals for the allocation of the Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) and Community Chest to support initiatives that will deliver activity against priorities for 2011/12.

Description of Decision:

The Committee is requested to approve the following from the 2011/12 budget:

Annex 2:

- Approve 6 SIB proposals from the 2011/12 budget as outlined in 2.1. of Item 2d

Annex 3:

- Approve 15 Community Chest requests from the 2011/12 budget as outlined in 2.2 of Item 2d

Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework?

Yes

Suggested reason(s) for Decision:

SIB is a budget delegated to Area Committee in order to commission activity that delivers actions against the key strategic priorities identified in the Coalfield Work Plan. Its main purpose is to benefit the local community and to attract other funding into the area.

The Area Committee has a total SIB budget of £238,257 for 2011/12, which includes £1,564 returned to budget from a previously funded project.

The Community Chest forms part of SIB, of which £250,000 is available for the scheme in 2011/2012 across all wards. £10,000 is available for each ward (Copt Hill, Hetton, Houghton and Shiny Row) in addition, £2,880 was carried over from previous years, making this years total balance £42,880.

Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected:

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

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

Is it included in the Forward Plan?
No

Relevant Scrutiny Committees:

21 SEPTEMBER 2011

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Strategic Initiative Budget (SIB) and Community Chest – Financial Update and Proposals for Further Allocation of Resources

1. Why has it come to Committee

1.1 Area Committee has delegated budgets to allocate to specific strategic priorities identified in the Work Plan, with the overall aim to benefit the wider community and to attract other funding into the area. This report provides an update position on progress in relation to allocating SIB and Community Chest.

2. Funding streams 2011/2012 as at 21 September 2011

2.1 SIB – Financial Statement (projects approved to date)

	Committee Date	Main SIB Fund Approvals	Opportunities Approvals	Total 100%
	-	-	-	£238,257
Project Name	-	-	-	-
Easington Lane Lighting	01.06.2011	£3,500		£234,757
Elemore Vale Steelworks	01.06.2011	£6,000		£228,757
Sunderland Festival	01.06.2011		£3,000	£225,757
Grangewood Play Site Footpath Lighting	01.06.2011	£13,775		£211,982
Houghton Feast	13.07.2011	£5,000		£206,982
Allotment Improvements	13.07.2011	£30,000		£176,982
Activities for young people	13.07.2011	£30,000		£146,982
Ear 4 U Project	13.07.2011	£7,700		£139,282
Total allocated		£95,975	£3,000	
Balance	-	-	-	£140,009
NB: - The following has been recouped: £726.62 from The South View Phase 3 Project (included in balance above).				

Following the July 2011 Committee meeting there was a remaining balance of 139,282, due to an underspend on the South View Phase 3 project the balance available is now £140,009. Funding requests presented to this meeting and detailed in Annex 2 are as follows:

1	Houghton Crest	£3,500
2	Activities for young people	£30,000
3	Improvements to Burnside Allotments	£3,382

4	Russell Foster Football Centre, Parking Management	£4,900
5	St Matthews Lighting	£4,418
6	Delivering the Heritage Action Plan	£35,000

Projects presented total £81,200. Those which have already been deducted from the main budget and approved in principle total £68,382. Therefore the total for projects not yet deducted from the balance is £12,818. Should all of the proposals be approved the remaining balance for the 2011/2012 allocation would be £127,191.

2.2 Community Chest

The table below details balances remaining to be allocated following the last meeting in July, project proposals received as detailed in Annex 3, and balance remaining should those proposals be approved.

Ward	Available following July 2011 meeting	Project Proposals to this meeting	Balance
Copt Hill	£8,255	£1,840	£6,415
Hetton	£6,404	£1,320	£5,084
Houghton	£9,336	£1,320	£8,016
Shiney Row	£8,229	£1,600	£6,629
Total	£32,224	£6,080	£26,144

3 Recommendations

Committee is requested to:

- Note the financial information set out in sections 2.1 and 2.2
- Approve the recommendations set out in Annex 2 (SIB applications)
- Approve the proposals for support from 2011/2012 Community Chest set out in Annex 3

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Annex 2 Summary of SIB/SIP project applications

Annex 3 Community Chest proposals

Summary of SIB Funding Applications

Project 1 - Houghton Crest

Total cost of Project	Total SIB	Total match funding
£3,500	£3,500	£0
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
2 months	September 2011	October 2011

The Project

The funding will pay for the replacement of the illuminated Houghton Crest to be displayed in Houghton at the time of the Houghton Feast. The existing crest needs to be replaced, with a new illumination that is lighter in weight and uses LED bulbs which are more economic and eco friendly, in time for the 2011 feast in October. Aurora, which is the council partner in delivering the Streetlighting and Highway Sign PFI contract, have produced the design for the new lighting.

