

At a meeting of the SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE on TUESDAY, 19th JANUARY, 2010 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Errington in the Chair

Councillors M. Dixon, Ellis, Foster, Rolph, J. Scott, L. Walton, Wares and A. Wilson

Also Present:-

Councillor Tate – Chairman of the Management Scrutiny Committee

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Chamberlin and S. Watson.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on 15th December, 2009

- i) Minutes of the meeting held on 17th November, 2009

Councillor Rolph corrected the minutes by reporting that, she had commented on the need for "first aiders especially at junior matches and the possibility of officials helping to provide it" and not "the possibility of incorporating juniors to help provide it" as stated in the minutes.

- ii) Apologies for Absence

Councillor Foster stated that a blanket apology had been submitted for this period and his apologies had not been recorded for the December meeting.

- iii) Access to Housing Policy Review 2009/10 Progress Report

- a) Councillor Rolph drew attention to the following typographical errors:-

Page 2 "Homeless Team" – corrected to "Homelessness Team";
Page 3 "Local Services Strategy" corrected to "Local Studies Strategy".

- b) Councillor Rolph queried the meaning of the following phrase detailed on page 2: "The Council are keen to ensure they look at the whole trajectory of housing schemes available....." This was corrected to "the whole range" of housing schemes available....."

Consideration having been given to the points raised above it was:-

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on 15th December, 2009 be confirmed and signed as a correct record subject to the above amendments.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

Access to Housing Policy Review 2009/10 Progress Report

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) providing the Committee with progress on its policy review around access to housing in Sunderland and also an opportunity for Members to discuss the theme of sub-regional Choice Based Lettings with the Tyne and Wear Housing Partnership and Shelter.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Mr. Nigel Cummings, Scrutiny Officer, introduced the report. He advised that Stephen Rudge from Coventry City Council would be visiting Sunderland on Thursday, 28th January and a programme for the visit would be circulated to Members in order to ensure the Committee and the Council get the maximum benefit from this.

The Committee agreed that the invitation to attend and the programme be circulated to all Members of the Council.

The Chairman invited Mr. Barry Lowther from the Tyne and Wear Housing Partnership to address the Committee.

Mr. Lowther proceeded to provide a presentation to Members on sub-regional Choice Based Lettings (CBL). The presentation looked at the development and benefits of a sub-regional CBL scheme as well as the progress so far, options and next steps in the process. Mr. Lowther advised that Option 4 which meant one application process, one housing register, one selection process but allowing for retention of local priorities except where good practice and existing similarities have been identified and one web site, was the preferred option for a sub-regional CBL scheme. He stated that one of the advantages would be that the customer would find it easier to understand and they would be clear as to where they were on the list of bid opportunities.

Councillor A. Wilson queried whether people would find it acceptable for someone outside of Sunderland to get a certain property when there were Sunderland residents registered and waiting.

Mr. Lowther explained the idea behind pooling resources was to increase opportunities and make properties from different registered Social Landlords available to all areas. However, properties could be restricted to people of a certain area if this was what was wanted by specifying this on the advert. Mr. Lowther advised that some discussions had taken place with private landlords about joining the scheme, however, he assured Members that only those with accredited properties would be encouraged to participate.

In response to Councillor M. Dixon, Mr. Lowther advised that research showed a 10% migration of people and that the majority only moved within a few miles. The risk areas were those where people lived on the boundary to another Authority.

Councillor Rolph welcomed the sub-regional CBL especially if it was to be a needs based system. She commented that wherever the boundaries were drawn there would be problems. She pointed out that most of the City's migration would be to Durham which was not included in the scheme. Councillor Rolph pointed out that Sunderland did not have any local authority housing, only Registered Social Landlords. She enquired whether private landlords would feel part of the scheme as they would be on a level playing field as regards tenants.

Mr. Lowther stated that people did move across local authority boundaries and that he appreciated Durham was very much on the border. However, a similar situation existed with Northumberland and North Tyneside and one of the things they had looked at was the procurement exercise. Northumberland and Durham used the same ICT and they were looking at bringing together a mutual exchange scheme. There were no plans to definitely work with those two areas but there was potential. For the moment work was being concentrated on the Tyne and Wear region. Gentoo Sunderland was very much the main provider of housing in Sunderland and it wanted to develop and join in the scheme; a memorandum of understanding had been drawn up. The smaller RSLs had not committed yet and were keen to see how things developed. Talks had not taken place with the Private Landlords Association as yet but they were looking to give the organisation the information and see how it would like to see the scheme operated and bring them on board. The Private Landlords Association would use the same application and the process could result in getting better tenants. Mr. Lowther confirmed that Gentoo was a member of the Steering Group and had supported the bid and was currently working with them. Although it was not strictly a local authority, Gentoo was party to the mutual exchange scheme.

In response to Councillor Foster's enquiry regarding managed moves, Mr. Lowther advised that under Option 4, although the authorities would adopt a common assessment process, they could still operate their own housing policy.

Councillor A. Wilson enquired about the meeting planned on the policy review timeline for November/December 2009 to meet with tenants and people on the waiting list.

Mr. Cummings advised that this had not taken place yet, however, arrangements would be made and Members provided with the details.

Ms. Tracy Guy, Service Manager, North East and Ms. Nina Cara-Collins, Regional Children's Co-ordinator (North East/Yorkshire) of Shelter were in attendance at the meeting. They proceeded to provide Members with a comprehensive presentation providing an overview of the work Shelter does across the region, the national research undertaken and in particular that done on CBL and allocations, together with key issues to consider in allocations systems.

Ms. Cara-Collins highlighted Shelter's response – Fair and Flexible to the Government consultation detailed in the presentation slides. She mentioned that there was a myth that asylum seekers were allocated all available housing and in a recent poll 54% of respondents were of this view, whereas in fact 98% was given to local residents.

Ms. Cara-Collins referred Members to the housing waiting lists included in the presentation, pointing out that Sunderland had the shortest waiting list in that it would take 1.17 years to clear.

Finally, Ms. Cara-Collins referred Members to the recommendations forwarded by Shelter in relation to CBL including:-

- to adopt a system which ensures that social housing goes to those in greatest need;
- clear guidance and flexibility on exclusions policies – no blanket policies.

Councillor M. Dixon enquired whether the Government's decision for housing benefit to be paid directly to claimants had caused any issues that have concerned Shelter.

Ms. Cara-Collins advised that research had shown that there was a reluctance to get housing benefit paid direct to landlords instead and this caused vulnerable tenants real problems as they wanted the money to be paid direct to their landlord. Ms. Cara-Collins agreed to forward the links to the research carried out in relation to housing benefits to Mr. Cummings to circulate to Members of the Committee.

Councillor Dixon commented that the message was not getting through that only a small percentage of asylum seekers were taking housing. He suggested that more community involvement in developing policies and participation of the wider community would enable a better understanding of allocations policies.

Councillor Rolph welcomed the comments in relation to the fair and flexible consultation and commented that the recommendations were very sensible and Elected Members experience was that the same issues were emerging.

Councillor Rolph referred to the notional length of time to clear the housing list and noted that Sunderland's was the shortest. She asked the question whether if housing was being pooled into one scheme was it likely that Sunderland's waiting list would increase in length and therefore time to clear and what protection would there be to prevent this. Councillor Rolph referred to the 4-5% of Shelter's clients who came from Sunderland and to the postcodes quoted in the presentation where residents in Sunderland were coming from. She asked whether Ms. Cara-Collins and Ms. Guy were aware that the Sunderland area also included DH postcodes. Councillor Rolph enquired whether any clients were presenting with domestic violence problems.

Ms. Guy advised that with regards to domestic violence this was not presenting as a main issue as to why people contacted Shelter. There were people from other areas of Sunderland who contacted Shelter and they were aware of the different postcodes within the Sunderland area, however, the postcodes quoted were those of the majority referrals. With a sub-regional CBL, the numbers of people waiting for housing should plateau out. Newcastle had a lot of temporary accommodation, for example, which people could migrate to. The waiting times in Sunderland could increase slightly but a protection policy would eliminate some of these problems.

The Chairman asked whether Shelter representatives worked in Children's Centres.

Ms. Cara-Collins advised that they were planning to make contact with every Surestart Centre and promote the advice line and a meeting would be arranged with the local authority to ensure the staff at the centres were aware of the service. Ms. Cara-Collins added that Shelter was hoping to set up an office in Sunderland in the autumn depending on the contract.

The Chairman thanked Ms. Cara-Collins and Ms. Guy for their attendance and presentation to the meeting and it was:-

2. RESOLVED that the information provided be received and noted.

Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) Reports and Performance Update (April-September)

The Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive, Executive Director City Services and Executive Director Health, Housing and Adult Services submitted a joint report (copy circulated) providing the 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.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Gillian Robinson, Corporate Performance Monitoring Manager proceeded to brief Members on the report. She stated that performance against priorities had been reported to the Scrutiny Committee throughout 2009 as part of the quarterly performance monitoring arrangements. Ms. Robinson advised that Area Assessments may award green or red flags. Red flags highlight those areas where there were significant concerns by the inspectorate 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 can learn. Ms. Robinson reported that no red or green flags had been identified for Sunderland.

Ms. Robinson pointed out that in relation to Sustainable Communities two issues had been identified in the first year of the CAA area assessment as having potential to become red flags – net additional homes and affordable homes. Recession was a major risk to pace of delivery of plans to deliver new homes. Large numbers were required to meet demand. The AC had recognised that the Council and partners had begun to address this and that plans have been developed through funding from the investment scheme. In terms of performance the Local Area Agreement target had been exceeded for this year in relation to net additional homes, 185 were provided by the end of September, the target being 90. In relation to affordable homes 230 were built in 2008/09 improving on previous years and also comparing favourably with benchmarks. The level for best performing partnerships was 222 homes.

Ms. Robinson referred Members to the range of improvement activity in place detailed in Section 5.2.5 of the report. Ms. Robinson added that the Risk Assessment Matrix would be the primary tool against which Sunderland Partnership will be assessed by the CAA lead and would incorporate those issues identified as having the most potential to become red flags and green flags. She added that progress would be monitored through the Council and the Sunderland Partnership's performance management and reporting arrangements.

Councillor M. Dixon referred to paragraph 4.3 of the report which stated that 'the 2008 Place Survey identified a lack of cohesion across different communities' and he asked why this was the case.

Ms. Sal Buckler, Diversity and Inclusion Manager advised that this was not yet linking into the wider work that was being carried out across the City. Meetings would be taking place with teachers and education officers to increase the work going on in schools relating to community cohesion and she hoped to see a mainstreaming of that work and progress made.

Councillor Dixon referred to the options considered for a development of a local housing company and enquired as to whether there were any builds taking place from Gentoo other than this.

Mr. Dave Smith, Housing Strategy and Operations Manager advised that due to the economic recession Gentoo was undertaking kickstart only schemes at the moment.

Mr. Neil Cole, Manager, Planning Policy added that the credit crunch had had a substantial hit on planning and building and that builders were concentrating on schemes that were already underway. There were, however, still a number of enquiries from lots of volume builders who appeared to be getting things in place for when things improved.

Councillor Dixon stated that he was hoping that the Council and private building companies would come up with some schemes for affordable housing.

Mr. Cole advised that the Council was in the process of bringing an affordable housing policy together.

Mr. Smith referred Members to paragraph 5.2.5 concerning the current developments which included the extra care housing developments and central area developments such as the Stadium Village Masterplan and the Holmeside triangle.

Councillor Rolph reported that 350 homes were to be built on the Lambton Coke Works site and the intention was to make a start later this year. The development would contain some social and affordable housing.

Councillor Rolph expressed her disappointment that Sunderland had not received a green flag and queried what was needed to be done in order to get one as the School Meals Trust for example had described the Council's service as 'inspirational'. Councillor Rolph stated that she was delighted to see how well the Council was doing on the local environment and highlighted that Sunderland was eighth lowest per capita consumption of resources. She enquired how Sunderland compared with other deprived areas in relation to the consumption of resources.

With regard to affordable housing, it was noted that the Scrutiny Committee was undertaking a Policy Review to investigate current practices and policies across the City in relation to the way in which people access housing in Sunderland and suggested ways in which improvements could be made. In addition, it was noted that the Scrutiny Committee could add value to looking at what could be done to reduce the number of private sector vacant dwellings and that Ms. Robinson would liaise with Mr. Cummings, Scrutiny Officer, on the issue as and when appropriate.

At this point, Ms. Robinson corrected the information in the report to read that performance against the local indicator for the number of private sector vacant dwellings that are returned into occupation or demolished as a direct result of action by the Council was 181 and not 108 as stated.

Ms. Robinson responded that green flags were very difficult to get and there was no definitive criteria. The only two areas of notable practice that had been identified in Sunderland were Wellness and Domestic Violence. With regard to consumption of resources, Ms. Robinson offered to provide comparative information.

Ms. Jim Gillon added that as Sunderland was a deprived area, there was less expenditure on consumables, however, this was only part of the reason and this would be checked as things improved.

Full consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the continued good progress made by the Council and the Sunderland Partnership as described in the CAA reports be noted and those areas requiring further development to ensure that performance is actively managed.

Tackling Climate Change in Sunderland (Report 2)

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) updating the Committee on the Council's work on climate change.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Mr. Jim Gillon, Sustainability Co-ordinator, briefed the Committee on the report referring Members to the progress on Sunderland's Climate Change Action Plan detailed in the report to the Cabinet meeting on 13th January, 2010.

Mr. Gillon referred to the Employer Actions detailed in the report and highlighted the Low Carbon City Campaign launched in March 2009 with 20 major employers committing to cut their carbon emissions by 10% or more. Mr. Gillon commented that there was a much greater need to engage employers in the business community. He advised that initiatives to support this were being developed which included using the Economic Masterplan to make sure business was supported to become more low carbon.

Mr. Gillon also drew Members' attention to the initiative in relation to housing where the Council and housing partners would continue efforts to work towards insulating every possible home in Sunderland.

Mr. Gillon advised that Sunderland was continuing to get good recognition for its work around tackling climate change and referred Members to the public commitments detailed in paragraph 2.1 of the report.

Councillor Ellis commented that she was delighted to see that the Council had signed up to the public commitments. However, whether this made a difference to climate change was another matter as the main influence was the sun overhead. She stated that it was incumbent upon everyone to look after the planet.

In response to Members' enquiries as to which organisations were included in the 20 which had made the commitment to cut their carbon emissions, Mr. Gillon advised that this included the Sunderland Primary Care Trust, Sunderland University, the Mental Health Trust, Sunderland College and key private companies.

In response to Councillor Rolph, Mr. Gillon confirmed that there was no way to capture currently individual's efforts to reduce carbon emissions. The figures were only available after two years when this information would be extrapolated and an estimate made.

Councillor Rolph enquired whether there were any major employees who had not signed up to the Low Carbon City Campaign and what pressure was being brought to bear to make them sign up to the campaign.

Mr. Gillon repeated that 20 businesses had been captured. He added that from April large commercial and public sector organisations would need to sign up to the Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme to reduce carbon emissions.

With regards to the first trials of solid wall insulation for private homes where the greatest potential exists for making carbon savings in Sunderland's existing stock, Mr. Gillon advised that the cost per property was £6,000 whereas the cost of insulation was £99.

4. RESOLVED that the progress on managing the City's carbon emissions be noted.

Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) providing a background to the roles and functions of both the Strategic Environmental Assessment and the Sustainability Appraisal as tools to deliver the Local Development Framework and setting out how the Council is applying both mechanisms into the land use planning process.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Mr. Neil Cole, Manager, Planning Policy was in attendance and briefed Members on the report.

Councillor Rolph enquired whether a Sustainability Appraisal report would be attached as a separate document.

Mr. Cole advised that as the policies were being written, Officers would go through each of the objectives to make sure they were going in the right direction. The core strategy and the Sustainability Appraisal that accompanies it are woven and the links made and how they have arrived at the policy.

In response to Councillor Ellis, Mr. Cole advised that individual planning applications would not have a Strategic Environmental Assessment, but that they were subject to Environmental Impact Assessments which screen the development looking at the effects and how to mitigate them.

5. RESOLVED that the issues outlined in the report be noted.

Review of Local Studies – Setting the Scene

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) providing an introduction to the presentation to Members around the review of local studies within Sunderland.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Vicki Medhurst, Principal Librarian – Library Development and Information, and Ms. Janet Robinson, Cultural Co-ordinator – Libraries, Heritage and Information, were in attendance and proceeded to give a presentation to the Committee on the Local Studies Provision at Sunderland Public Libraries including details of the resources available and staffing, together with areas for further development.

Mr. Nigel Cummings, Scrutiny Officer, advised that arrangements were being made to visit the Council's local studies provision and that of Newcastle City Council's and details of the proposed dates would be forwarded to Members in due course.

Councillor Rolph made the following enquiries:-

- where the conservation advice work came from?
- when digitising the photographs were checks being carried out as to copyright?
- was there a Friends Group?
- had any thought been given to having an ex member as a local history champion?

In response, Ms. Medhurst stated that they used the Tyne and Wear Archives Service for the conservation advice work. With regards to digitisation, they were making sure they had the necessary documentation otherwise they would not be able to digitise those photographs. They did not have a friends group but thought would be given to having one and in relation to a member local history champion.

Councillor M. Dixon commended the service. However he commented on the lack of space and enquired whether there were any rooms they could move to.

Ms. Medhurst stated that if ever there was the potential for growth, it was recognised that local studies would benefit.

Councillor Ellis thanked the Officers for their work which she stated was very important to ordinary people. She felt that it was a good idea to expand into other areas and relieve pressure on services.

Ms. Medhurst stated that she would pass on Members' comments to frontline staff.

6. RESOLVED that the information contained in the presentation be noted.

Bowes Railway Museum

The Executive Director of City Services submitted a report (copy circulated) updating Members on the current position with regard to Bowes Railway Museum, as requested by the Members of the Scrutiny Committee.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Vicki Medhurst, Principal Librarian – Library Development and Information advised Members that Gateshead Council had confirmed in correspondence dated November 2009 that they had withdrawn from funding the Railway but would continue to provide Officer time and support.

7. RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted and that further updates on the future with regard to the progress of the Railway continue to be submitted to the Scrutiny Committee.

Strategic Planning Process 2010/2011

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) apprising the Committee of the proposals for the Strategic Planning Process 2010/2011 and the role of the Committee in the process.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Mr. Stuart Cuthbertson, Policy Officer presented the report to the Committee. He highlighted the proposed publication of a new form of the Corporate Improvement Plan (CIP), the involvement of the Scrutiny Committees as part of the preparation of the Service Improvement Plans during the Strategic Planning Process 2010/2011 and their monitoring and review during the course of 2010/2011 as detailed in paragraph 6 of the report.

Councillor Rolph stated that she was delighted at the change of format of the CIP and suggested that if the jargon was cut out and things were expressed in plain English there would be greater engagement with Members. She added that certain issues such as heritage were not covered by one service and it was important to get rid of the silo mentality.