Need for the Project

The existing crest has now become a safety risk and needs to be replaced. The issue has been raised by Aurora, the contractor for lighting. Aurora have identified the risk to health and safety and have advised that the existing crest cannot be installed. The Houghton Feast steering group and local councillors have discussed the need and agreed it is important to the area. The whole community of Houghton, plus visitors to the area will benefit. The crest promotes the identity of Houghton and is a visual attraction for the Houghton feast.

Outputs of the Project

A1	Number of new or improved community facilities and equipment	1
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Key Milestones for the Project

Funding approval/Order crest	Sept 2011
Receive delivery	Sept/Oct 2011
Installation	Oct 2011
Event takes place	Oct 2011

Recommendation: Approve

The project contributes to the heritage priority of the Work Plan as it supports the promotion of an important and historic event. Residents, businesses and visitors to the area value the event and the crest plays a vital role in the identification of Houghton's historic significance.

Project 2 - Activities for Young People

Total cost of Project	Total SIB	Total match funding
£64,878	£30,000	£34,878
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
9 months	September 2011	June 2012

The Project

The project will increase the duration of the current Responsive Youth Provision (RYP) project which provides targeted youth work in areas identified as high risk with regard to youth ASB. The RYP pilot is currently delivering successful outcomes and will now continue until March 2012. Activities delivered will be in locations identified by partners including the police, youth development group, ASB team and LMAPS and activities delivered will be tailored to the specific needs of the young people identified.

A programme of holiday activity will be developed to ensure that young people aged 8-12 and 13-19 have positive activities and general youth provision during school holidays in October

and December 2011 and February, April and June 2012. The programme will be based on the results of the evaluation of summer holiday activity and delivered in all four wards.

A programme of term time activity will be developed in conjunction with existing providers and the VCS network. The activity will be available to and targeted at 8-12 year olds to compliment the commissioned youth activity currently being delivered to 13-19 year olds. The programme will be delivered in all four wards and will provide at least one 2.5 hour session per week in each ward. The aim of the project is to provide a range of choices to young people to give them positive direction and engage them in meaningful activity.

Gentoo customer panel approved a total sum of £4,878 to support the RYP project and October 2011 holiday provision. The remaining match funding is from Children's Services.

Need for the Project

The XL operational group, Area Committee, Coalfield Task and Result group, VCS network and LMAPS meetings have all identified activities for young people as a priority. The Area Committee has been working towards developing activities for 8-12 year olds over the past 12 months. Ongoing work has discussed the need to identify who is responsible for delivery, management and co-ordination of provision for this younger age group. The Task and Result group will work with the Locality Team to continue to develop this work. In addition, a range of existing service providers have been consulted and will continue to be involved during evaluation and improvement of the project.

Outputs of the Project

L1	Number of new junior clubs (8-12 year olds) established	4
L2	Number of additional children and young people engaged and participating in junior clubs	120
L3	Number of activities for children and young people being delivered during school holidays	48
L4	Number of additional children and young people participating in activities during school holidays	240

Key Milestones for the Project

October half term holiday programme	October 2011
Term time provision commences	October 2011
Christmas holiday programme	December 2011
February half term programme	February 2012
Easter holiday programme	April 2012
May/June half term programme	June 2012

Recommendation: Approve with condition that the Lead Agent works with the Task and Result group and VCS Network to identify relevant providers of activities and services for under 13s.

The project contributes to the activities for young people priority of the Work Plan and supports the aims of engaging 8-12 year olds and 13-19 year olds in positive activity. The project has been developed and supported by the XL Operational group and Coalfield Youth Task and Result group. **NOTE: Area Committee approved £30,000 SIB at the July meeting – this summary provides the detail of the project.**

Project 3 - Environmental Improvements to Burnside Allotments

Total cost of Project	Total SIB	Total match funding
£3,382	£3,382	£0
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
2months	September 2011	October 2011

The Project

The project will install 1.8m of galvanised palisade fencing to a section at the rear of the Burnside Allotments site and also install an entrance gate to the site. The fencing will secure the allotment plot to prevent further fly tipping and dumping at the site and enable the plot to be brought back into use. The provision of an entrance gate will limit vehicular access and reduce the instances of fly tipping and the associated costs of its removal.

Need for the Project

The need for this project was identified by the Allotment Task and Result group as one of the first actions to be taken on the Burnside site utilising some of the nominal budget approved by Area Committee at the March 2011 meeting. Fly tipping is a major issue and fencing this area would reduce fly tipping. The provision of an entrance gate will provide added security for the site.