The Chairman concurred with Councillor Rolph that it was important to cut down on the professional jargon so everyone could start to engage in the process.

Mr. Jon Beaney, Policy Manager advised the Committee that the current CIP, which was a seven hundred page document, had been held up as best practice by the Audit Commission. However the format of the CIP was being revised in order to meet the requirements of the Council's real audience. Officers were putting a number of methodologies in place to ensure cross cutting issues were picked up and asking Heads of Service to inform them of cross cutting issues and with whom in order they were reflected appropriately.

8. RESOLVED that the contents of the report and the key issues identified by the self-assessments undertaken in respect of services of relevance to the Committee be noted.

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

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) seeking 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.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Mr. Nigel Cummings, Scrutiny Officer, referred Members to paragraph 3.5 detailing further revisions to the initial proposals in relation to the Councillor Call for Action mechanism. He advised that all the Scrutiny Committees were being consulted. Mr. Cummings referred Members to the proposed criteria detailed in paragraph 3.2 to assist in the determination of the appropriateness of undertaking an investigation triggered either by the non-mandatory/CCfA referral route. Mr. Cummings informed Members that the comments of the Scrutiny Committee would be referred to the Management Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

Councillor Foster commented that it was an excellent document and easy to understand.

Councillor Ellis enquired whether the two existing Councillor Call for Action referrals would have to be resubmitted and follow the revised mechanism.

Mr. Cummings advised that it was up to Members to decide if they would prefer the Calls for Action to be resubmitted or continue as they were.

Councillor Ellis stated that she would like the CCfA referrals to continue as she did not want to lose the nine months that it had taken so far to process them and that she would welcome anything which speeded up the process.

9. RESOLVED that the comments of the Scrutiny Committee as detailed above be submitted to the next meeting of the Management Scrutiny Committee and that it be noted that the Committee was in agreement that the two existing CCfAs should not be subject to the revised procedure but continue to be processed with a view to reaching an early conclusion.

Forward Plan – Key Decisions for the Period 1st February 2010 – 31st May, 2010

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) providing Members with an opportunity to consider those items on the Executive's Forward Plan for the period 1st January, 2010 – 30th April, 2010 which relate to the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Helen Lancaster, Assistant Scrutiny Officer, introduced the report and advised that an updated version of the Forward Plan published on 14th January had been tabled for Members' attention.

10. RESOLVED that the Forward Plan be received and noted.

Work Programme 2009-10

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) attaching for Members' information the current Work Programme for the Committee's work during the 2009-10 Council year.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Helen Lancaster, Assistant Scrutiny Officer, invited the Committee to note the work programme.

Councillor Rolph asked that a report on built heritage and the report to Cabinet on the Sustainability Policy be added to the work programme for the Committee.

Mr. Nigel Cummings, Scrutiny Officer, having advised that this would be done, it was:-

11. RESOLVED that the work programme be received and noted and the additional reports as detailed above be scheduled accordingly.

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

(Signed) D. ERRINGTON,
Chairman.

Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee

Local Area Agreement Delivery Plans

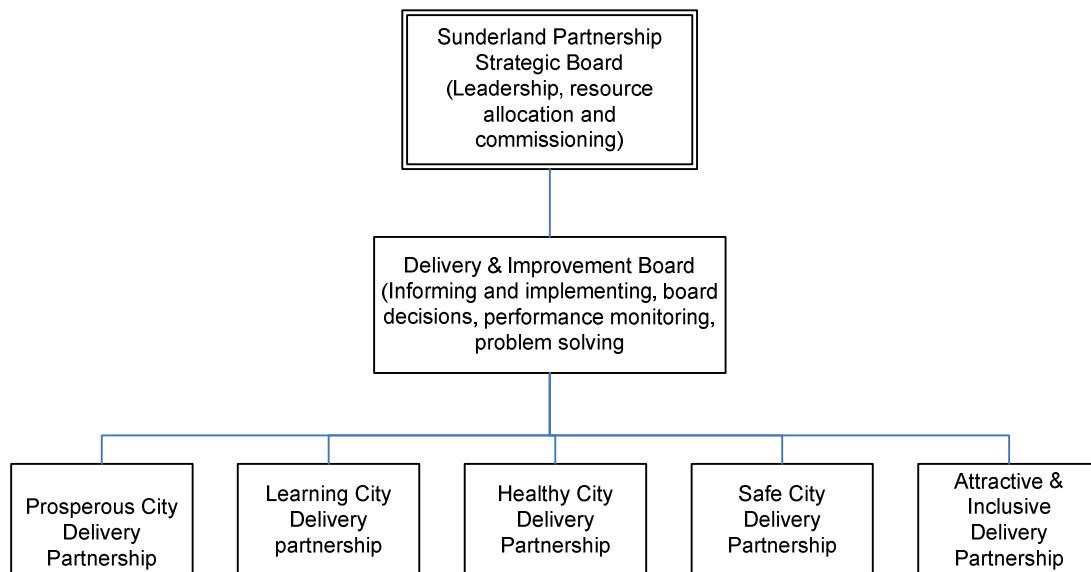
Report of the Attractive and Inclusive Delivery Partnership

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee with the Local Area Agreement Delivery Plan for those services delivered by partners who are members of the Attractive and Inclusive Delivery Partnership.

2. Background

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



- 2.2 The five main delivery partnerships reflect the city's strategic priorities which underpin the long term vision for the future of Sunderland that is set out in the Sunderland Strategy (2008-2025). This document sets the context for the local area agreement (LAA) which sets out short term 3 year targets to deliver identified priorities. A key role of these Delivery Partnerships is the development and implementation of objectives, targets and actions and associated monitoring as part of the Sunderland Partnership's performance management framework.

- 2.3 Members will recall that a new national performance framework was implemented during 2008/2009. This includes 198 new National Indicators which replaces previous national performance frameworks. As part of this new framework 49 national indicators have been identified as key priorities to be included in the Local Area Agreement (LAA). Performance against the priorities identified in the LAA and associated improvement targets have been reported to Scrutiny committee throughout 2009 as part of the quarterly performance monitoring arrangements. They are also a key consideration in the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA), which was introduced in April 2009, to provide an independent assessment of how local public services are working in partnership to deliver outcomes for an area. The first results were reported to scrutiny committees in January 2010.

3. Progress to date

- 3.1 Significant work has been undertaken during recent months to develop links between the Councils scrutiny arrangements and its external partners who comprise the Sunderland Partnership and its associated delivery groups. This has included;

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

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

- 3.2 The Sunderland Partnership's Delivery and Improvement Board have considered the CAA area assessment report, and in particular those areas identified as being in need of improvement, as part of a wider discussion on improvement priorities for the next year. As a

consequence Delivery Plans have been refreshed to ensure that the work programme is targeting the right issues, and outcomes can be demonstrated, maximising the value of improvement activity during 2010/11 which is the final year of the LAA.

3.3 As a consequence of these developments and the increasing importance of the local area agreement in terms of external assessment the LAA Delivery plans are being presented to relevant Scrutiny Committees by the Lead Officer for each Delivery Partnership, accompanied with key partners. The aim is to ensure transparency in relation to accountability for delivery of targets and also enable members to maximise developmental work undertaken with the Sunderland Partnership to date to scrutinise those areas where we aren't doing as well to ensure that improvement activity will deliver the necessary outcomes and meet local need.

3.4 The relevant aspects of the Attractive and Inclusive Delivery Partnership's Plan is attached as **appendix 1. A** PowerPoint presentation will also be delivered outlining:

- What the key aims of the Delivery Partnership are
- Which council services and key partners are involved
- Key achievements to date
- Key challenges
- Key improvement activity during 2010/11

This is attached as **appendix 2**

4. Performance Monitoring and Reporting

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

5. Recommendation

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



Attractive and Inclusive Delivery Partnership

Local Area Agreement Delivery Plan 2009/2011

Delivery Partnership Key Outcome 2: Sunderland is recognised by people inside and outside the city as an attractive and accessible place to live, work, study and visit

Key Priorities

- **Delivery of Legible city**
- **Assist delivery of City Centre partnerships proposals for the Central Area and use as a pilot for Legible city ideas**
- **Integrate digital challenge across the attractive and inclusive delivery partnerships work programme**

Key LAA aim: Ensure that there is sufficient housing choice for those wishing to live in Sunderland in relation to type, location and price

Performance Measures: NI 154 Net additional homes provided
NI 159 Supply of land ready to develop housing sites

LAA Performance Measure	2008-09 outturn	2009/10 progress	LAA Target		Key actions	Completion date	Responsible Partner
			09/10	10/11			
NI 154: Net additional homes provided	229 (08/09)	185 (Apr – Sept 09)	90	350	Implement the Easington Lane Development Framework	Ongoing	Planning Implementation Manager, SCC
NI 159: Supply of land ready to develop housing sites	145%	Not available	100%	100%	Prioritise the delivery of previously developed land for appropriate uses as set out in the emerging Local Development Framework. Milestone targets will be met as identified in the Local Development Scheme (LDS) for each Development Plan Document	LDS adopted from Mar 2009	Planning Policy Manager and Planning Implementation Manager, SCC
					Extra Care Housing development at Silksworth. Developed in partnership with Housing 21.	Mar 2009	Head of Housing, SCC
					Extra Care Housing development at Columbia, Washington. Developed in partnership with Housing 21.	Dec 2009	Head of Housing, SCC
					Extra Care Housing development at Hetton. Developed in partnership with Housing 21.	May 2010	Head of Housing, SCC
					Extra Care Housing development at the Racecourse Estate in Houghton. Developed in partnership with Gentoo.	Sept 2010	Head of Housing, SCC
					Implement the Kickstart Scheme developed in conjunction with Gentoo	April 2010 onwards	Head of Housing, SCC
					Hudson Road Development	ongoing	Sunniside Partnership
					Tavistock Place development	ongoing	Sunniside Partnership
					Central Area development	ongoing	Sunniside Partnership
					North East Sector development	ongoing	Sunniside Partnership
					Progress the Holmeside Triangle Masterplan framework development	ongoing	ARC/Sunderland City Council
					Develop Vaux site as part of the regeneration of the city centre	ongoing	ARC/Sunderland City Council
					Secure planning consent for Farrington Row development	Jan 2011	ARC/Sunderland City Council
Implement the Stadium Village framework	Building completed Feb 2013	ARC/Sunderland City Council					

LAA Performance Measure	2008-09 outturn	2009/10 progress	LAA Target		Key actions	Completion date	Responsible Partner
			09/10	10/11			
					Incorporate consultation / engagement plans into the strategic planning process within the council and ask partners to complete a template. To encourage joint working, share information, avoid duplication and achieve efficiencies. Produce a consultation / engagement calendar which outlines opportunities for the year ahead and helps to maximise peoples opportunities to get involved	Apr 2009	SCC – Performance Improvement
					Procure and implement an e-consultation solution that would extend opportunities for local people to get involved in decision making, facilitate involvement and further promote local involvement in decision making.	Summer 2010	SCC - Performance Improvement
					Review and improve consultation/engagement resources available to officers including development of a Community Engagement Toolkit to help improve the quality of consultation / engagement undertaken.	Sept 2010	SCC - Performance Improvement
					Increased role of elected members in community development activity	Ongoing	SCC - Community Development
					Organisational sign up to the Sunderland Compact	Dec 2009	SCC - Community Development
					Implement the Consultation and Involvement Code of Practice for the Sunderland Compact.	Dec 2009	SCC Performance Improvement
					Promotion of It's your Sunderland guide to influencing decisions	May 2009	
					Development of a New Town Digital Community based at Washington Church of Christ. Including Electronic Village Hall, ICT@Home, E-champions and Community Health Information Point.	2009/10	Digital Challenge Programme
					Development of Urban Digital Community based at Wearside Community Development Trust Building, Swan Street. Including Electronic Village Hall, ICT@Home, E-champions and Community Health Information Point.		
					Development of Rural Digital Community based at Easington Lane Community Access Point. Including Electronic Village Hall, ICT@Home, E-champions and Community Health Information Point.		
					Development of School Based Digital Community at Southwick Primary School. Including Electronic Village Hall, ICT@Home, E-champions and Community Health Information Point.		
					Development of a network of 14 Electronic Village Halls in conjunction with GENTOO.		
					Provision of Online Social spaces via the Hexagon Meeting Tool.		
					Development of an E-Champion Network		
					Provision of an Equipment Loan Scheme including items such as E-Voting consultation equipment, Laptops, Projectors etc.		

Inclusive & Attractive Delivery Partnership

'To ensure that Sunderland becomes a clean, green city with a strong culture of sustainability, protecting and nurturing both its built heritage and future development and ensuring that both the built and natural environments will be welcoming, accessible, attractive and of high quality'.

Local Area Agreement Delivery Plan

Draft presentation

Context

- What the key aims of the Delivery Partnership are
- Which council services and key partners are involved
- Key achievements to date
- Key challenges
- Key improvement activity during 2010/11

Purpose / Key aims

Key Purpose:

Connecting People & Places

Three Key Outcomes:

Sunderland is a clean, green city with a strong culture of sustainability that nurtures its natural, built and social environment (Environment & attractive scrutiny committee)

Sunderland is recognised by people inside and outside the city as an attractive and accessible place to live, work, study and visit (Environment & attractive scrutiny committee)

Sunderland has a high quality and welcoming social and physical environment (Sustainable communities scrutiny committee)

Purpose / Key aims

LAA focus:

Ensuring there is sufficient housing choice for those wishing to live in Sunderland in relation to type, location and price

- Increasing the number of net additional homes provided
- Increasing the supply of land ready to develop housing sites

Enable local people and groups to engage with partners and influence the development of responsive public services

- Increasing the % of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together
- Increasing the % of people who feel that they can influence decisions in their locality

Who we are

Sunderland City Council

Housing team

Policy & Performance team

Diversity & Inclusion team

Community Development

Planning Policy

Gentoo

Sunniside partnership

ARC

Sunderland Community Network

Key achievements

Development of the Attractive & Inclusive thematic partnership and identification of three key outcomes to focus and coordinated the work of the group

Extra care housing developments completed

Sunniside partnership developments.

E champions network across all thematic groups and ARFs

Independent advisory groups

Its your Sunderland guide – influencing decisions

Corporate Communities group

Community Cohesion Strategy – area based action plans being developed

Hendon pilot project to reduce racial tension and improve community cohesion

Key challenges

- Meeting challenging LAA perception targets
- Maximising opportunities to Integrate of Digital Challenge into mainstream activity
- Embedding the cohesion agenda across all delivery partnerships
- Impact of the economic downturn on supply of affordable housing

Key Improvement Activity 2010/11

Outcome: Sunderland is recognised by people inside and outside the city as an attractive and accessible place to live, work, study and visit

- Delivery of Legible city
- Assist delivery of City Centre partnerships proposals for the Central Area and use as a pilot for Legible city ideas
- Integrate digital challenge across the attractive and inclusive delivery partnerships work programme

Key Improvement Activity 2010/11

Outcome: Sunderland is recognised by people inside and outside the city as an attractive and accessible place to live, work, study and visit

Key LAA Measures

NI 154 Net additional homes provided

NI 159 Supply of ready to develop housing sites

Kick start scheme

Extra care housing

Local Development Framework

City centre development

Stadium Village

Key Improvement Activity 2010/11

Outcome: Sunderland has a high quality and welcoming social and physical environment

- Ensure residents and communities are involved in the planning and implementation of area improvements, including physical regeneration and housing renewal schemes
- Support and develop area based community cohesion planning groups and practitioners network
- Support voluntary and community sector organisations to develop community based cultural projects
- Integrate digital challenge across the attractive and inclusive delivery partnerships work programme

Key Improvement Activity 2010/11

Outcome: Sunderland has a high quality and welcoming social and physical environment

Key LAA Measures

NI 1 people from different backgrounds who get on well together

NI 4 People who feel that they can influence decisions

Young peoples community cohesion project – place shaping agenda

Role of members in community development activity

Development of citizens panel and e consultation – interactive engagement

Digital inclusion

Hub and spoke model to support the VCS

ACCOMMODATION WITH SUPPORT – DESIGN GUIDE

Report of Executive Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: SP2: Healthy City; SP3: Safe City; SP5: Attractive and Inclusive City

CORPORATE PRIORITIES: CIO1: Delivering Customer Focused Services: CIO4 Attractive and Inclusive City.

1 WHY HAS THIS REPORT COME TO THE COMMITTEE?

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide members with a copy of the Accommodation with Support Design Guide ('The Guide') which outlines;

- Good practice relating to designing accommodation with support
- The council's aspirations relating to the standards expected within future supported housing developments
- Our expectations relating to new development design responses to sustainability and energy conservation.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 The Council is engaged within an ambitious project to deliver supported accommodation to meet the needs of our current and future communities. This includes the provision of extra care housing schemes; core and cluster accommodation; specialist housing, and supported accommodation to meet the needs of vulnerable people who choose to live in the city, including;

- Older people
- People with a learning disability
- People with mental wellness requirements
- Long term conditions including physical disability
- Complex needs
- Cognitive impairment, and
- Sensory impairment

2.2 The Council aspires to work in successful partnerships which will provide high quality, vibrant, safe, attractive, sustainable and well designed supported accommodation which creates an enabling environment for residents. We expect good design to add to environmental, economic, social and cultural value which will help local communities to flourish.

- 2.3 The Council have a Supplementary Planning Document – ‘Residential Design Guide’ which provides advice to developer partners regarding the standards the Council require in relation to general needs housing in the City. In consultation with planning colleagues it was agreed that a ‘design guide for accommodation with support would be compiled and aligned to the Council’s ‘Residential Design Guide’. The Guide was compiled with planning colleagues and the resulting document shared with developer partners and members of the Department of Health’s (DoH) Housing Learning and Improvement Network (LIN) for consultation responses. A number of positive responses were received and have been incorporated into the Guide as appropriate.
- 2.4 The DoH Housing LIN have a copy of the Guide and intend to share this with all of their members as a Good Practice Case Study which is accredited to the City Council.

3 CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 This design guide is intended for use by everyone involved in the supported housing development process to assist in achieving high quality and sustainable ‘places for living’. It will support the achievement of high standards of design and construction and it will provide planning committee members and officers with the tools to challenge poor design. The Guide is very clear about our commitment to energy and resources efficiency including environmental sustainability; affordable running costs and carbon reduction. The guide will be subject to regular review and subsequent updating. This will occur as a result of changes in legislation and standards and feedback from providers and developer partners is received.
- 3.2 The design of specialist accommodation often requires discussion and development of detailed layouts. Some issues may not present obvious or standard solutions. Therefore, this document is not intended to be prescriptive.
- 3.3 We expect Registered Social Landlords and private developers who want to build accommodation with support in the City to sign up to the principles held with the Design Guide for Accommodation with Support.
- 3.4 This document is not a Supplementary Planning Document, however, it was deemed appropriate that it would benefit from being circulated as appropriate for consultation responses. In addition to being developed in consultation with Planning and Building Control colleagues, the Design Guide was circulated within Health, Housing and Adult Services; with Registered Social Landlords; Members of the Department of Health’s Housing Learning and Improvement Network.
- 3.5 Consultation responses received have been incorporated into the document, as appropriate and the document will be made available on the Council’s website for reference. This will enable updates received from good practice to be incorporated into the content of the document and maintain the ‘Guide’, as a living document without undertaking costly hard copy reprints.

- 3.6 With new extra care accommodation and other forms of supported accommodation being developed nationally, we know that more good practice and innovative designs will be commended and acknowledged. This information will be drawn into our evolving 'Design Guide' as good practice emerges.
- 3.7 The draft Design Guide is being shared with developer partners who are interested in building accommodation with support in the City. It has been well received as a draft document and the Guide requires acknowledgement Corporately to outline to developer partners that the Council has a commitment to the standard of development and innovation in design that we expect; and also to outline the Council's aspirations in relation to providing accommodation to meet the needs of people with a support need who choose to live in our City.

4 WHY PRODUCE A DESIGN GUIDE

- 4.1 To provide clear and consistent guidance to developer partners regarding the standards of supported accommodation the Council expects within the City. To enable emerging good practice and innovative design solutions to be incorporated within the Design Guide as appropriate.
- 4.2 Providing consistent guidance for developer partners ensures;
- Good quality design;
 - The risk in the longer term process at planning stage to get the design right is minimised;
 - The potential risk of not gaining capital subsidy to contribute towards developing the accommodation is minimised;
 - That Planning colleagues have relevant information available to them to enable them to challenge poor design;
 - That we can respond as a learning authority and publish / share our findings and experiences;
 - That the Council have clearly outlined our aspirations and expectations around the type and quality of accommodation we expect our partners to provide for people living in the City with a support need.
- 4.3 The Design Guide will be reviewed on a bi annual basis, and will be published on our website to ensure that developer partners have access to the most up to date version.

5 RELEVANT CONSULTATIONS

- 5.1 This Design Guide was developed in consultation with Planning Policy and Development Control Colleagues to ensure alignment to the Council's existing Supplementary Planning Document – The Residential Design Guide.

- 5.2 Members of the Department of Health (DoH), Housing Learning and Improvement Network have been consulted and a number of positive responses received around the content of the Design Guide. Generally it was felt that the content was helpful and the photographs a useful addition. No responses were received from any RSL or private developer partners.
- 5.3 The Department of Health have asked that they provide a summary of this document as a good practice Case Study to their members, which will enable our learning to be shared with other local authorities and housing organisations as good practice.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 Scrutiny Committee is invited to consider this report and provide views on the Accommodation with Support Design Guide.

Contact Officer: Anne Prentice – Commissioning Manager (Accommodation)

ACCOMMODATION WITH SUPPORT DESIGN GUIDE



Providing whole solutions for whole lifestyles, providing genuine options and real choice which deliver opportunities for individual growth, development and wellbeing.

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FOREWORD

Sunderland City Council is engaged within an ambitious project to deliver supported accommodation to meet the needs of our current and future communities.

This includes the provision of extra care housing schemes; core and cluster accommodation; specialist housing, and supported accommodation to meet the needs of vulnerable people who choose to live in the city, including:-

- Older people
- People with learning disability
- People with mental wellness requirements
- Long term conditions including physical disability
- Complex needs
- Cognitive impairment, and
- Sensory impairment.

We aspire to work in successful partnerships which will provide high quality, vibrant, safe, attractive, sustainable and well designed supported accommodation which creates an enabling environment for residents. We expect good design to add to environmental, economic, social and cultural value which will help local communities to flourish.

This design guide is intended for use by everyone involved in the supported housing development process to assist in achieving high quality and sustainable 'places for living'. It will support the achievement of high standards of design and construction and it will provide planning committee members and officers with the tools to challenge poor design. The guide will be subject to regular review and subsequent updating. This will occur as a result of changes in legislation and standards and feedback from providers and developer partners.

The design of specialist accommodation often requires discussion and development of detailed layouts. Some issues may not present obvious or standard solutions. Therefore, this document is not intended to be prescriptive.

We expect Registered Social Landlords and developers who want to build supported accommodation in the City to sign up to the principles held within this publication.

This document will be reviewed bi monthly.

Please visit www.sunderland.gov.uk to find the most up to date document.

INTRODUCTION

We acknowledge that there are costs and challenges associated with delivering good quality and well designed accommodation. However, the Council wants to ensure that supported accommodation developed in the city maintains longevity in terms of appearance; cyclical maintenance; running costs responses to climate change, and adaptability to meet future life styles and technologies throughout the life of the building and is future proofed.

The council have a long term ambition to significantly reduce the number of people being placed into residential / nursing care in the city by providing them with a choice of lifestyle including a choice of quality, independent living accommodation. It is therefore, our aspiration to enable the development of independent living, while reducing the numbers of residential / nursing care establishments being agreed through the planning route. ¹

This guide is aligned to the City Council's Residential Design Guide (Supplementary Planning Document (SPG)). The Residential Design Guide must be referred to initially for general detail and more specific detail related to supported accommodation can be identified in this document.

It must be considered that most published design guidance in this specific field relates to extra care development, therefore, this document weighs heavily in this regard. As more good practice is published relating to other support accommodation requirements and those of the designs helpful to specific vulnerable groups this will be drawn into this document. However, most of the design issues for extra care can be translated / considered into accommodation for other vulnerable client groups.

The accommodation must be designed to enable individuals to find privacy, comfort, support and companionship, in addition to being a resource to the local community. It must also meet the various requirements of staff working from within the building and respond to market changes relating to tenure mix. Good design is about creating attractive and successful buildings that work well within the local area. The benefits of good design include:-

- Making people feel positive about their neighbourhood
- Creating a good quality of life
- Enriching the existing environment
- Supporting existing residential areas and create higher capital values
- Attracting people
- Increasing marketability and prestige
- Lifting confidence in the surrounding area.

Our aim is to enable provision of a choice of housing products for people who choose to live in the city of Sunderland. Their aspirations and expectations around the type of accommodation they require must be met. Achieving this

¹ Sunderland city Council - Accommodation with Support Needs Analysis – January 2009

will be measured against the design quality; its connections into the surrounding environment and customer satisfaction with their home.

We aspire to encourage within our enabling role:-

- Partners to place resident's needs and aspirations central to their design
- Joined up approach to design, development, long term management, maintenance and service charges
- Embracing sustainability and energy conservation within design
- Keeping quality high and costs low.

We maintain that healthy, safe, well-designed buildings, spaces and environments are central to the quality of life and wellbeing of our residents. By meeting current needs and aspirations we anticipate that people will be able to live independently for longer in their own home of choice, with support tailored to meet their individual need, which can be adapted as their needs change.



Community herb garden provided at Todmorden

SECTION 1: COMPLETE AND THOROUGH DESIGN

Dialogue should be maintained with local planners; the wider local community and local business to support community 'ownership' and pride in the proposed development, even before it is built. If design or planning problems are encountered, the most constructive solution can often result from sharing them and working towards a commonly agreed solution.

Be flexible and adaptable as compromise may be required. If areas of contention are not addressed at pre planning stage, then they may become grounds for refusal or call in.

The spaces and environments surrounding our homes are an extension of personal space, bringing individual homes together and forming a community of residents. The aim would be to provide an identity to be proud of and offers clear connections with the wider neighbourhood. This will be achieved by:

- Creating identity and variety – a safe environment where residents have a sense of belonging and ownership
- Designing to encourage friendships; knowing your neighbours and enjoying the use of shared spaces
- Encouraging wellness activities in external and internal spaces
- Create an external environment which is bio-diverse with multi use opportunities providing materials which will endure and improve over time.

Lifetime homes means designing in flexibility and adaptability needed to allow for easy incorporation of wheelchair accessibility, addition / removal of internal walls, and ease of extension. This is particularly important for older households, or other households with support requirements who may be dependent upon nearby local networks form emotional and physical support.

1.1 Attractive, Safe and Secure Places

A safe and secure design can involve:

- Easy access for people with disabilities and emergency services
- Clear definition of space
- Deterring crime - buildings facing onto streets and footpaths with windows facing onto them; car parking visible from homes.

The Royal Town Planners Institute (RTPI) Good Practice Note 8: Extra Care Housing – Development Planning, Control and Management also provides planning guidance and refers to other guidance documents.

CHECKLIST – Have you:	✓
• Maintained dialogue with Local Planning Officers ?	
• Supported community ownership of the building?	

• Provided clear connections with the surrounding neighbourhood?	
• Implemented Lifetime Homes guidance?	
• Provided an attractive, safe and secure design?	

1.2 Putting the Customer First

We want to ensure that the development of accommodation meets the needs of people in our communities. To do this we aim to provide access to good quality, well designed homes enabling vulnerable households to live independently with support tailored to meet the needs of the household. We want to ensure that the accommodation will also provide for the needs of their whole household; that it will be safe and warm; enabling the household to live fulfilling lives with access to social and wellness facilities whilst acknowledging cultural requirements.

Our aspiration is to enhance the quality of our resident's lives with the homes they have available to them now, and to ensure that the accommodation is future proofed to meet the needs and expectations of residents into the future. We want to encourage a sense of pride in the home and neighbourhood in which they live. We want to ensure that people have access to shared and public spaces, local amenities and facilities which will enhance their quality of life.



Activity / Games Room

It is essential that the physical environment is enabling in terms of the likely impairments that residents may experience in their lives due to increasing age, frailty, disability or impairment.

Good design can mean:-

- Enriching existing character
- Diversity
- Understandable places
- Achieving pride of place/ Creating a sense of place
- Easy movement – easy to access and move through with safe and welcoming routes
- Enduring and flexible places – built to last and energy efficient according to the intended use but with the ability to be easily used for another purpose.

1.3 Co-ordinating design and development with long term management and maintenance

Developing accommodation requires thought around the use of the internal and external spaces. Life issues for the people living in the accommodation must be considered to gain an understanding around how the buildings and communal areas will be used. This will enable the management and maintenance of those areas to be understood, particularly relating to service charges.



Beckwith Mews, Silksworth first floor corridor

It is expected that mixed tenure provision will be considered in all future housing developments as appropriate to the local housing market. Consideration must be given to the use of the accommodation, including considering the anticipated demographic profile which should provide an understanding of the appropriate level of management required, and how

innovative design and decoration solutions may help to reduce the impact on areas affected, e.g. heavy footfall and wheelchair use.

CHECKLIST – Have you:	✓
• Thought clearly about the use of all spaces?	
• Considered the 'life issues' of the expected occupants and how they will use the spaces?	
• Considered the impact of your design on service charges?	
• Considered how the scheme will be managed and paid for?	
• Designed areas appropriate to their use?	

1.4 High Quality with Low Costs

Quality should not always be costly and can be provided by innovative procurement / design and understanding the people who will be living in; working in, and visiting the accommodation. Embracing value for money principles and being efficient in some areas may enable additional resources to be invested elsewhere.



Silksworth Community Library at Beckwith Mews Extra Care Scheme

Consideration must be given to any operational services being provided from the building and whether there is opportunity to utilise existing local services, rather than provide them within the scheme build.

In turn, there is opportunity to consider services which can be provided in the building maximising use by local residents by supporting the principles of a community hub as appropriate.



Winton Court Extra Care Scheme, Gateshead – local shop



CHECKLIST – Have you:	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identified services in the local area which could support the scheme? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identified services lacking in the local area which could be provided within the scheme? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Considered how services provided in the scheme can support the wider local community? 	

1.5 Local Context

Context emphasises the requirement for the layout and appearance of buildings to be based on an appraisal of the character of the site including buildings and land in the surrounding local area. Larger new developments e.g. extra care accommodation must cater for the needs of residents and visitors, and must consider and raise the general aspirations and expectations of neighbouring residents and the general public (as appropriate).

With an application for accommodation involving 'housing with care', the design statement should include specific reference to the issues related to the model. This is likely to be of considerable assistance to the planning officers dealing with the application.

CHECKLIST – Have you:	✓
• Carried out an appraisal of the site, taking into account the surrounding local area	
• Carried out a demographic analysis of the local population in terms of age profile, the existing provision for housing 'with care' in the area and its 'fitness for purpose' and a projection of future need to establish a case for new housing?	
• An explanation of the model of development including communal provision, tenure opportunities and integration into the wider neighbourhood?	
• Benefits that the development will bring to the area in terms of facilities, employment, release of existing housing in the community due to under occupation (as appropriate)?	
• Reference to precedent and guidance on similar models to aid the planning process?	
• Assessed / evaluated your parking requirements based upon residency and expected service provision within the scheme?	

We would like to enable the creation of homes that people will positively choose to move into and want to stay in by:

CHECKLIST – Does your design:	✓
• Create distinctive homes which are safe, spacious, welcoming and user friendly?	
• Provide homes which are tenure neutral in appearance and standards?	
• Provide environmentally sustainable homes and future-proofing designs to bring long term benefits to residents?	
• Ensure that high quality standards and materials are maintained throughout the whole life of the building?	

SECTION 2: PLACE SHAPING

2.1 Supporting the local community

Wellbeing at home is vital and this can be achieved by ensuring there are effective links to local amenities, shops, public transport, opportunities for social interaction and green and attractive surroundings.

The opportunity to mix tenures, use Modern Methods of Construction and be innovative around design and architecture enables opportunity to create vibrant and exciting places to live and visit.

Feeling safe at home and in the neighbourhood is a recurring issue raised by our more vulnerable residents. Effective urban design can help achieve good connectivity between neighbourhoods, provide defensible private space, and places that feel safe. The following should be considered:

2.2 Well connected and convenient

Creating and sustaining a community is about building homes in places where people want to live for the longer term, with access to social and wellness activities; shops; public transport and local amenities. To help deliver this we should:

- At an early stage, establish the context of the site by analysing how well it will serve the client group for which the supported accommodation is being developed;
- Local convenience shops should be available, ideally within a safe five minute walk of the site;
- Larger shops and supermarkets should be easily available within a ten to fifteen minute drive or by public transport
- There should be good and regular public transport nearby
- If there is no large open space or park nearby will the scheme provide communal garden / outside space?

CHECKLIST – Does your design:	✓
• Have entrances that are clearly visible from the street, well lit and welcoming?	
• Provide formed boundaries between public and private space using attractive and durable materials – are the barriers clear but unobtrusive?	
• Avoid putting car parking under buildings at ground or semi basement level so as not to create poor quality street frontages?	
• Ensure that communal spaces and gardens have a clear purpose and are overlooked by homes or passers by (as appropriate)?	



Roker Marina, Sunderland

Area for Consideration

- If there are strong local patterns of urban design this may need to be reflected within new design. This may be re interpreted in a contemporary way.
- If a 'place' lacks character or is poor in terms of design, the new development can become a beacon or exemplar for regeneration and future development.
- Materials must be chosen for their longevity and not cause undue and costly maintenance problems.
- There must be no distinction between different forms of tenure within the layout or the architectural treatment of the buildings.
- New development must be integrated into and connected with the wider neighbourhood, avoiding the feeling of a separated estate or gated community and should help to breakdown barriers to adjoining neighbourhoods.

Each development sits within, and contributes to, local communities; local businesses; local facilities, enhancing the sustainability of that neighbourhood and ensuring a positive future for its residents.

CHECKLIST – Does your Design:	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing sustainable and innovative designs which can strengthen neighbourhood identity and community ownership (<i>this could include provision of district heating or CHP to the local community</i>)? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the dissolution of barriers to adjoining neighbourhoods? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide homes and facilities to strengthen neighbourhood cohesion and sustainability? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximise the use of green spaces as focal points, meeting places, activity areas for all ages? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the sustainability of services and buildings in the area, and support them within the aims of the scheme ? 	

2.3 Parking Provision

Car parking must be carefully considered and integrated with the landscape. All of these opportunities need to be carefully considered at design stage in terms of their function, durability and ongoing maintenance.

Areas for Consideration

- Local streets must not be dominated by cars and car parking associated with residents and people visiting or working at the housing provision
- Larger parking courts for apartment developments need to be carefully designed to avoid compromising the living conditions for ground floor homes. Parking courts should be designed to be safe for pedestrians; cyclists; people in wheelchairs and using mobility scooters. Low car speeds must be encouraged through design.
- Car parking areas and public walkways to the scheme / front door should be well lit.
- Safe drop off point is required and consideration must be given to accommodate rear tail wheelchair lifts on minibuses. It is good practice to arrange a 'horse shoe' drop off configuration to avoid the need to reverse with the associated health and safety risks.
- The entrance canopy should be designed to allow residents to move directly into a sheltered area and minimise exposure to inclement weather.

If developments incorporate local shops and facilities, are close to public transport and include attractive, safe pedestrian and cycling routes this will help reduce car usage without reducing car accessibility or car ownership. It will also enable a high quality of life for those least likely to own a car. Convenient cycle storage should be provided for any staff and visitors to the development (dependent upon scale of the building). Parking provision must be determined by locality and the availability of other forms of transport. Adequate spaces should be provided to prevent people parking in inappropriate places e.g footpaths, grass verges, across local resident's driveways, local residents off street parking areas.

CHECKLIST – Have you:	✓
• Integrated car parking into the landscape of the scheme?	
• Considered planting of trees and shrubs in the parking areas?	
• Provided lighting to the car park area to help with way finding, safety and security?	
• Designed the car parking and drop off areas to be safe for pedestrians, cyclists, people in wheelchairs and people using mobility scooters?	
• Provided canopy or shelter provision at the entrance to the building?	
• Provided cycle storage areas?	
• Provided adequate parking for the successful operation of the building and minimised inappropriate 'public' parking?	

SECTION 3: MAXIMISING THE USE OF OUTSIDE SPACE

3.1 Seating and planting

Outside space should be maximised to enable people to undertake indoor activities outside during warmer weather. This could include a patio with tables and chairs as an extension to the restaurant / café; activity area and circuit area for people to move around on foot or in their wheelchair with pagoda's and seating areas as stop off points. Pergolas covered in climbing plants can provide shading for south facing terraces or to shade seating areas. Water features can support a stimulating and tactile environment and provide effective focal points. Raised planting areas provide the opportunity for residents to contribute to planting / gardening activities. This also provides the opportunity for the accommodation to grow some of its own food including the use of fruit trees and herbs.



Example seating and environmental design

Seating areas should be designed to meet the requirements of all residents of all abilities, particularly wheelchair users. Benches should be located at all main entrances for those awaiting transport. The design and location of seating must consider the requirements for a minibus and taxi drop off undercover and to allow for the anticipated size and tracking of emergency and service vehicles, turning heads and waiting bay.

Secure wandering circuits of a suitable material should be incorporated into the scheme to provide opportunities for exercise. Seating points should be located to allow for rest points. Loose gravel surface treatment should be avoided, especially if there are disabled or elderly residents. Resin bound

gravel is usually more appropriate. Avoid unguarded changes in site level with only very gentle ramps acceptable if residents are to include people with mobility issues. A minimum path width of 1200mm is adequate if wider wheelchair passing spaces are required. Dead ends should be avoided; short cuts anticipated and paths providing a clear route back to their origin.