Outputs of the Project

A1	Number of new or improved community facilities and equipment	1
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Key Milestones for the Project

Site visit with contractor to clarify works required	October 2011
Installation of fencing and gate	October 2011

Recommendation: Approve

The project contributes to the allotments priority of the Work Plan and supports the aim of bringing disused plots back into use. The project will also reduce opportunities for dumping of waste and make the area more visually attractive. **NOTE: Area Committee has already approved a budget of over £35,000 for allotment improvements. The costs for this project will come from the previously agreed allocation.**

Project 4 - Russell Foster Football Centre, Parking Management

Total cost of Project	Total SIB	Total match funding
£4,900	£4,900	£0
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
8 months	October 2011	May 2012

The Project

The project will provide no waiting and no loading restrictions, on both sides of the road, at the junction of Coaley Lane and Staddon Way, and to provide no waiting restrictions on both sides of Okehampton Drive for a distance of approximately 85 metres from its junction with Staddon Way excluding the parking lay-by on the south side of the road

The restrictions are intended to prevent obstructive and inconsiderate parking.

Need for the Project

The issues have been raised by residents with the local ward members and following a meeting with the Football Foundation / Ward Councillors / Council Officers this project idea has been agreed as a balanced solution to the issues caused by the users of the football fields overspill parking.

Outputs of the Project

A4	Number of events/programmes of work to improve appearance of streets	1
S3	Number programmes/activities to reduce Anti Social Behaviour (ASB)	1

Key Milestones for the Project

Funding approval	Sept 2011
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Public Consultation	Oct 2011
Delagated Decision for advertising the TRO	Dec 2011
TRO advertised	Feb 2012
TRO implemented	May 2012

Recommendation: Approve with condition that the site management at the club is monitored to ensure agreed measures are taken forward by the owners

The project contributes to the reduction of traffic issues which was a priority identified by Area Committee in 2010/11. The facility provides positive and safe activities for young people and therefore indirectly contributes to other priorities. As part of a partnership approach, the manager for the Centre has also agreed to take measures to improve the situation.

Project 5 - St Matthews lighting

Total cost of Project	Total SIB	Total match funding
£4,118	£4,118	£0
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
3 months	September 2011	November 2011

The Project

To provide lighting to St Matthews Path/Garden Terrace, Newbottle, the south end of a footpath that links Front Street and South Street. The footpath is not adopted highway but is Council owned. The north end of the path benefits from spill light from Front Street and Hartoft Close, the addition of a new lighting column at the end of Garden Close, which like the footpath is unadopted but Council owned, will enable residents and visitors using the path to feel safer. Aurora which is the council partner in delivering the Streetlighting and Highway Sign Pfi contract will provide the installation and maintenance for the new lighting.

Need for the Project

Residents and local ward members have raised safety issues. The footpath is very busy, it is used by the residents to access the shops, post office and Working Mens Club. Due to the bus routes being a one way system in this area all bus users returning to Newbottle or wishing to go to Sunderland must travel via this path. The area has a substantial amount of older residents and this is their only safe means for getting from Front Street to South Street. There are the steps at Elm Place which are too steep and Garden Street which would add a 300m detour on to the average journey. An additional problem with this footpath is that it is secluded and the extra light will be of benefit to anyone wishing to travel this path.

Outputs of the Project

A4	Number of events/programmes of work to improve appearance of streets	1
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Note: the project also contributes to the safe output of improving security

Key Milestones for the Project

Order issued to Aurora	Sept 2011
Works Commence on Site	Oct 2011
Works Completed	Oct 2011
Payment Certified	Nov 2011

Recommendation: Approve

The project contributes to the support for older people priority of the Work Plan as a large number of residents in this area fall into this category. The project is also in line with similar SIB funded lighting schemes delivered in Easington Lane and Grangewood at Shiney Row, which have created a safer walking route for residents.

Project 6 - Delivering the Heritage Action Plan

Total cost of Project	Total SIB	Total match funding
£35,000	£35,000	£0

Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
14 months	September 2011	November 2012

The Project

The key element of this project is the appointment of a Community Heritage Development Worker to deliver the previously agreed Coalfield Heritage Action Plan. A full time worker will be jointly funded between the North and Coalfield Area Committees, working 50% of the time at the Hetton Centre, and whose main role would be to ensure co-ordination, promotion and development of cultural heritage projects, to co-ordinate, develop and submit funding applications, to co-ordinate a programme of heritage based events and to actively engage with groups, organisations and individuals.

The funding will also allow for further projects identified as part of the work plan specific to the Coalfields to be taken forward. These included developing further learning materials and resources for schools, delivering collections management training to local groups in order to preserve individual collections and piloting a 'village atlas' using Old Penshaw or Hetton as the subject area (this could then be developed into an ongoing programme, producing documents for each of the 'villages' in the Coalfield area (depending on the success of the pilot and funding available).

The role of the Community Heritage Development worker will be to work closely with the voluntary and community sector in order to raise awareness and further promote heritage within the Coalfields. The project will involve developing learning materials and resources for young people, arranging training for voluntary and community groups in order for them to protect their collections for the long term future and to deliver a range of events and activities in the area by working with the voluntary and community sector.