Giving consideration to the residents living at the accommodation, garden areas should be functional, useful and safe external spaces which can provide areas for relaxation; socialising; activities and private space. The benefits of green space have a direct effect on quality of life in terms of both physical and mental wellbeing.



Seating areas giving private but attractive space – The Staiths at Gateshead

3.2 Activities

Appropriate play provision, dependent upon the age groups living in the new development should be considered. This could be basketball area; kick-about area for young people; small play area for families with children or visiting young children; flat green area for bowls / yoga / tai chi which can support older person activities.



Outdoor table tennis and social space day and night - The Staiths at Gateshead



Alternative use of outside space – The Staiths Development, Gateshead

CHECKLIST – Have you:	✓
• Maximised the outside spaces and provided seamless access from indoors?	
• Designed the scheme to maximise use of the outside as an extension to the building?	
• Considered activities which could be undertaken outside and designed the external areas in such a way to accommodate those activities?	
• Considered providing focal points including water features; pagodas; seating; sculptures; outside games areas?	
• Provided a garden which meets the needs of residents including providing potting sheds; green-houses; raised bed planters; fruit trees; herbs?	
• Provide adequate and appropriate seating arrangements?	
• Provided wandering circuits with adequate seating and providing shade?	
• Maximised views and the landscape (if available)?	
• Provided appropriate ground covering to meet the needs of those living in the scheme / building?	
• Made the outside place an interesting, accessible and enjoyable place to use?	

SECTION 4: MAXIMISING THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

4.1 Biodiversity

Biodiversity should also be incorporated into the design to encourage wildlife into the garden space and maximise the potential of the plants used i.e fruit trees; herbs for kitchen use and craft use; plants for sensory enhancement; areas to encourage fitness activities and social activities.



Llys Eleanor Extra Care Scheme has a wealth of state of the art features including 'intelligent' sprinkler system and telecare/assistive technology to aid daily living. Environmental features include rain water harvesting linked to wc facilities and allotments in pleasant extensive grounds.



Llys Eleanor Extra Care – Flintshire County Council

CHECKLIST – Have you:	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considered plants to stimulate the senses including tall sweeping forms to provide movement, varied textures to create sounds and encourage sense of touch ? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Used vibrant colours and highly aromatic plant mixes? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimised maintenance and provide opportunities for resident participation? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considered green spaces as a wide web of spaces and habitats; planting plans should enhance the natural ecology of these spaces? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considered the use of green roofing in the scheme design to provide an attractive outlook for upper floor homes as well as contributing to rainwater retention; bio diversity and energy efficiency? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided privacy and enclosure for residents, especially where their front windows may overlook public access areas / car parks? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximised the use of rain water storage to provide easy recycled watering systems for garden / lawn areas? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considered providing, wherever possible / appropriate, Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS)? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensured refuse collection points are within limits set by the local authority and if vehicles are required to enter the site, ensure that adequate turning areas are provided? 	



Provision of a vegetable garden area at Redhill Primary School - Worcester

SECTION 5: ENERGY AND RESOURCES EFFICIENCY

5.1 Sustainability and energy conservation

New developments must consider their impact on the environment; how they can respond to rising energy cost, the need to reduce carbon emissions and for overall, long term sustainability and recognise good practice in these areas.

We expect to see both sustainability and energy conservation embraced within design for new buildings, in particular, the use of natural light, recycling of rain water, high levels of heat conservation, solar panels, heat pumps, ground and air source, and biomass heating along with renewable electricity supply where practicable. In turn we anticipate lower costs for residents in terms of heating charges and service charges due to efficiencies which can be accrued over a period of time due to reaching and surpassing sustainability standards. This will support affordable warmth and help people out of fuel poverty.



BedZed and Peabody Trust

5.2 Affordable running costs

The design, installation and management of energy efficient and affordable utilities is crucial to the continuing success of every home. Each design must ensure that energy consumption and costs to residents are as low as possible. This will require design consideration from the very initial stage of a

project so that orientation, window design, heat loss and heat gain are considered along with the potential cost in use of appliances.

Sustainable energy supply should be incorporated with the intention of minimising or eliminating the use of fossil fuels and reducing carbon emissions.

For space and water heating this may result in the use of:

- Solar hot water
- Ground source heat pumps
- Air source heat pumps
- Biomass boilers
- Biomass district heating linked to the local community

For electricity supply this may result in the use of:

- Wind turbines (including off site wind generators with dedicated supply)
- Solar photo-voltaic cells, panels or roof tiles
- Biomass combined heat and power

Long term costs within management and maintenance that may be passed to residents through service or maintenance charges are considered early and kept to a minimum.

Early consideration should be given to the provision of telephone; TV; broadband and digital services to eliminate the need for residents to make their own arrangements. Communal TV aerials and / or cabling of services should be provided.

5.3 Minimising energy consumption in construction and design

It is the responsibility of all new development to minimise energy use in the construction and ongoing use of buildings and to maximise passive and active technologies to support the reduction of both CO₂ emissions and fossil fuel energy use.

5.4 Minimising Construction Waste

Careful design and specification, including off site manufacture, can help reduce waste during construction.

5.5 Recycling Materials and Buildings

Reusing buildings, parts of buildings or elements of buildings such as bricks, tiles, slates or large timbers all help achieve a more sustainable approach to design and construction. Re-cycling and re-use of materials can help to minimise the extraction of raw materials and the use of energy in the production and transportation of materials. Developments should maximise

the re use of existing buildings (where appropriate) which can support social environmental and economic objectives.

5.6 Environmental sustainability

Within our enabling role the Council will expect its developer partners to aspire towards achieving the Code for Sustainable Homes level 4 with the aim to achieve higher Code levels in the future. Innovative design and construction, including the contribution of modern methods of construction, will be a vital element of delivering this target.

The Code requires that the design of the buildings and the layout of the site is considered across the following topics: energy use, carbon emissions, water, materials, run-off, waste, pollution, health and wellbeing, management, and ecology. There is a Code requirement for a design stage assessment and post-completion assessment which should be identified in the design programme from the outset. Our approach is to maximise passive solar gain, build airtight dwellings with adequate ventilation, shading and cooling, and incorporate thermal mass to reduce overheating where appropriate.

All designs and technologies that affect how the home works must be designed and installed so that they can be easily managed by residents or, alternatively, do not require their attention at all. We believe that design that meet the Code standards will, at each level, have increasingly significant benefits for residents, through reduced running costs and improved health.

Needs and aspirations of residents will change in time and we must acknowledge that the pace in technological change is rapid. New developments should be adaptable to those changes over their lifespan.

Every building and each individual home should be designed for future proofing, to allow for the addition of new technologies. Also as summers become warmer the need for cooling is likely to increase and efforts should be made to provide this through natural ventilation methods rather than by air conditioning.

Where appropriate flood resistance and resilience measures must be considered within the development design, along with measures to reduce overheating and promote water efficiency.

Internal air pollution and toxicity is a particular issue in buildings made more airtight to prevent heat loss. Many materials used in construction and finishing give off VOCs (volatile organic compounds). This can be avoided by using natural breathable products and water based finishes.

CHECKLIST – Have you:	✓
• Recognised good practice within sustainability and energy conservation?	
• Maximised natural light, recycling of rain water, high levels of heat	

conservation, solar panels, heat pumps, ground and air source, and biomass heating along with renewable electricity supply where practicable?	
• Ensured that energy consumption and costs to residents are as low as possible alongside supporting affordable warmth?	
• Minimised or eliminated the use of fossil fuels and reduced carbon emissions in design?	
• Integrated communal TV aerials, satellite and / or cabling of services into the building?	
• Minimised construction waste?	
• Provided for re-cycling and re use of materials if practicable?	
• Achieved or surpassed Code for Sustainable Homes Level 4?	
• Acknowledged future proofing to allow for new technologies?	
• Provided for natural ventilation methods?	
• Arranged for the use of natural breathable products and water based finishes within the building?	



Ecos Homes Scheme, Great Bow Yard, Somerset demonstrating sustainable construction.

SECTION 6: BUILDING OPERATIONS

6.1 Refuse and recycling

- Designs within the home and the building must be innovative and adaptable to meet the increasing demands for effective recycling and refuse collection.
- Refuse / recycling points must be located
- Refuse and recycling requirements will be met within the internal arrangements of the building
- Collection facilities must not be intrusive in the landscape or within the communal areas
- Refuse collection and storage with recycling facilities puts greater demand on good management and maintenance. Adequate space must be provided for the increased size of containers and the amount of refuse which is now separated for recycling.

CHECKLIST – Have you:	✓
• Provided effective opportunity for recycling and refuse collection?	
• Located refuse / recycling points in easily defined areas?	
• Provided internal arrangements for collection of refuse?	
• Provided refuse collection arrangements designed so as not to be intrusive in the landscape?	
• Provided adequate sized refuse collection areas which can be easily cleaned with easy collection?	
• Provided collection points away from buildings and communal areas?	

6.2 Care Teams / Staffing

The working environment must be pleasant and practical to enable staff to work within it effectively. The building must be easily accessible to staff who will require conveniently located ancillary accommodation with comfortable and functional facilities including storage areas; changing area; lockers; shower; rest room with small kitchen area and adequate office space.

CHECKLIST – Have you:	✓
• Considered the staffing provision in the scheme and their accommodation requirements?	
• A clear understanding of the number of staff expected to work in the building and their roles to understand the impact on the building design?	

SECTION 7: ACCOMMODATION REQUIREMENTS

Extra Care

7.1 Security

The main entrance to the scheme will have two way access door which will enable people to gain open entrance during working hours, however, have the ability to switch to a one way opening after hours. Switching to one way will ensure security of the building with access only by intercom system or fob.

The foyer area will include office space for the court manager and will act as a reception area. CCTV offers residents a means of communicating with the front door and can be a Secure by Design requirement. It would be usual to provide two CCTV monitors with 28 day recording facility. The location of the monitors must be practical and accessible by the Court Manager and also the 'out of hours' staffing team to ensure health and safety of residents and contracted care staff out of office hours.

Resident's areas should only be accessible behind progressive privacy doors, giving their areas clear and distinct space.

Ancillary access to the restaurant and laundry areas should be separate to the main entrance for safety and visual reasons.

CHECKLIST – Have you:	✓
• Provided adequate front door provision which gives two way access?	
• Provided an intercom/ door panel for out of hours visitors to access residents?	
• Provided adequate CCTV arrangements?	
• Provided progressive privacy doors which gives residents a clear and distinct space which is behind public areas?	

7.2 Tenure

Consideration must be given to mix and type of tenure proposed. There should be no discernable difference in finish regardless of tenure and units of each type of tenure. Tenure choices should be pepper-potted throughout the scheme.

CHECKLIST – Have you:	✓
• Provided mixed tenure?	
• Identified which apartments / housing units will be available for which tenure type?	
• Ensured that the tenure types are pepper potted throughout the	

building?	
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7.3 Management Arrangements

Effective management of the scheme must be considered from the onset. Management is particularly important at higher density where there is more intensive usage and a greater proportion of shared, communal space. The cost of management, reflected in service charges, is a major issue in terms of affordability so designing to minimise the cost of management and spreading the cost over as many homes as possible is a key part of the design process.

7.4 Health and Safety Including Fire

Schemes should be designed to ensure the safety and wellbeing of residents, staff and visitors to the scheme. The fire strategy for the building and means of escape need to be fully considered as part of the overall design. In particular the evacuation procedure and how the buildings structural fire precautions and the Fire Management Plan work together.

If sprinklers are incorporated the design of the system shall be in accordance with relevant British Standards and LRC Guidelines.

Fire responses need to be carefully managed with the assistive technology put in place within the building.

CHECKLIST – Have you:	✓
• Considered the management arrangements for the scheme and how they will be paid, without impacting too significantly on service charges?	
• Compiled a clear fire and evacuation strategy?	
• Provided adequate fire management and fire escape facilities?	
• Arranged fire management alongside the assistive technology?	

7.5 Colour Contrast and Material Selection

Colour contrast between walls, floors, doors and architraves, as well as fittings and furniture, assists residents with visual impairment in identifying the different surfaces and edges of their surroundings. Patterns should be limited so as not to cause confusion between, for example, the edge of a chair and the carpet.

Colour schemes from each area, and at the entrance to each flat gives each group of flats an individual look. This will assist residents in locating 'their home'. Measures should be taken to ensure non resident areas such as stores and staff areas have the facility to be locked off and the doors and frames are 'visually lost' in the wall colour to detract residents from trying to

enter restricted areas. This could lead to confusion and anxiety as they attempt to action a sign on a door – for example a door with a ‘push’ sign on it – only to find it locked.

Handrails should be on both sides of corridors and stairways. A change in material and colour at changes of direction, will assist residents with visual impairment in identifying the route through the building.

Shiny surfaces must be avoided, especially on floors. Tiling in a satin or matt finish reduces glare that can confuse residents with visual impairments.

Interior timberwork painted with satinwood as opposed to gloss will reduce glare.

Use of patterned wallpapers should be avoided as they cause problems in the following ways;

- Bold patterns can be over stimulating
- Small patterns such as geometric ones can produce blurred vision and eye fatigue
- Vertically striped wallpaper can make some people feel dizzy
- Curved and angled lines on walls can affect balance
- Still life patterned wallpaper can be confused with reality.

CHECKLIST – Have you:	✓
• Carefully considered the materials, colours and interior design of the building?	
• Considered the needs of potential residents of the building against the design?	

7.6 General Signage

Signage to comply with Approved Document Part M which includes guidelines such as minimum character size, sentence case, embossing, height, type face etc. The Sign Design Guide produced by The Sign Design Society and JMU, which is cross-referenced in Part M, is a useful reference. Appropriate signage delineating disabled parking bays will be designed in accordance with BS 8300:2001. Signage must include the wording in Braille. Signage must not be over used in the building as this will give an institutionalised feel to the building.

For residents with dementia, there is specific dementia signage available which can help to identify their apartment and rooms in their apartment. The signage provides both the word e.g ‘Bathroom’ alongside a picture of a toilet. This enables people with either special or word issues to recognise the sign and help them to way find in the building and in their own apartment. Such signs can be found:-



www.dementia-signage.co.uk

CHECKLIST – Have you:	✓
• Identified which signage you require?	
• Considered the location of signage both internally and externally?	
• Ensured that the signage meets the needs of people who will be using it?	
• Provided specialist signage if required?	

7.7 Communal Facilities

Communal facilities are usually provided centrally to serve all residents. Some have been developed in clusters or friendship groups with 8 or 10 flats having an individual lounge and dining room. This must be decided at first stage of the design process.



Restaurant area at Beckwith Mews Extra Care Scheme, Silksworth

The scheme must have progressive privacy. Public spaces such as communal lounges, dining rooms, laundries and catering kitchens should be located centrally and away from residents' apartments. Staff, visitors or day users of the building should not need to walk through corridors off which apartments are accessed to reach their destination. Guest rooms and assisted bathing areas should be located away from the public areas and

closer to the individual dwellings. Entrances to service areas should be separated visually from the main entrance.

The building must have a clear and logical layout which can be easily understood. Communal areas shared with members of the public should lead from the main entrance foyer with minimal barriers to encourage use and easy access.

Good lighting is important throughout the routes but higher light levels can be used to differentiate public from private areas.² Lighting in corridor areas should be programmed to dim during later evening hours, with PIR detection of movement which will cause the lighting to return to full power and gradually return to dim while corridors are unused. This will help to reduce electric usage and associated service charges for electric utility.



Entrance, main foyer and lounge with library access to the right – Beckwith Mews, Silksworth

Small seating bays can break up walking distances and provide a ‘rest stop’, however, this should be discussed with Fire Officers to ensure that they are confident and in agreement with the proposal.

Communal spaces should be designed to accommodate specific activities and include adequate storage for related equipment.

Disabled access toilets must be provided in the communal spaces, preferably close to principal entrances. They should be easily identifiable with automatic

² Extra Care Housing: Environmental Design to support activity and meaningful engagement for people with dementia – Journal of Care Services Management Vol. 3 no. 3 pp 250-257

lighting which dims as someone leaves the facility. Wash hand basins must be provided in each toilet facility and they must all be linked into the telecare system. An alternative to a pull cord fitting for the alarm should be considered to prevent children from pulling the cord and activating the alarm.



Seating area, Beckwith Mews, Silksworth

CHECKLIST – Have you:	✓
• Agreed which communal facilities you are providing?	
• Agreed the location of the facilities and ensured that they are in the most accessible location?	
• Looked at the proposed facilities and their location in front of progressive privacy and away from staircases and lifts which lead to resident only areas?	
• Is the layout of the facilities clear, logical with an easy flowing route?	
• Removed all barriers to the communal facilities, encouraging access and use from residents and visitors to the scheme?	
• Provided adequate seating areas in the main foyer?	
• Provided adequate disabled toilet provision with adequate lighting provision, washing provision and linked to assistive technology ?	
• Maximised the use of natural lighting whilst providing effective natural ventilation?	
• Have areas been adequately / innovatively designed to meet the needs of the activity to be carried out in the area ?	
• Has adequate storage facilities been provided ?	
• Have you provided for a discrete 'back entrance' provision within the building on the ground floor, to provide dignity and privacy to those being taken from the building by ambulance or by undertaker?	

7.8 Restaurant / Café Areas

Restaurant areas are located within the main foyer of the scheme to enable easy access to the provision for both residents and visitors to the scheme. The restaurant size should be adequate to cater for residents, staff and visitors and also provide an adequate kitchen area; changing area and office provision. The kitchen will require effective ventilation to maintain a comfortable and safe working area for the catering staff. The use of CCTV and telecare speech units should be considered (as appropriate) within the restaurant area, to facilitate the safety of residents and catering staff.

The restaurant must provide adequate turning points for people using wheelchairs and walking sticks / zimmer frames around the restaurant furnishing.

Where space is available the restaurant should be clearly linked to an outside patio space to enable the restaurant to be extended outside in warmer weather encouraging 'al fresco' dining. Provision of a barbecue area can be advantageous to encourage social events. Access doors should not be identified as 'fire exit' doors as this may discourage people from venturing outside.

The kitchen should be lockable with access limited to authorised staff only.

CHECKLIST – Have you:	✓
• Located the restaurant (if provided) in the best location for the building and its residents?	
• Provided for adequate office space, kitchen space, storage, wc and changing facilities?	
• Provided adequate natural ventilation with secondary ventilation during warmer months in the kitchen area?	
• Considered how the restaurant area can be maximised by linking it to external spaces?	
• Provided adequate turning spaces and walking areas for people with a disability?	
• Provided locks to the kitchen; office; changing areas?	

7.9 Lounge Areas

Lounge areas use a large amount of space and consideration should be given to the location of the lounge to maximise use by residents. Such areas can often be found behind progressive privacy to ensure that residents have their own specific lounge area. Lounges accommodate a range of activities, each of which generates equipment and artefacts that need to be kept available for use, this may include television; CD player, games, books, Wii game.