The project will be working to allow the voluntary and community sector to become independent in promoting and protecting their collections, as well as providing further resources for schools. The post will also involve assisting in delivering exhibitions and events within both the Coalfields and North areas of the City.

The postholder will be managed through Culture and Tourism (City Services) and work closely with the Coalfield Community Co-ordinator and VCS Network, but will also report on a regular basis to the Task and Result group as well as reporting to the area committees on progress. The postholder will also be responsible for taking forward and leading on the other projects identified as high priority within the work plan which include developing learning and education resources, collections management training and support and development of pilot village atlas within an identified area of the Coalfields. The role would also include applying for additional funding to deliver heritage based activity in the area.

Need for the Project

The project has originated from the priorities identified and agreed via Area Committee and subsequently from the study that was carried out and produced regarding the Heritage Offer in the Coalfields, which included consultation with Members, Officers, Partners, Voluntary and Community Groups and individuals. The work plan which was produced as part of the project was agreed at the last area committee and agreed that the main priority of a Heritage based worker be taken forward.

Outputs of the Project

A3	Number of community/voluntary groups supported	3
A6	Number of community or educational events held	2

Key Milestones for the Project

Recruitment and Selection of Community Heritage Development Worker	Oct/Nov 2011
Post Holder Commences	Dec 2011

Working towards delivery of priorities as identified within Coalfield Area Heritage Plan	Dec 2011 – Nov 2012
Education and Learning Resources Project Delivered	July 2012
Collections Management Training and Resources Delivered	Nov 2012
Village Atlas Pilot Project Delivered	Nov 2012

NOTE: Area Committee previously approved a budget of £40,000 for heritage, £5,000 of which has been allocated to the ‘Coalfield Community Challenge’ project. The costs of this project will be taken from the remaining balance.

Recommendation: Approve subject to revising the outputs stated

The project is key to delivering the Heritage priority for the Coalfield area and complements work already being undertaken by the Community Co-ordinator and VCS Network members. The outputs appear to be low and will be reviewed with the lead agent before an offer letter is finalised.

COMMUNITY CHEST 2011/2012 COALFIELD AREA - PROJECTS PROPOSED FOR APPROVAL

Ward	Project	Amount	Allocation 2011/2012	Project Proposals	Previous Approvals	Balance Remaining
Copt Hill	Houghton Racecourse Community Association - refurbishment of water damaged maple woodstrip timber flooring in the multi purpose hall.	£1,000				
	Princess Gardens Community Hall - to pay for Christmas party lunch for 32 people.	£500				
	Parade Steering Group - contribution towards the catering, transport, band fees and organisational costs for the Sunderland Remembrance Day Parade 2011.	£100				
	Remembrance Day SCC - contribution towards the management support costs for the Sunderland Remembrance Day Parade 2011, at Easington Lane, High Street, Hetton.	£240				
	Totals	£1,840	£10,900	£1,840	£2,645	£6,415
Hetton	East Rainton Football Club - contribution towards the running costs for the football club.	£500				
	Nidderdale Community Centre - to pay for a Christmas party for the elderly residents in the community centre.	£300				
	Parade Steering Group - contribution towards the catering, transport, band fees and organisational costs for the Sunderland Remembrance Day Parade 2011.	£100				
	Remembrance Day SCC - contribution towards the management support costs for the Sunderland Remembrance Day Parade 2011, at Easington Lane, High Street, Hetton.	£420				
	Totals	£1,320	£10,305	£1,320	£3,901	£5,084
Houghton	Parade Steering Group - contribution towards the catering, transport, band fees and organisational costs for the Sunderland Remembrance Day Parade 2011.	£100				
	Remembrance Day SCC - contribution towards the traffic management support costs for the Sunderland Remembrance Day Parade 2011 at the Broadway and the Fence Houses, Chilton Moor, Houghton.	£720				
	Sunnyburn Residents Association - contribution towards the costs of a trip to the pantomime.	£500				
	Totals	£1,320	£10,731	£1,320	£1,395	£8,016

Shiney Row	Penshaw Homing Society - to purchase new pigeon carrying baskets.	£500				
	Parade Steering Group - contribution towards the catering, transport, band fees and organisational costs for the Sunderland Remembrance Day Parade 2011.	£100				
	Remembrance Day SCC - contribution towards the PA system and the Salvation Army Band for the Sunderland Remembrance Day Parade 2011, Shiney Row.	£500				
	Lambton Lyons Junior Football Club - contribution towards the administration and running costs for the football club.	£500				
	Total	£1,600	£10,944	£1,600	£2,715	£6,629
TOTALS		£6,080	£42,880	£6,080	£10,656	£26,144