All items represent activities that people living in extra care accommodation can enjoy, however, adequate storage or display must be provided to remove clutter which is not helpful for people with dementia. A design approach

which allocates specific zones to different activities with adequate designated storage would produce more legible spaces.³



Cinema

CHECKLIST – Have you:	✓
• Planned the location of your lounge(s) to gain maximum use from residents?	
• Considered the potential use of the spaces and designed them with those activities in mind?	
• Provided adequate TV sockets and electrical sockets in sensible locations?	
• Considered the layout of the room to provide for furnishing and ensure a comfortable rather than institutional layout of furnishing?	
• Provided adequate storage provision either integral or within a furnishing budget?	

7.10 Circulation

Circulation areas should be adequately designed for people with poor mobility and wheelchair users, avoiding long, dull areas. Circulation spaces should be clear and rational to assist people suffering from cognitive impairment. It is also useful to break down the building into identifiable zones and the provision of visual clues (through pictures and graphics). Windows should reveal orientating external views and landmarks to help people to feel in contact with the natural world and part of a community in addition to providing reference views to the outside. Signage will greatly assist way finding, however a consistent approach to signage and display of notices should be adopted to prevent them from becoming overwhelming and creating an ‘institutional’ appearance. Spaces should clearly convey their purpose with routes designed to support way-finding using graduated spatial hierarchies from public to private space.

³ Extra Care Housing: Environmental Design to support activity and meaningful engagement for people with dementia – Journal of Care Services Management Vol. 3 no. 3 pp 250-257

Providing a place to sit and enjoy a view at the end of corridors can avoid the sense of frustration suffered by residents with short term memory loss who might wander to the end of corridors. Double banked internal corridors with rooms opening off both sides are notoriously bad for way-finding (especially when they are subdivided by closed fire doors) and should be avoided or minimised. Many extra care buildings have corridors leading to private apartments that are similar in appearance; the design challenge is to make them distinct from each other. Colour coding is often used to distinguish different zones, but it is not as effective as glazed openings with views to significant external features, which also convey information about seasonal variation. 4

CHECKLIST – Have you:	✓
• Avoided long corridors which can feel institutional and affect accessibility?	
• Avoided using mirrors in circulation areas?	
• Maximised the use of natural light?	
• Created clear circulation patterns for orientation?	
• Provided the ability to see outside at regular points to aid orientation?	
• Provided regular seating areas, rest stops (if agreeable with Fire Officer)	
• Designed ends of corridors to avoid dead ends which can be frustrating for people suffering with dementia?	
• Ensured that corridor widths are a minimum of 1800mm wide to allow for wheelchairs to pass?	
• Designed corridors as a social space linking the flats rather than just as a means to access accommodation?	
• Used different colour pallets to identify different floors or clusters of flats?	
• Provided artwork and features at key access points and changes in direction to aid orientation?	
• Provided handrails which turn into the walls at the end of corridors?	
• Provided level thresholds?	
• Provided a cill at the front door to enable the area to be personalised?	
• Designed in a 30% tonal contrast between the wall and the floor?	
• Avoided bands or border strips of colour on floor surfaces so as not to suggest a barrier or step?	
• Provided circulation areas internally to avoid residents having to go outside to gain access to central facilities?	
• Provided hold open devices on fire doors which are linked to the fire alarm system which are recessed flush to reduce snagging points?	
• Provided for a 300mm space which is required to the leading edge of all doors to facilitate ease of use by wheelchair users, in	

accordance with Approved Document Part M?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensured that skirting boards are continuous across the base of riser cupboards to make them appear as part of the wall? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensured that riser cupboard doors and doors to non resident areas are painted in with the wall colour so they are visually lost within the wall (if appropriate for the client group). This will reduce confusion and frustration amongst residents with dementia. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considered using colour and personalisation to enable people to identify with their own front door? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoided the use of a monotonous succession of doors along the corridor? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided vision panels in doors on main traffic routes with a minimum visible zone between 900mm and 1500mm above floor level? 	

Residents must be able to move freely around the building without needing to carry key fobs or remember codes as this can create an institutional environment. People need to feel that they are entitled to use a space. This has important implications for the design of communal areas. If people do not feel a sense of ownership of a space they will tend to avoid it, or behave in a passive way within it. Design strategies can help to counteract disengagement, for example people are more likely to access facilities that are presented as part of a flowing route. Closed doors on to rooms tend to be avoided. Open plan areas are used, partly for social reasons where people will sit to give them more of a chance to socialise, particularly if in an area where people are walking through. 3

7.11 Stairs and Protection from Falling

Stairs and ramps are to be guarded to protect people from falling by means of a 1100mm high guard at landings and a 900mm high guard on flights. Where possible the stairs should be designed to avoid a straight flight in order to avoid falls. The balustrades should be solid to mitigate the need for an open stair well and avoiding possible trapping of limbs etc.,

7.12 Acoustics

Acoustics must be considered by separating noisy rooms from residents living, sitting and sleeping areas. If layout permits, try to ensure that the living rooms of two adjoining flats are next to each other, and bedrooms of adjoining flats are next to each other. Hearing assistance systems should be made available in the main public area for residents with impaired hearing. The reverberation time of large spaces needs to be controlled in accordance with relevant guidance to improve intelligibility.

7.13 Emergency Call and CCTV

The type of system to be installed must be considered to reflect how the residents can maintain independence with an appropriate level of assistance without intrusion on their rights. Dispersed systems of telecare and telehealth assistive technology should be provided enabling peripheral technology to be added as resident's needs change. A telecare overlay allows the implementation and use of telecare sensors, combined with communications technology and tailored support, it helps to manage the risks associated with independent living including, falls, gas leaks and fire. It enables care staff to receive alarm calls from a variety of identifiable telecare sensors. Alarm calls received by the Contact Centre off site, can provide details of the sensor type and location. The telecare system must provide the ability to configure telecare on a per resident basis enabling telecare to be utilised to provide tailored care services.

CCTV should cover the full curtilage of the building and will be recorded preferably on a 21 day arrangement within the care manager's office. The CCTV monitor must be in an easy to view position within the office and provide easy reach to the recording system. A second monitor should be provided to enable monitoring during out of hours by the care team, in an easily accessible location.

CHECKLIST – Have you:	✓
• Considered the design of staircases to reduce the risk of falls?	
• Considered your acoustics and areas in which they need to be managed?	
• Provided for hearing loop facilities?	
• Provided a telecare overlay which links in with your contracted care team and contact centre? (as appropriate)	
• Provided efficient CCTV and recording facilities which adequately promotes safety within the building; providing easy access to visual monitors and the recording unit?	
• Undertaken a safety check of the designed building to ensure that CCTV and assistive technology is in place as required?	

7.14 Lifts

Lifts should be located adjacent to central facilities and have a clear 'waiting' space in front of them. If the lifts are intended to be used for evacuation they will require a lobby, ideally with hold open devices.



Lift in main entrance – Beckwith Mews

Sizing of lifts must be in relation to the transportation of wheelchair users and stretchers. Mirrors should not be provided in lifts as these can cause confusion to residents with dementia.

Normally two lifts are provided in case of breakdown with one wheelchair lift whilst the other needs to be a stretcher lift.

CHECKLIST – Have you:	✓
• Agreed the number of lifts your building requires?	
• Considered how lift breakdown will be managed and future proofed this arrangement ?	
• Ensured that the lift is large enough to transport stretchers and to meet hospital and undertaker requirements?	
• Made sure that the lift manufacturer’s design does not include mirrored interiors or shiny floor surfaces?	
• Considered how easy the lift is to operate and how clear the signage / buttons are within the lift casing?	
• Ensured that the lift has a verbal system which advises the passenger of their location / doors opening / doors closing etc.,?	

7.15 Treatment Rooms and Assisted Bathing

Wash hand basins are to be provided in all clinical areas, OT rooms and medical rooms. In clinical and hazardous areas wash hand basins should be stainless steel with wall mounted lever mixer taps to avoid cross contamination. Hand rinse basins will not be fitted with a plug or chain stay hole to avoid sitting water.

Soap dispensers and paper towel dispensers should be provided at each washing facility. Large paper sheet dispensers should be provided in treatment areas.

A suitable assisted bath must be fitted which provides thermostatic and computer-controlled filling systems to prevent scalding. A separate wc and changing area must be provided to respect the privacy of the individual.

The assisted bathroom and treatment rooms should be decorated in such a way to promote a 'spa' appearance rather than a clinical appearance. The use of plants and domestic furnishing can give these areas a comfortable and relaxing feel.

The use of the treatment room must be carefully considered. It is likely to provide opportunities for external practitioners to visit to provide services such as:-

- Chiropody / podiatry
- Beauty / massage
- Optical
- Flu jabs
- Bandages / dressings
- Complimentary therapies

At least a therapy chair must be provided which easily converts from a treatment chair into a strong and stable couch allowing transition from a seated to a lying position. Such an item would usually provide an electronic lift and power-assisted section. To enhance this area for relaxation, a dimmer light option should be available.

CHECKLIST – Have you:	✓
• Confirmed which treatment / health areas the scheme will provide?	
• Considered the uses of the rooms and designed them to accommodate those uses?	
• Provided for whb, changing, wc provision to respect the privacy of the 'customer'	
• Provided for clinical waste disposal as required?	
• Provided soap dispensers; towel dispensers as required?	
• Provided storage areas for cleaning equipment; medical provisions; safe; towels etc.,	
• Considered the cost of the equipment that will need to be supplied within the rooms to make them fit for purpose?	

7.16 Bariatric Care

Consideration should be given to the level of care and need that the facilities and accommodation can offer and be designed to meet.

Any units designated for Bariatric Care (care of residents over 26st) if included will need to be located on the ground floor. These require wider door-sets to accommodate larger specialist equipment, wheelchairs, shower chairs etc.,

The bedroom and bathroom should have the ability to provide a heavy duty XY ceiling track hoist fitted that will lift up to 45st. The bathroom if furnished will need to accommodate larger residents.

CHECKLIST – Have you:	✓
• Considered the need to design for bariatric care in your building?	
• If it is to be designed in, have you provided this on the ground floor?	
• Have you provided for reinforced ceilings and floors to take heavy duty hoists?	
• Have you considered the type of bathroom furnishing you will require to accommodate the resident and considered reinforced flooring on well used areas?	
• Have you designed wider doorways and spaces to accommodate larger wheelchairs in both the apartments and communal spaces?	

7.17 Guest Suite

A comfortable and welcoming room must be made available for visiting guests to the scheme. Twin beds must be provided with space for a wardrobe, small fridge and hot drink making facilities. An ariel socket must be provided for TV provision. The guest suite will provide a bath with overhead shower, whb and toilet. It will follow similar principles to those outlined later for 'Bathrooms'.

CHECKLIST – Have you:	✓
• Have you provided a room of adequate size for a guest room?	
• Have you considered the amenities to be provided in the room i.e tea bar / shower / bath?	
• Have you provided enough space for twin beds and furnishing?	
• Have you provided ariel socket and sufficient twin electric sockets and are they located in the most appropriate place?	

7.18 Meet and greet

Regardless of where residents choose to meet and greet their visitors, the environment should be welcoming and pleasant. The following must be considered:-

CHECKLIST – Have you provided outside of the home:	✓
• Space to park a vehicle; store a bicycle?	
• Space to store a mobility scooter with charging point?	
• Space to store a buggy, wheelchair, pram or pushchair?	
• Communal decoration which is easily cleaned, easy to maintain but welcoming?	
• Space for visitors in a wheelchair, or with a support frame to gain access to rooms and facilities?	



Entrance foyer at Beckwith Mews, Silksworth

CHECKLIST – Have you provided in the home:	✓
• Adequate room to enter into the home, put down bags, and take off and hang up coats and outside shoes?	
• Space to greet visitors?	
• Easy access to bathroom facilities from the front entrance?	
• Circulation spaces which are adaptable to meet the changing needs of residents?	

SECTION 8: SPACE INSIDE THE HOME

8.1 Apartment / Living Space

A resident must be able to express their own personality and life style within their own home regardless of their diverse requirements. They must have the opportunity to choose their home and be proud of where they live, taking ownership in their home and the surrounding neighbourhood.

Every design for new supported accommodation must focus on the quality of the spaces created, establishing the sense that this is a pleasurable place to live in, which will adapt to, rather than constrain the changing needs of a household.



Example living area at Barton Mews, Staffordshire

Resident's needs and aspirations may vary according to tenure mix, culture and household mix, property size, location and adaptation due to disability.

As a baseline we want to ensure that people receive in their home a sense of safety; good natural light; warm comfortable rooms; space to manoeuvre comfortably; adequate storage and a pleasant outlook. A well designed home should meet the physical and social needs of all residents and be receptive to the needs of specific vulnerable residents.

Design for wheelchair users should be considered throughout the apartment and certain areas such as the kitchen, can be designed to permit adaptation for people to use as their needs develop.

The apartment must be designed to take into account that people's care needs may change, yet they must have the ability to remain in their apartment. Providing an electric spur at the side of the window frame can help with future proofing as this can enable assistive technology to be used to activate opening and closing of windows / ventilation areas if required.

Good natural lighting should be maximised in the apartment. Low light levels reduce the ability to read, lip read and increases the risks of falls and it is not suitable for people with visual impairment.

We want to create an environment where people can socialise and know their neighbours; feel proud to invite friends and family to their home; have access to social activities; transport; health and wellbeing facilities regardless of their tenure, income group or culture.

CHECKLIST – Have you:	✓
• Provided a property which someone can make into their own home?	
• Provided a home which will adapt to, rather than constrain the changing needs of the household?	
• Considered the needs of the people who will be living in the building e.g. religious / cultural / disability requirements and fed this into the design?	
• Does the living area provide a safe, comfortable space, maximising natural light, providing manoeuvrability, adequate storage and a pleasant outlook?	
• Has the needs of people using a wheelchair been considered when designing the accommodation?	
• Designed the living space to consider the potential that care needs may change, yet the person needs to be able to maintain living in this accommodation?	
• Has natural lighting been maximised considering those with visual impairment?	
• Does the whole environment promote opportunities to socialise; enable people to feel proud to live in it and to welcome their friends and families into it?	

8.2 Bedrooms

A bedroom must provide for sleep and relaxation with safe movement and adequate space for storage. Where appropriate the bathroom should be linked directly to the bedroom to enable quick and easy access for those with poor mobility. Windows must be easily accessible and easy to open giving consideration to people with mobility, disability and dexterity problems. Ventilation must be achieved while maintaining home security / safety.



Main bedroom at Woodridge Gardens, Washington

CHECKLIST – Have you:	✓
• Provided adequate storage; a comfortable and relaxing space with safe movement?	
• Have you linked the bathroom 'en suite'?	
• Provided easy access windows, which are safe and secure as well as providing adequate and easy ventilation?	
• Ensured that accommodation is noise insulated to minimise noise from neighbours?	
• Provided double glazing?	
• Provided reinforced ceiling to enable hoist fixing if required?	
• Considered those with dexterity problems when providing built in blinds, and made sure they are easy to reach from a wheelchair?	

8.3 Bathrooms

The layout of the bathroom must be space efficient allowing for later adaptation of additional supports and aids.

CHECKLIST – Have you designed a bathroom which will have:	✓
• At least a walk in shower with shower curtain and the facility to move the shower head lower on the wall for those using bath seats?	
• A lower level bath and walk in shower provision with shower curtain (as appropriate to the household)?	
• Combine shower head rails with a grab rail to avoid residents pulling the shower rails off the wall in the event of losing their	

balance?	
• Easily operated shower controls?	
• Thermostatic control button on the shower control?	
• Toilet with economy flushing system and support rails as appropriate?	
• Accessible wash hand basin, which can be reached at wheelchair height?	
• A mirror which can be used by either someone standing or someone in a wheelchair?	
• Taps with lever handles?	
• Non slip flooring?	
• Towel rail with thermostatic control (if provided)	
• Thermostatically controlled heating?	
• Ease of access on the approach to the bathroom?	
• Outward opening doors which allow access by the care team, should a resident fall against it?	
• A simple lock which can be released from outside in an emergency?	
• Been designed to building regulations part M and BS 8300:2001. This provides configurations for wheelchair access to toilets and to showers.	
• Toilet with a contrasting toilet seat for easy identification?	
• Lighting which will immediately activate upon access into the bathroom and gradually reduce illumination when resident leaves the room?	
• Minimised splash back from the shower area onto other bathroom fittings?	
• Adequate drainage to make sure that water does not pool or leak into other living areas?	



Example bathroom provision at Barton Mews, Staffordshire

In larger family bathrooms consideration must be given to:-

CHECKLIST : Have you designed for a larger family bathroom:	✓
• Provided a low level bath with shower attachment on the taps in addition to the walk in shower?	
• Provided a separate wc and hand basin to the main bathroom to meet wheelchair standards, located on the ground floor to meet lifetime homes standards.	

8.4 Cooking and Eating

Allow space for kitchen / dining table and chair for the household / visitors



Sitting room with dining area at Woodridge Gardens, Washington

CHECKLIST – Have you:	✓
• Provided adequate and comfortable space for seating and dining?	
• Provided good working surfaces and plenty of space for preparing food?	
• Ensured that there are no unnecessary spaces or gaps between floor units?	
• Maximised storage space while making sure that the wall units and base units are practical for frail and disabled people?	
• Provided a lockable cupboard within easy reach for storage of medicines?	
• Provided excellent ventilation in the kitchen area to eliminate cooking odours from moving into the living area of the home?	
• Provided white goods with excellent efficiency ratings?	
• Provided a fridge with the freezer to the upper part of the appliance?	
• Integrated the electric oven into the cupboards at a height easily	

accessed without having to bend down to lift food (taking into account frail / elderly / disabled residents)	
• Provided snag free cupboard handles?	
• Provided a contrast between the workbench/ the units and the flooring?	
• Good lighting, especially if natural lighting is not available?	
• Electric hob with controls to the front to stop people from reaching over and burning themselves?	
• Flat ceramic hob to prevent pans from being off balance on raised plates?	
• Provided an isolation switch to enable the hob to be isolated if appropriate?	
• Provided a washer dryer and / or dishwasher and provided a flood detector linked to assistive technology?	
• If washer dryer / dishwasher are not to be provided as standard, is the plumbing in place to enable the resident to plumb appliance in if they require?	
• Provided a window? If so, is it easy to reach and open without having to stretch across benches or reach up ?	
• Provided a window with integral blinds? If so, is it easy to reach, easy to clean and is it blackout?	



Kitchen with accessible oven; locking cupboard; hob with front controls

SECTION 9: LIVING, PLAYING, WORKING AND STUDYING

A home must provide different areas to fulfil different needs of those living there.

CHECKLIST – Have you:	✓
• Provided individual rooms and spaces with areas that can accommodate different furniture layouts?	
• Provided adequate storage areas?	
• Located service provisions e.g. TV aerial; satellite in a location which is logical, taking into account furniture layout?	
• Provided key digital connections, such as telephone points, TV and broadband in accessible locations with telephone point provided in sitting room and both bedroom?	

Evidence shows that a second bedroom is a high priority for residents. A third habitable room in housing for older people is now an HCA expectation.



Second bedroom provision at Beckwith Mews, Silksworth

Schedule of Accommodation for Extra Care is attached at Appendix 1

Design Standards and Guidance Documents attached at Appendix 2

SECTION 10: DESIGNING FOR DEMENTIA

Fundamental dementia design guidance includes the following recommendations, which have been addressed in the overall design guide (in particular within the section covering Extra Care Accommodation):

- Observing a domestic scale
- Creating a homely environment for residents
- Using familiar materials and colours.

There is a reduced capacity for people with dementia to be able to judge risk or foresee danger; forgetfulness is another issue which could lead to danger in some areas. It is common for people with dementia to get lost trying to find their way around a building. This reflects a person forgetting such basic information as the location of one room in relation to another. If numerous visual cues or reminders are incorporated in the design, these can help by acting as way finders and make the situation less stressful and confusing for those residents.

Providing well lit, inviting entrances to day rooms, natural lighting, changes in floor and wall textures, colours, identifiable architectural features, recognisable and distinctive individual room designs to compensate for residents' sensory and memory losses. It must also be considered that a number of people with dementia may have other sensory disabilities, therefore, hearing and sight loss may be prevalent along with the cognitive impairment.

Clear glazed screens to communal areas will permit residents to understand the use of a room without resorting to signage.

Clear and uncomplicated circulation routes are easier to interpret and reduce the possibility of residents getting lost and frustrated. Avoid dead end corridors and stairs with blind turnings.

There is a need for residents to personalise their own space. A shelf next to each front door can provide a space for a photo, picture or item which enables people to know they are home.

CHECKLIST – Have you:	✓
• Taken into account the guidance already covered for extra care within this design guide?	
• Considered the client group in your design removing features which could cause confusion or risk?	
• Considered the accommodation types required i.e one or two bedroom apartments and external bungalows?	
• Considered that people may move into this accommodation with their spouse carer who may not suffer from dementia?	
• Provided very clear routes, with no dead ends, use of windows for land-marking and identifiable features?	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designed out borders on floors; across entrances to facilities and minimised shadow casting to avoid 'false' barriers being created? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designed the building and garden areas to be easily accessed and aid those who wander, while providing secured access at the garden boundary? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designed a building with gardens which ensures that individual's dignity and rights of privacy are maximised? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided visual clues and reminders within the overall design of the scheme? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximised natural day light and ensured that all areas of the building are well lit ? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considered the potential that residents may have hearing and sight loss and factored this into the design? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided clear glazed screens in communal areas and within apartments as appropriate to enable residents to find their way easily around the building and minimising frustration? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximised the use of colours and textures within the designs to stimulate and engage the residents 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided areas specifically to stimulate and engage residents in activities including therapy areas which provide aromatherapy and massage; sensory rooms; texture walls and pictures to encourage touch and recognition? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided reminiscence features e.g. pictures and boards? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considered dignity features within fixtures and fittings i.e. vivid colours can aid visually including toilet seats; handrails; door furniture; 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided dementia signage to support people to navigate their way around their apartment and the building? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considered the internal design and ensured that no high gloss or mirrored surfaces are designed into the scheme? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided a restaurant / café area which is warm, colourful and inviting, which encourages people to eat; is safe; respects people's dignity; provides for the needs of the residents? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided dignity crockery to ensure nutrition and hydration features are enhanced? 	

SECTION 11: DESIGNING FOR VISUAL IMPAIRMENT

Consideration must be given to lighting, colour schemes and tonal contrast, casting of shadows, audible signals and tactile information. There should be a contrast between the floor, walls and ceiling so that those with visual impairment can have an increased awareness of spatial dimensions. There should be a contrast between ironmongery, doors, door frames and walls to distinguish these clearly; the new Part M requirements of the Buildings Regulations should be considered.

Avoid shiny surfaces, especially shiny floor surfaces. Non reflective materials, such as matt wall finish tiles and flooring, especially in bathrooms and kitchens, reduce glare. Highly patterned floor and worktop surfaces should be avoided as this makes objects set against them harder to distinguish. Natural materials assist way finding, divide spaces, highlight level changes and help create a warm and less clinical environment. Callers can be recognised – via clear glazing beside the door, a door view, audible caller recognition or door entry system. Letter boxes should be centred within the door with a 'letter cage' on the inside.



Example of gated dog run for Guide dog

Where homes share a communal outdoor space, an enclosed and gated dog run, with water and drains, is available for guide dogs to be taken for toileting. A dog run in a private garden conforms to minimum size requirements

defined by 'Guide Dogs' and adheres to good practice defined by them.⁴ Floor covering, such as laminate or hard wood flooring can be problematic for dogs who will slip on such flooring. If a building is to be provided for people with visual impairment, then non slip flooring should be considered in all areas, to support guide dogs to carry out their working role.

CHECKLIST – Have you:	✓
• Considered lighting requirements; colour schemes and tonal contrast within design, specifically for those people with partial sight?	
• Minimised borders on floors and shadow casting?	
• Maximised audible signs and tactile information?	
• Provided contrasting between ironmongery and doors; door frames and walls; kitchen units and benches; walls and floors?	
• Avoided the use of shiny / glossed surfaces?	
• Provided natural materials to support way finding, enabling the resident to feel their way along corridors and communal spaces?	
• Avoided the use of patterns within design?	
• Provided ways in which visitors to the building / individual apartments can be recognised?	
• Provided for the current or future needs of guide dogs i.e provided gated dog runs; non slip flooring; play pen area when dog is off duty?	



Portland College, Mansfield which won RIBA award

⁴ Housing for People with Sight Loss – A practical guide to improving existing homes – Thomas Pocklington Trust Good Practice Guide June 2009

SECTION 12: DESIGNING FOR OTHER DISABILITIES

12.1 Learning Disability

Design features to assist people with visual impairment are generally useful for people with learning disabilities. See Appendix 1, design guidance for further information.

12.2 Hearing Impairment

Consideration needs to be given to the provision of hearing loops in all communal spaces as appropriate. Materials that reduce reverberation times are essential, particularly in larger spaces where acoustics can become a problem. Greater 'visual access' to a person's surroundings can help compensate for impaired hearing. Specify finishes for large spaces with higher ceilings such as lounges and dining rooms with a high acoustic absorbency to reduce echoes for the benefit of those with hearing impairment.

CHECKLIST – Have you:	✓
• Provided adequate hearing loops?	
• Provided materials to reduce reverberation times?	
• Enhanced visual access to compensate for impaired hearing?	
• Provided high acoustic absorbency in communal areas to reduce echoing?	

12.3 Mobility

People living in and visiting the scheme may use wheelchairs, walking sticks, zimmer frames or any combination of these. Space standards should accommodate the use of all of these.

12.4 Long Term Illnesses / Conditions

Designs should accommodate the needs of residents with typical long-term conditions and health aspects associated with stroke, heart disease, cancer, diabetes and obesity.

CHECKLIST – Have you:	✓
• Considered within the design, the needs of residents with long term conditions?	
• Provided adequate treatment areas to provide preventative treatments in addition to providing medical / physio suites?	

As guidance is developed for other vulnerable groups within our communities, the guide will be updated to reflect those needs in relation to building accommodation to suit identified disabilities.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The following guidance has been considered when devising this information:-

Design and Quality Standards – Homes & Communities Agency
Housing Quality Indicators – Homes & Communities Agency
Code for Sustainable Homes, CLG (Communities and Local Government)
Planning Policy Statement 1 & 3 CLG
Places, Homes, People, Policy Guidance English Partnership's Quality Standards, English Partnerships
Achieving Building for Life, HATC, CABE and Housing Corporation (now HCA)
Extra Care Housing: Environmental Design to support activity and meaningful engagement for people with dementia – Journal of Care Services Management Vol. 3 no. 3 pp 250-257

Giving consideration to this guidance and to other publications from the Department of Health (DH) and Housing Learning Improvement Network, we have defined the principles, guidance and requirements that enforce a quality framework to encourage a consistent approach towards quality design within all future supported housing schemes.

Gratitude is also extended to the Housing LIN members who provided information and comments which have been drawn into this guide.

APPENDIX 1 - SCHEDULE OF ACCOMMODATION⁵

We recommend the typical 1 bed flat to be 54m squared and the 2 bed flat to be 68m squared. The following schedule represents a scheme of 40 flats and gives an indication of spaces to consider with suggested floor areas. Project specific factors will dictate which spaces are appropriate and where they are located within the scheme. For example, some schemes will offer formal day care and will therefore, be able to sustain more activity spaces and there will be different requirements in schemes located in vibrant urban settings as opposed to a quiet rural area.

Accommodation

Residents Accommodation

1 bed 2 person flats

Approx 54m squared

2 bed 3 Person flats

Approx 68m squared

Communal Accommodation & Facilities

Main Communal Lounge

1.5m squared / flat

Located near to and visible from the main entrance with a focal point such as a fireplace or similar. Dining and lounge spaces should be linked but should occupy distinctly separate spaces. Views and direct access onto a south facing terrace and garden area a major benefit. Alcoves and niches will allow smaller groups to gather together.

Dining Area

1.2m square / flat

If possible this room should link to an external terrace to allow dining outside in good weather. This space could be designed in several ways, as a restaurant or café with table service or servery counter, or as a domestic dining room. Allow space for residents using wheelchairs and walking aids. The overall area is dependent upon the number of diners e.g use as a luncheon club by outsiders.

Residents Tea Kitchen

10m squared

Provide adjacent to lounge and dining space, for use by residents and for refreshments for small functions. Could double up as servery counter for main meals.

Small Lounges or Hobby rooms (2 min) min 15m squared

Can be located on upper floors and used for private parties with relatives, small gatherings, specific activities etc. Should be easily accessible and not located at the ends of corridors or isolated from the main circulation route. The number of these will depend on the size of the scheme and whether the flats are arranged in clusters.

Communal WCs

4m squared

⁵ Design Principles for Extra Care – Housing LIN Factsheet No. 6 – 13.2.08

Located near to entrance area and communal lounge / dining areas.
Designed for wheelchair accessibility.

Assisted bathrooms (1 min) **12 – 15m squared**
Equipped with baths to allow both assisted and independent use by residents. These rooms should be designed to be as domestic as possible, space should allow baths to be located in a peninsula position. WCs should be screened from the main bathroom or ideally located in a separate but adjoining room.

Hairdressing and Beauty Therapy **6m squared**
Could be located near to entrance area and might have a multi purpose use.

Informal Seating Spaces **3m squared (min)**
(Throughout scheme)

Large re charging store for electric buggies and scooters **25 – 30m squared and**

Staff and Ancillary Accommodation
Manager's Office **15m squared**
With views into the main entrance area, space for desk, computer table, chair, plus two visitors chairs and document storage.

Care Staff Office **18m squared**
Space for two desks, files storage and table for handover meetings. Privacy is important due to the confidential nature of the work.

Photocopy Area **4m squared**
Easily accessible by all staff

Staff overnight room **18m squared**
With en suite facilities
The need for this space will depend on staff arrangements and whether night waking staff will be employed.

Staff rest room with kitchenette **15-20m squared**
Space for table and chairs plus a couple of armchairs.

Staff locker / change room & shower/wc **12m squared**
All staff will need locker space and possibly an area for changing clothes. Provide at least two dedicated staff toilets and consider the need for a separate staff shower.

Guest room with en suite **20m squared**
To be designed for wheelchair user access, accommodating twin beds with en suite shower WC and basin.

Laundry **20 m squared**

For use by residents and staff with adjoining external drying yard. It may be appropriate to divide the laundry to provide separate resident and staff areas. Specify at least one machine with a sluice cycle option.

Main catering kitchen and associated Storage and staff facilities 60m squared

The brief for this space will depend on whether a full catering service is to be provided or if the requirement is for a less intensive use e.g regeneration kitchen.

**Cleaners storage 5m squared
General storage 20m squared**

Services and Plant

Minimum of 1 no. lift to all floors: 2600 x 1800mm
Minimum 13 person (stretcher size)

Lift motor room if required 4m squared

Refuse Store (including lobby and cupboard for clinical waste) 20m squared

Recycling collection point 6m squared

Plant Room and Service Risers

The size of the plant room(s) will vary significantly from scheme to scheme depending on the method of space heating selected and the extent of individual metering decided upon. Space required for water storage (including the possibility of booster tanks and pumps if the building height dictates) will also vary. As a guide allow 20-25m squared, but ensure specialist service engineer's advice on size and location at the earliest possible opportunity.

Electrical Intake / Meter room 10m squared

Other spaces to consider:

A number of additional spaces should be considered which will of course be determined by factors specific to the site, the scale of development and local need. The need for such additional facilities may be identifiable but it may still be financially prohibitive. Where appropriate consider the following additional facilities:-

- Shop (if there is no provision in local area)
- Library
- Therapy Room
- Treatment Room
- IT facilities / information points / touch screens
- Café / bar / pub
- Leisure facilities
- Outreach staff offices.
-

APPENDIX 2 - DESIGN STANDARDS AND GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS⁶

Compulsory Standards:

The following is not an exhaustive list of all standards and legislation to be met when designing and building Extra Care Housing but does give the main documents that apply specifically. A definitive guide to Extra Care with statutory status does not exist so careful interpretation and detailed knowledge of all the related standards is essential.

- Approved Document M (2006 Edition) – The Stationery Office

The Building Act 1984 requires compliance with the building regulations. Within England and Wales this is covered by guidance found within the 'Approved Documents'. Approved Document M gives technical guidance on providing access to and within buildings by all building users including disabled people. The latest version of this document is informed by BS 8300:2001 Design of Buildings and their approaches to meet the needs of disabled people - Code of Practice (see below).

- Disability Discrimination Act 1995 - The Stationery Office, 1995

Please note: Under 'The Care Standards Act 2000' the Department of Health have published 'National Minimum Standards for Care Homes for Older People'. This document is not applicable to the built environment of Extra Care Sheltered Housing as the building would not be registered as a Care Home.

Housing Corporation – Design and Quality Standards, April 2007

These standards now classify housing for older people into 3 categories:

1. Housing for older people (all special design features) = Extra Care
2. Housing for older people (some special design features)
3. Designated supported housing for older people.

It is essential that these categories are interpreted correctly and it is clear from the outset which category your Client is aspiring to achieve.

The documents to which the new Design and Quality Standards refer to are:

Wheelchair Housing Design Guide, Stephen Thorpe National Wheelchair Housing Association Group, 2006

Design Guide for the Development of New Build Accommodation for Older People, by PRP Architects for the Abbeyfield Society, 2001
Secured by Design - <http://www.securedbydesign.com>

⁶ Design Principles for Extra Care – Housing LIN Factsheet No. 6 – 13.2.08

Further Design Guidance and Good Practice References

NHF: Standards and Quality in Development – A Good Practice Guide
Relevant Sections – Part C: The Internal Environment
Part E: Accessibility & Technical Illustrations, with in the appendices
National Housing Federation, 1998

Adapting Homes: A guide to adapting existing homes for people with sight loss, Linda Rees and Caroline Lewis, RNIB Cymru, 2003

A Design Guide for the Use of Colour and Contrast to Improve the Built Environment for Visually Impaired People, Dulux Technical Group, ICI Paints, 1997

BS 8300:2001 Design of buildings and their approaches to meet the needs of disabled people – Code of Practice, The British Standards Institution, 1999

Building Sight: the Royal Institute for the Blind – a useful handbook of building and interior design solutions for the needs of visually impaired people. Peter Barker, Jon Barrick, Rod Wilson, HMSO in association with the RNIB, 1995.

The following documents are also recommended:

- BREEAM guidelines
- The Extra Care Housing Toolkit, October 2006: Provides a range of papers, ideas, checklists and diagrams designed to help in planning specialist housing and service provision. Replaces the document 'Developing and Implementing Local Extra Care Housing Strategies'. www.icn.csip.org.uk
- Extra Care Housing: Development Planning, Control and Management RTPI Good Practice Note 8, 2007. www.integratedcarenetwork.gov.uk
- Housing Green Paper, Homes for the Future, July 2007. Briefly discusses 'Housing for an Ageing Population' in chapter 5, also refers to the 'National Strategy for Housing and Ageing Society' paper for more detail. www.communities.gov.uk.
- Lifetime Homes, 16 design feature 'Standards' that together aim to create accessible and adaptable housing in any setting. www.lifetimehomes.org.uk
- Building for Life, CABE: 20 Questions which form a basis for writing development briefs. www.buildingforlife.org.

- National Affordable Housing Programme 2008-11 Prospectus, Housing Corporation September 2007. www.housingcorp.gov.uk.
- Planning for Retirement Housing, A Good Practice Guide by the Planning Officers Society and the Retirement Housing Group, November 2003.
- The Suffolk Very Sheltered Housing Design and Management Guide, Ninth Revision, January 2007, Available on line from www.suffolkcc.gov.uk.
- Towards Lifetime Neighbourhoods: Designing Sustainable Communities for All, published in partnership with Communities and Local Government November 2007.
- Legislation Maze: Inclusive Accessible Design, Guidance on accessibility design issues required during the course of a building project, using the new RIBA Plan of Work Stages.
- National Strategy for Housing in an Ageing Society, 2008. This Strategy includes announcements such as Lifetime Homes becoming a mandatory part of the Code for Sustainable Homes. www.communities.gov.uk
- Housing for people with sight loss - A Thomas Pocklington Trust design guide. 2008. Thomas Pocklington Trust and Habinteg Housing Association.
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Sport, Wellness, Aquatics and Play Update

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CITY SERVICES

Strategic Priority : Healthy City

Corporate Improvement Objectives: CIO1: Delivering Customer Focused Services, CIO3: Efficient and Effective Council

1. Why has this report come to the Committee?

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an overview for Members regarding work relating to Sport, Wellness, Aquatics and Play in 2009. The report will highlight projects that have recently been completed, currently being delivered, or those that are in the planning process. The Committee will also be provided with a presentation relating to the proposed priorities for football investment.
- 1.2 Sunderland's Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2005-2010 sets out how Sunderland's Local Strategic Partnership would contribute to the achievement of this vision, through the development of sport and physical activity opportunities across the city. Promoting sport and physical activity in advance of the 2012 Olympic Games, and beyond, will support Sport England's target of increasing participation in sport and physical activity by 1% annually, further reducing the city's health inequalities.
- 1.3 The Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2005-2010 highlights a commitment to residents, stating that, "in Sunderland everyone will have access to quality sport and physical activity opportunities to improve their health and well-being at first class community facilities."
- 1.4 An annual Sport and Leisure update report, together with selected review topics, was historically presented to the Culture and Leisure Review Committee. This report will provided Members with an update on progress, achievements and future work in relation to Sport, Wellness, Aquatics and Play.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Department for Communities and Local Government which in April 2008, published the National Performance Framework for Local Government that replaced all other sets of sport performance measurement. The national indicator which Sport, Wellness, Aquatics influence is, NI8 - Adult participation in sport.

Whilst the NI8 indicator focus is directly on sport and physical activity, as a city we continue to support and add value to a wide range of areas and indicators such as, positive activities for young people, volunteering, regeneration, education, health and community safety targets. The cross-cutting nature of sport impacts on a wide spectrum of other national indicators which include:

NI6	Participation in regular volunteering
NI55	Obesity among primary school age children in Reception Year
NI56	Obesity among primary school age children in Year 6
NI57	Children and young people's participation in high quality PE and sport
NI110	Young People's participation in positive activities

NI137 Healthy life expectancy at age 65
NI199 Children and young people's satisfaction with parks and play areas.

- 2.2 The national review of sport and physical activity by Sport England has culminated in the need to ensure we have one joined up 'Single Delivery System' for sport in order to plan, deliver and evaluate improvements in participation from grassroots through to elite sporting performance. Within the Single Delivery System, the County Sports Partnership is the strategic lead for regional sport in Tyne and Wear, and supports local authorities' work with its partners in a range of areas to increase participation levels. Sunderland currently hosts the Partnership.
- 2.3 At a local level, the Single Delivery System requires a mechanism to plan, prioritise funding and ensure a vibrant network of delivery exists. To achieve this, it is a requirement by Sport England that each local authority establishes a Community Sport Network. Sunderland has responded to this challenge by establishing the ActiveSunderland Board (in 2008), which will drive forward participation in sport and physical activity at a local level.
- 2.4 We are working towards the delivery of a city wide 'core offer' to all residents, which is also referenced in the Corporate Improvement Plan. All residents will have the opportunity to participate in four core areas of physical activity. This core offer comprises of:
- Sport
 - Wellness
 - Aquatics
 - Play

Whilst our 'core offer' has four components, a number of connecting schemes and projects operate at a local level.

- 2.5 In addition to this 'core offer', a range of shorter term targeted services are provided in partnership to reach a specific age group or target audience, predominantly to inspire adults and young people to participate in physical activity with a view to improving their overall health and wellbeing.
- 2.6 A range of specialist services are also delivered on behalf of, and fully commissioned by other partners, such as the Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust, the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Home Office.
- 2.7 The Council has embarked on a significant investment and modernisation programme of its facilities to support continuous improvement in the manner in which services are delivered to reach the previously mentioned targets.

3.0 Sport, Wellness, Aquatics and Play Update

- 3.1 Sunderland City Council takes the health and well being of all who live, work and study in the city very seriously. The Council wants people to live an active, independent life to the full. An important part of achieving this is to take part in regular physical activity and the choices of facilities and programmes available will continue to improve.
- 3.2 As detailed above, the 'core offer' consists of Sport, Wellness, Aquatics and Play. In addition, there are a number of city programmes and projects which are cross cutting in nature and draw opportunities together to ensure provision is 'connected' at a local level. Many of these programmes are increasingly offered with local

partners on an area basis. Progress in the delivery of leisure activity within the city is detailed below:

3.3 Active Sunderland Board

- i) The Active Sunderland Board consists of partners from all sectors, which contribute to the development and delivery of sport and physical activity within the city. Together we aspire to:
 - Lead development of a citywide strategy for increasing participation in physical activity
 - Coordinate and exploit the sport and physical activity facilities in the city
 - Increase the number and improve the quality and skills of the workforce
 - Capitalise on major events including the Olympics and Paralympics
 - Use research and evaluation to understand the physical activity sector
 - Identify and maximise potential funding to support and extend the provision of physical activity.
 - Prepare a collective, citywide response to national sport or physical activity initiatives.
 - Act as an advocate for physical activity in the city.
 - Monitor and evaluate achievement against outcomes.
- ii) Overall the Board seeks an effective single delivery system which increases participation in sport and physical activity. The Board currently links into the 'Healthy City' delivery arrangements, but it is recognised that sport and physical activity is unique in its cross cutting role on virtually all themes in the Sunderland Strategy.
- iii) In the challenging economic climate, it is increasingly important that the Council are clear where and why resources are focused. In recent months, the Board has been refreshing its terms of reference, developing the overall governance arrangements to engage with wider partners, establishing a general approach to business and an accompanying performance management framework to track performance. This will help ensure the Board prioritises its energy and delivers value for money to residents.
- iv) A number of key cross cutting partnerships have been formally endorsed to take the work forward including;
 - A BSF Steering Group being formed, to ensure that a clear PE and Sport vision is embedded in the BSF capital transformational programme and that school developments reflect the needs of the wider local community sport. In the future, this group could develop into a wider sport facility planning group, to ensure partner developments are strategically planned, connected and sustainable.
 - The City Council playing a leadership role in coordinating sub-regional and local partners, and endeavouring to ensure local community sports needs are met with clear policies.
 - A Young People's PE, Sport and Physical Activity Group have also been formed, bringing together the network of specialist colleges, healthy schools leads, college and university.

As can be seen from the above work, the City Council are taking a leadership role in coordinating partners and being the lead for community sport for children and young people beyond the curriculum day.

- v) Evidence of partners recognising the Active Sunderland Board and the wider network, is its role in delivery of the City's Preventative Strategy. The Board is the named lead for the commissioning of £100,000, for Play and Positive Activities from Children's Services. These funds are currently being used to commission a wide range of providers who are part of the extended network of providers. The City Council will take a lead role (with other nominated Board Members supporting) to ensure that such funding delivers high quality services. Similarly, the Board's strategic role is illustrated by the Teaching Primary Care Trust's (TPCT) willingness to contribute £60,000 towards the city's Active Bus project, which is a Board led project. Further, the Young People's PE Sport and Physical Activity Group has planned and commissioned funds to support children and young people in achieving the five hour offer (NI 57).

3.4 Development and Promotion of the Network

- i) When the Active Sunderland Board was launched, it was envisaged that the strength would be the extensive network of deliverers. Work has been underway to develop a detailed database of providers and partners in sport, wellness, aquatics and play.
- ii) The development of a current database network of sports providers has taken some time to compile. The data collection and partner development has been initiated by the Sport England funded Active Bus Coordinator and the recent recruitment of the Community Sports Network Coordinator. It is anticipated that the data will provide the service with greater knowledge of the city's sports providers.

3.5 Outdoor Sports Facilities

- i) The city continues to develop facilities to underpin and support participation in sport and physical activity. In addition, to the substantial aquatics development, the service has focused on three significant pieces of work to develop facilities:

3.6 Football Investment Strategy

- i) Members may be aware the Football Investment Strategy has previously been submitted to Scrutiny Committee. A full assessment of needs and demands for football has been completed, which has resulted in a tiered model of provision and standards which will help to ensure football sites have defined purpose, and that development principles are embedded into the delivery. The Strategy was approved in January 2010 by Cabinet and will be followed by the development of investment priorities to secure a £1million contribution for football to match the City Council's £700,000 contribution. It is intended the Strategy will improve satisfaction rates in community based facilities and increase participation in sport amongst adults and young people.

3.7 Football Centre Developments

- i) Steady progress is being made in the procurement of private sector providers for the Silksworth football facility and Northumbria Centre, despite the challenging market conditions. The Committee will be provided with an update on progress at the meeting.

3.8 Houghton Primary Care Centre

- i) In October 2009, the construction phase of the £19.5m Primary Care Centre project commenced on site. Built adjacent to the existing Houghton Leisure Centre, the new buildings will be joined to create shared circulation space. The external site will be developed to include improved parking areas, aesthetic

landscaping and completion is due spring 2011. As part of the Primary Care Centre development, a new multi use games area will be built on the site.

3.9 Sport Partners and Development Pathways

- i) Developing sport in Sunderland relies upon a strong approach to support key community partners. The City Council is starting to make good progress to ensure that there is a well connected network of partners, although considerably more focus is required to make the most of emerging opportunities such as the Olympics and the 2018 World Cup.
- ii) It is important the City Council take a lead role in supporting the community network and work with sub regional agencies such as Tyne and Wear Sport, in offering some core services to providers. A sports framework is at an advanced stage of development and will set key baselines and targets around the cornerstones of sports development. The framework will also establish key roles and responsibilities in both the development and funding of such sports development activity and will identify support and performance measurement in the areas of:
 - Club development
 - Coaching
 - Sports volunteer support
 - Talented athlete support
 - Funding support
 - Promoting sport and celebrating success
- iii) The City Council in addition to providing sports facilities,, also guides policy, supports, enables and commissions delivery partners to deliver sport. The framework will seek to formalise and strengthen this approach. Further, the framework will seek to clarify the level of service possible across the city in support terms and across the wide range of providers.

3.10 Promoting Sport and Celebrating Success

- i) The city sponsors the Sunderland Sports Fund which awards grants to talented young people. Further work is required to support the programme.

3.11 Inspiring Sports Events

- i) The opportunity for the city to host the World Cup in 2018 would bring substantial legacy opportunities for sport far beyond football. City Services have worked with other key Active Sunderland Board partners (specifically the Sunderland AFC Foundation) to develop the community participation and legacy chapters to the submission. Recent success in Sunderland's presence in the final FA England bid provides a real opportunity for refining this work.

3.12 Sport and Tackling Crime

- i) As referenced earlier, sport can contribute to a range of cross cutting priorities. City Services continue to direct deliver a targeted intervention for children and young people in Southwick, Positive Futures. This programme is nationally funded by Catch 22 (Home Office funding) and is currently under funding review.
- ii) The programme continues to be a popular and requested service in Southwick and localities beyond. Elected Members in both Washington and the Coalfield areas have recently requested information on whether such a scheme could operate in their area using locally devolved funding.

- iii) City Services experience in using such schemes to support communities has also been recognised in a national research project, which followed from Sunderland's Beacon programme for Culture and Sport for Hard to Reach Groups. The research is now complete and has been published nationally. A toolkit evidencing the Council's work is currently being prepared.

3.13 Play

- i) The Strategic vision for play in the city outlined in the Play and Urban Games Strategy – Moving Forward (2007-2012) is that:

Sunderland will work in partnership to provide, support and sustain a variety of high quality and accessible play environments and opportunities for all children and young people up to 19 years. The city aspires to a core offer of free provision citywide supported by affordable supervised provision as appropriate.

- ii) Committee Members will be aware of previous updates on progress against the city's Play and Urban Games Strategy – Moving Forward (2007-2012).
- iii) In January 2008, Sunderland City Council was one of 20 authorities to be awarded Play Pathfinder status, a £2.1million capital investment accompanied by £500,000 revenue support. The award has resulted in an 18 month transformation programme in the delivery of play and urban games city wide. The breadth and depth of the programme, and the team's aspirations to ensure the programme makes a difference to children, young people and their families, has stretched capacity and commanded significant energy, creativity and commitment.
- iv) However, the City Council is now supported by an emerging network of partners in play, who have grown in strength and number through the team's resourceful and visionary approach to the programme. Our partners include Play England, Tyne and Wear Play Association, Gentoo, voluntary sector groups, schools and residents associations.

v) Achievements

The achievements of the Play Pathfinder Programme are as follows:

- Match funding the £2.1million DCFS capital grant and £200,000 City Council funding, by a further £1.8million from external funding. A funding ratio in excess of £19 external funding, to every £1 City Council funding, evidences value for money and efficiencies.
- Developing an inspiring partnership with the Aiming High Pathfinder for disabled young people and their carers, to develop an integrated service model for play.
- Maximising partner skills through commissioning a range of voluntary and community sector organisations, to deliver neighbourhood based consultation and empowering communities and promoting ownership.
- Tackling a mid-programme review of consultation, to reflect local feedback and fully capture the community leadership role of Elected Members.

- Engaging over 3,000 children and young people in the design and development of new play spaces and play services, including a young people's inspection team.
- On target for the delivery of 28 new or refurbished high quality play spaces citywide by March 2010.
- An increase from 31% children and young people, with access to high quality play spaces 1km from their door in 2008, to 70% high quality access by March 2010.
- On target for the delivery of a unique City Adventure Play Park, as a beacon for expertise in family focused and inclusive adventurous play.
- Launch of the 'Lets Play' campaign, to inspire families to get involved in their local play spaces and to challenge a sometimes negative perception of children and young people playing and socialising. The estimated reach of these six activities was over 1000 children and young people.

vi) Overcoming Challenges

The programme delivery has not been without its challenges. The team has been supported by Elected Members to build confidence in communities who fear that play will create problems, rather than solve them. This has included coordinating multi-discipline teams to ensure a 'one council' solution prior to a new play development. Tackling perceptions against play provision remains a key challenge moving forward.

Nonetheless, the developments have led to a sustained improvement in resident satisfaction. Since 2004, a net improvement of 19% to the current date, has been seen through the annual MORI survey (this measure being taken prior to the Pathfinder investment).

vii) Next Steps

It is important the play service identifies resource to ensure that the new areas remain presentable and appropriately maintained. Due to the significant progress against the action plan within the current Play and Urban Games Strategy, an addendum to the document is being prepared. This will consider revised guidance issued by Government and Play England, but mainly seek to review progress and update the action plan. Elected Members have been asked over the last 12 months for their views on possible next steps for play development. Suggestions to date have been distributed to Elected Members for their feedback on a ward basis. It is anticipated that an updated action plan will be available from spring 2010.

viii) In conclusion, Pathfinder has helped formally shift the play service from being facility focused, to a service which engages with communities, educates, challenges perceptions and encourage families above all have fun, but also to lead healthy and active lifestyles. Whilst there is still more to do, progress in the delivery of play in 2009 has been outstanding, with the accelerated delivery of the Play and Urban Games Strategy (2007-2012), by two years. The service has out-performed all agreed targets and exceeded many resident needs, which has been recognised locally by Elected Members, partners and residents of all ages.

In addition, Sunderland has shared their learning regionally and have been selected for a National Best Practice DVD. The progress at Silksworth for the innovative Adventure Playpark is being viewed with interest by the Government, as it emerges as a model of National Best Practice.

3.14 Wellness

- i) Sunderland's unique Wellness Service has developed within the city with the primary aim to improve individual's health and well-being through the provision of physical activity opportunities, lifestyle advice and education within Wellness Centres and in the local community.
- ii) Our fundamental aim is to target those individuals who are not yet engaged in physical activity and through the provision of physical activity opportunities, lifestyle advice and education health improvements are realised. The service supports lifestyle change in order to prevent chronic and lifestyle diseases developing or worsening, and keeps individuals as healthy as possible even when with an established condition.
- iii) The key principles of the Wellness Service is to shift the balance from treatment services to preventative measures and provide Wellness opportunities either as an alternative or support for treatment. As a result of a fully engaged scenario with a range of key partners the service reaches and impacts on the individuals that are most in need and subsequently is contributing to reducing the inequalities that are so prevalent within Sunderland.
- iv) Sunderland's Wellness service brings together all partners working in health promotion, sport and leisure services to create a joined up approach to improving people's quality of life. The service delivers a number of innovative support programmes that have evolved out of necessity to meet the health challenges of a diverse city, and ensures that people at risk are identified sooner, and referred onto the appropriate support pathway and that the programmes are promoted and communicated to all.
- v) Underlying the Wellness Service is the robust monitoring and evaluation framework that ensures evidence can be supplied to demonstrate the positive impact that the Wellness Service is having on the health of the city.
- vi) The City's Wellness Service is now established as a multi component service that is accessible for all ages and abilities and enables individuals at risk of lifestyle related conditions to be identified early and signposted or referred to the appropriate level of support that will make a difference to their long term health and well-being.
- vii) The relationship between Wellness and the wider service area has ensured the Wellness Service is positioned appropriately. There are however a number of other areas within the Directorate that Wellness links to including Streetscene Services and Culture and Tourism. Wider links have and continue to be further developed with other Directorates including Health Housing and Adult Services and Children's Services.
- viii) The Wellness Service has successfully positioned its programmes against the need of the residents and subsequently delivers a range of preventative services targeted interventions and specialist services.

ix) Wellness Centres (Prevention)

One component of the Wellness Service is the citywide network of co-located facilities and programmes. The Wellness Centres, equipped with the latest Technogym equipment, offer opportunities for all residents to participate in programmes of physical activity, as well as receive support specifically designed around their needs. Since 2004, Sunderland boasts 7 state of the art Wellness Centres and a strategic alliance with provider Technogym ensures that Sunderland offer the most up-to-date and accessible equipment available.

x) Community Wellness Programme (Prevention)

The Community Wellness Programme (CWP) was primarily designed to increase the provision of the Wellness service, enabling residents of Sunderland to access Wellness facilities and equipment at a local level. The aim of the Community Wellness programme was and continues to be increasing the number of individuals participating in physical activity. Specific objectives include:

There are currently 8 Community Wellness venues strategically located across the city ensuring that people are never too far away from their nearest Wellness opportunity.

- Fulwell Day Centre
- Downhill Centre
- YMCA Herrington Burn
- Ryhope Community Association
- Pennywell Community Association
- Easington Lane Community Access Point
- St Mary & St Peters Community project
- Hope Church & East End Boxing Club

Part of the success of this programme is attributed to the working relationships with the voluntary and community sector. Providing opportunities in the heart of a community where local people have easy access to a high quality service has proved exceptionally successful. To date impact has been significant, with over 10,000 attendances across the 8 venues.

The CWP currently offers 53 sessions per week across 8 sites: 14 of these are delivered by a CWP coach / wellness coach, 9 sessions are specifically for people aged 50+ and are delivered by sit and be fit, and 29 sessions are delivered by the CWP venues' staff and volunteers. There are over 1,200 attendances per month across all sites.

xi) Community Classes for over 50's (Prevention)

These classes are tailored to the needs of individuals and include both seated and standing exercise. The classes improve mobility, balance and co-ordination which decrease the likelihood of falls and increase ability to continue to live independently into old age. The 'Sit and Be Fit' classes take place in Community Wellness venues. There are currently 9 sessions per week operating in the following venues:

- Ryhope Community Association
- St Mary & St Peter's Community Project
- Easington Lane Community Access Point
- Herrington Burn YMCA

- Washington Millennium Centre

xii) Mums on the Move (Prevention)

The Mums on the Move programme is designed to provide safe and suitable exercise for new mothers. An appropriately qualified instructor leads a session in which new mothers attend, complete with their pushchairs and child. Sessions take place outdoors and promote improved social and mental well-being for the mother, and also physical activity suitable to the participant's physical condition. These sessions take place from the Seaburn Centre and Silksworth Wellness Centre and are now led by the Specialist Exercise Practitioner for Maternity.

xiii) Wellness on 2 Wheels (Prevention)

Employees have been offered the opportunity to take part in supervised, free of charge bike rides. The Wellness on 2 Wheels Summer Cycling Programme was viewed as a safe and fun way to introduce participation in physical activity. Bikes, helmets and equipment were provided for all employees who took part and staff also had the opportunity to take along their own bike if they preferred.

xiv) Wellness.....it's a Walk in the Park (Prevention)

The Wellness Service is in the process of developing, producing and marketing a citywide walking programme. The programme will involve developing a number of 'way marked' routes in 10 city parks, two in each of the city's five areas. Dependant on the size of the park, routes will typically be 1, 2 or 3 miles in distance and will be suitable for walkers, runners, wheelchair users and pushchairs. It is anticipated that the Walk in the Park project will be an excellent addition to the existing health and well-being services in the city. Once established, each one of the 10 parks will have a feature, which will both increase park usage and provide further opportunity for residents to participate in physical activity.

xv) Exercise Referral & Weight Management Programme (Targeted Intervention)

This programme is an innovative example of an exercise referral system that has evolved out of necessity to meet the health challenges of a diverse city and ensures that people at risk are identified sooner.

Success of this programme to date includes 100% compliance from all the city's GP practices, with over 125 GP's and practice nurses referring patients. The programme is delivered within the city's 6 Wellness Centres and 4 of the Community Wellness venues. However, the menu of opportunities available to the referred patient has increased and now includes:

- Traditional 'gym' on referral
- Cycling on referral
- Exercise classes on referral
- Swimming in referral
- Dance on referral
- Walking on referral (from February 2010)

Since the programme was launched in November 2008, throughput has exceeded all targets:

- Total number of referral received - 4,043
- Individuals commencing their 15 week support programme - 2,713
- Individuals completing their 15 week support programme - 366

xvi) Stop Smoking Service (Targeted Intervention)

Since October 2009, the Exercise Referral Team has delivered a Stop Smoking Service to individuals who have made the decision to stop smoking. It was acknowledged that the Exercise Referral Team is positioned to be able to support clients on a number of lifestyle issues including stopping smoking. This truly is an effective partnership approach and is effectively utilising the team who are already working with referred clients to deliver a more holistic service. This service is now provided to all individuals who may access leisure facilities, as it has been recognised that for some individuals receiving the support programme in alternative venues to GP practices, it may contribute to increased numbers of quitters.

xvii) Maternity Lifestyle Programme (Targeted Intervention)

From September 2009, a maternity lifestyle exercise specialist has promoted the benefits of physical activity, nutrition and assisted with improved lifestyle choices for pre and post natal women within Sunderland. This programme is in place to address specific lifestyle factors with families of new born children, which put them at risk of poorer health. The programme targets and offers support to families who are pregnant and up to one year after delivery.

xviii) Supporting People Wellness Project (Targeted Intervention)

A pilot programme has been developed with the Supporting People Team and is working with 10 individuals who are currently residing with the Salvation Army. The aim of the project is to provide people with meaningful opportunities that will assist in the transition from supporting people into encouraging participation in the community. A six month Wellness Centre membership has been provided to encourage the individuals to increase their activity levels, which in turn will improve not only their health and well-being, but also their confidence, self esteem and social skills.

xix) Specialist Weight Management Service (Specialist Service)

This programme was developed and delivered in partnership with STPCT and the City Hospital's. A multi-disciplinary team was commissioned by the STPCT and a team consisting of a psychologist, dietician and an exercise practitioner were appointed. The service is delivered from the Aquatic Centre, providing a traditional clinical programme within a leisure facility, thus enabling the transition into activities easier for the referred client.

xx) Lifestyle Activity and Food Programme

The LAF Programme is a healthy lifestyle intervention programme for families whose children have been identified as overweight or obese developed by Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust, City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust (CHSF) and Sunderland City Council to support the City's child obesity pathway of care, which forms part of a life-course approach to addressing obesity in Sunderland.

The programme offers two levels of intervention:

- Tier 2 General intervention programme - Child with a BMI between the 91-97th percentile (as related to the UK 1990 BMI chart to give age and gender-specific information) would be referred and access the general intervention programme

- Tier 3 Specialist intervention programme - Child with a BMI at the 98th percentile or above (as related to the UK 1990 BMI chart to give age and gender-specific information) would be referred and access specialist support

The aim of the programme is to support children and families to adopt and maintain healthier lifestyle choices. This is achieved through fun and engaging interactive group sessions based on accepted healthy eating advice and the opportunity to be physical active, and underpinned by an understanding of the key drivers for behaviour change. In addition children with more complex needs will have access to specialist support should it be deemed necessary.

Specialist support is provided by the Senior Specialist Dietician and Psychologist with additional support from the Consultant Paediatrician and may take the form of one-to-one or group sessions, depending on the child and family's needs and circumstances.

The programme is available to children from aged 2-16 and their families who are registered with a Sunderland GP and reside within the Sunderland area, and who meet the referral criteria. The 8-week programme consists of weekly 2-hour sessions designed to be fun, engaging and interactive, and take place at times and locations that meet the requirements of families. The programme is developed for age-specific groups (2-4, 5-7, 8-11, 12-16) to ensure the activities and interactive sessions are suitable.

Referrals will be received from GP's and other healthcare professionals including Practice Nurses, School Nurses, Health Visitors, Allied Health Professionals

It is anticipated that over 400 families will be supported through this targeted intervention programme in 2010–2011.

xxi) Beacon for Reducing Health Inequalities

In 2008, Sunderland was awarded Beacon status for its ground-breaking and successful work in reducing inequality, its ability to deliver excellent services and willingness to innovate. During the 12 months of Beacon Status we delivered a number of learning exchanges for other local authorities, primary care trusts and the wider audience to share our best practice in a number of areas.

A 'Solutions & Networking for Health Inequalities' event, was held at the Bunny Hill Customer Service Centre on 3 July 2008. This event demonstrated how the Community Wellness Programme was making a difference in the city and how the Bunny Hill Centre had greatly expanded provision to wards in the north of the city

A 'Meeting the Obesity Challenge' event took place on the 9 October 2008 at the Sunderland Stadium of Light. This brought delegates from across the country to Sunderland to learn from our best practice, as well as listen to recognised key note speakers who specialise in obesity.

The final National event organised by the IDeA was the Beacon and Beyond Conference held in London in November 2009. This event attended by over 100 delegates allowed the Beacons to present the areas of work that they and continued to develop since being awarded Beacon Status. Alongside the conference the IDeA produced their 'Beacon and Beyond' document, which

showcases Sunderland City Council and the work that took place during our Beacon year.

xxii) Wellness Guides

Over 35,000 Wellness Guides have been produced to date and distributed to individuals across the city. The Wellness Guide provides easy to follow information targeted at those that require lifestyle advice and education on a number of issues including, healthy eating, weight loss, physical activity, smoking, alcohol and stress.

xxiii) Sunderland Active Project

The 'Active Project' focus is upon targeting an estimated 6,200 people over three years (aged 16 plus) who are 'contemplating' adopting a more active lifestyle and work towards 3 x 30mins of physical activity a week.

Through a successful partnership with Sunderland AFC Foundation, they have provided the revamped bus, appropriately fitted out with a range of equipment suitable for both project target audiences.

The Active Bus is staffed by qualified "activity consultants". The bus is a mobile resource to provide a lifestyle assessment, which aims to raise residents' awareness of their current activity levels and the benefits that exercise and making healthier lifestyle choices can have on their lives.

Those who engage with either project will have a lifestyle assessment and receive appropriate support from the activity consultants. Both projects will ensure that all residents who engage with the Active Bus are signposted and supported into a range of sport and physical activity opportunities within the city appropriate to their needs. Both projects will work closely together, sharing relevant data to ensure maximum impact is achieved.

Since the Active Sunderland project was launched in October 2009, the Activators have engaged with 387 residents. Of the 387, 34% have been between the ages of 16-21 years of age and 25% have been over the age of 50. 57% (190) of all engaged residents have been female and 43% were male. These statistics indicate that we are successfully working with a cross section of Sunderland residents. In all instances, the Activators have provided the residents with a Wellness check, lifestyle advice and information relating to physical activity. All residents who have participated will receive a follow up letter, inviting them for a re-test. This will enable us to assess lifestyle change and programme impact.

xxiv) Wellness Conclusion

The Wellness Service is more than just facilities and equipment. The positive impacts felt by those participating in the various programmes are a result of strong partnership working at numerous levels and significant investment in the personal development of Wellness staff and volunteers. Our success in tackling the health challenges faced in Sunderland, can only be achieved through collective action. Our vision is to increase the impact of the Wellness Service through a fully engaged scenario with a range of key partners. The City Council is working towards a clear, joined-up approach between health care professionals, leisure providers children and adult services so residents of Sunderland can easily access physical activity, lifestyle advice and education.

3.15 Aquatics

i) 25m Pools at Silksworth and Hetton

2009 saw the development of a new Coalfield area provision and a new pool provision at Silksworth.

The design of the Hetton swimming pool includes a 25m x 5 lane pool, learner pool, sauna / steam facility, studio and Wellness Centre. At Silksworth the pool provision includes a single depth, 4 lane 25m pool, enhanced wet and dry change provision and an enhanced reception.

An extensive consultation exercise was carried out earlier in the year, which involved residents, young people and key stakeholders to inform a programme of activities to meet a wide variety of needs. The consultation provided an opportunity to generate awareness around the new facilities. Following analysis of the consultation feedback, the programme will initially include casual swimming, lane swimming, aqua fit classes, together with an extensive Learn to Swim Programme. Additional assisted swim sessions will be programmed at the Silksworth Pool to accommodate disabled and infirm customers, and there will be sessions available for adult and toddler groups.

Both swimming pools planned to undertake a period of operational testing prior to opening. An advert was placed in the Sunderland Echo on 17 November 2009, asking for groups and individuals to try out the new facilities before the pools opened to the wider public in January 2010. As part of the operational testing, a '1st Splash' photo opportunity was arranged in December 2009 at Silksworth, with St Leonard's Primary School and Hetton with Sunderland Rugby Football Club under 15s.

Ribbon cutting ceremonies were arranged at Silksworth on 12 January and at Hetton on 14 January 2010, to mark their opening to the public. An 'official' opening will be organised later in 2010.

ii) Sunderland Aquatic Centre

The Aquatic Centre began the year offering free swimming to over 60s and under 16's as part of the Government's initiative. An overview of work at the Aquatic Centre can be seen in Appendix 1.

The current course of curriculum lessons which ran from September to December 2009, facilitated 17 schools, providing young people with coached swimming lessons towards the Key Stage 3 attainment.

iii) Sunderland Aquatic Centre - Pre Games Training Camp Progress (PGTC)

The Aquatic Centre appears in the region's PGTC Guide for 2012. A separate regional brochure has been produced for the exclusive use of all regional venues in the promotion of their facilities to overseas teams. This brochure details the available sports facilities and supporting infrastructure.

Regional engagement with the London 2012 Games has been formalised through the establishment of a Nations and Regions Group (NRG). The regional approach is focused upon a need to align, where possible, all London 2012 Games activity with existing regional strategies and programmes.

Sunderland sits on the region's PGTC Board chaired by OneNorth East and Sport England. On a quarterly basis, ONE and Sport England meet with the PGTC venues in the region and LOCOG to update partners on progress and detail future actions. From the outset a collective view has been taken amongst the venues, along with ONE and Sport England, which a joined up regional approach is required for the attraction of teams. This is achievable given the small number of PGTC venues but also desirable so as not to duplicate attraction activity and waste resources.

A Knowledge Exchange Site with password access for Sunderland has been set up by ONE. Venues and regional partners are able to post up to date information.

On 23 September 2009 the Aquatic Centre hosted Zambia who visited the region to explore the potential of using the venue as a PGTC location for swimming.

On 19 October 2009 Paul Deighton, Chief Executive, of LOCOG visited the region. Sunderland was present at the visit to Middlesbrough Football Club's training headquarters at Hurworth to field press queries about our regional approach to PGTC issues and provide a practical example of what we do when we have a visiting team, such as Zambia in Sept 2009

Durham University has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka had swimmers competing at Beijing and may have a desire to use the Aquatic Centre as a PGTC venue

At this point regional relationships are also being developed with Cuba, Singapore and South Africa

iv) UK School Games

Preparations in 2009 have been ongoing to stage the 2010 UK School Games together with partner Tyne and Wear authorities.

The UK School Games is regarded as a 'mini-Olympic Games' and will feature young sporting talent from across the United Kingdom. Sunderland, Newcastle and Gateshead will share the 5th UK Schools Games, an event aimed to inspire young athletes leading up to London 2012.

Sunderland City Council holds a seat on the North East UK Project Board, which meets quarterly and provides support on event policy and direction for Sunderland. More than 1,600 young people will compete as part of regional squads. Young disabled athletes will also compete in Paralympics-style events as part of the Games. The tournament will also feature a volunteering scheme giving North-East youngsters the chance to gain experience as sports officials.

The Games will include competition for 10 Olympic sports, with Sunderland hosting events at the Aquatic Centre (swimming) and Silksworth (table tennis and fencing).

v) Washington Leisure Centre

Free swimming commenced in Sunderland for those over 60s and under 16's on 1 April 2009 and will continue until 31 March 2011 at Washington Leisure Centre, Sunderland Aquatic Centre and the Raich Carter Sports Centre. The new pools at Silksworth and Hetton will also be part of the Free Swimming Initiative.

An opportunity has arisen to develop and upgrade swimming facilities at Washington Leisure Centre, as part of the Government's Free Swimming Initiative, Modernising Pool Provision (Capital Challenge Fund)

Nationally, there is £25m per annum in 2009/10 and 2010/2011 to modernise swimming pool provision and support more ambitious plans for free swimming, to be divided between those authorities that choose to apply. Local authorities that signed up to participate in Pots 1 and 2 can bid for the modernisation and enhancement of their pools under the Pot 4 programme. An outline Stage 1 application for Pot 4 funding was made on 4 September 2009 to refurbish the Washington Leisure Centre pool.

As part of the development, and to meet the funding criteria, it is proposed to completely refurbish the pool changing areas by creating a modern changing area. This work will include new changing cubicles, lockers, showers and toilet facilities as well as new sauna and steam facilities. The pool area will also be modernised with retiling work to the main pool and learner pool, as well as renewing all ceiling finishes. Significant mechanical and electrical work will be undertaken to ensure that the infrastructure is capable of supporting the improvements.

vi) Sports Centres and Facilities

Within the context of presenting this report it should be remembered that whilst there are many projects and programmes being developed across the city, the day to day activities of the city's sports centres should also be fully recognised. These facilities play an important role in localities by providing a wide choice of sports activities and programmes and provided in excess of 2.152 million attendances in 2007/2008. The sport facilities include:

- Washington Leisure Centre
- Northumbria Centre
- Silksworth Sports Complex
- Sunderland Tennis Centre
- Houghton Sports Centre
- Crowtree Leisure Centre
- Seaburn Centre
- Community North Sports Complex
- Sunderland Aquatic Centre
- Bunnyhill Wellness Centre
- Elemore Golf Course
- overseeing the Council's interest in the Raich Carter Sports Centre.

An overview of the work and events staged by the city's sports centres can be seen in Appendix 1.

vii) Silksworth Adventure Centre

Since Cabinet approval for the pool (December 2006), Play Pathfinder funding has been awarded at Silksworth enabling further enhancements to the site, which include an indoor Adventure Centre, a sensory room and outdoor play provision. In April 2009, Cabinet also agreed to vary the contract with Pellikan Construction Ltd to include the design and construction of the City Adventure Centre. The Adventure Centre will be completed by 31 March 2010.

viii) Boxing

In Sunderland we have a successful track record of staging professional boxing events, particularly during the mid 1990's, including professional bouts at British, European and World level. On 2 May 2009, Sunderland City Council successfully hosted and sponsored a SKY pay per view professional boxing event at Crowtree Leisure Centre. The event was a SKY Box Office undercard to the Ricky Hatton contest in Las Vegas and it has been estimated that an audience in excess of one million households watching the boxing on television.

This was followed by two SKY televised events held at the Seaburn Centre in July and October 2009. The televised events have featured local Olympian Tony Jeffries who has proved to be a popular attraction with near sell out attendances of 1,600 at all three events.

As a result of hosting these events in the 1990's, the benefits to the city included:

- International, national and regional media coverage
- Partnership working with the Amateur Boxing Association of England
- Attracting between 500 - 1000 visitors to the city per event

3.1.6 **Annual Review of the Affordable Pricing Framework**

- i) Previously the Culture and Leisure Review Committee had scrutiny arrangements associated with the pricing policy framework and had requested an annual update be provided to committee. Accordingly the Directorate can advise that significant research has been undertaken in relation to activities governed by the framework. At the point the new pricing framework was introduced in April 2008, there were instances where, for historic reasons, some sport and leisure activity prices were still below the market average. Where this was the case, a decision was taken to increase the activity price marginally in order to avoid customer resistance against what may have been perceived as a significant price increase compared to what they had previously been paying for the same activity. As a result it has been identified that in some areas, the prices are evidenced as being well below the market rate, such as prices concerning courses, classes and gym activities.
- ii) In order to operate within resources available, it is considered appropriate to gradually increase those prices which have remained low, to a level which is in line with the market rate. Activity prices have been extensively researched and those activities where a price increase is not being proposed remain in line with neighbouring local authorities
- iii) There were no price increases applied to any activities in April 2009.

4. Recommendation

4.1 Members of the Scrutiny Committee are requested to note the content of this report.

5. Background Papers

5.1 The following background papers were relied upon to compile this report

- Sport England meeting notes
- Presentation by OneNorth East 7 August 2008
- Area Committee reports November 2008 and January 2009.
- Sport & Leisure Update - Culture and Leisure Review Report February 2009

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Appendix 1

Sunderland Aquatic Centre

April 2009

- Alistair Johnson was appointed as the Sunderland Beacon Coach to amongst other things lead the ASA's regional elite swimming programme
- UKCCS Swim Coaching Course – 14/16/17/18 April 2009
- The Aquatic Centre's First Birthday celebrations took place on 18 April 2009
- ASA'S - Regional Talent Camp was held on 25 and 26 April 2009
- Flip n Fun CPD Course was held on 26th April 2009

May 2009

- ASA – NE Regional Youth / Senior Championships 50m took place on 2nd and 3 May 2009
- Crowtree LC / Sky TV boxing weigh in was held on 1 May 2009
- Sunderland Swimming Club's first Gala on 30 & 31 May 2009

June 2009

- Level 1 Diving course was held on the 6-13 June 2009
- Level 1 Swimming coach course was held on 13/14/20/21 June 2009
- A Carers' Event was held 12 June 2009. The event offered various activities from aquafit, casual swimming to general exercise and fitness
- The launch of art work for the gas vents at the Aquatic Centre was held on the 20 June 2009

July 2009

- Confirmation that SAC would be hosting the England Level 3 talent camp in January 2010
- Level 1 swimming coach course was held on 4 July 2009

September 2009

- Confirmation that Northumberland & Durham will be holding the 800 metre championships on 23 and 24 January 2010
- Northumberland & Durham will be holding the 1500m championships on 13-14 February 2010
- ASA North East Region will be holding the 25m regional championships on 20-21 February 2010
- ASA-Level 1 Unit 2 Swimming Coaching 22-24 September 2009

October 2009

- Family Fun Day-NHS staff & families. Joint event with SAFC on 3 October
- Police Charity Event - 23 October 2009
- PESSCL Swimming Festival held between 26 -30 October 2009. 23 primary schools attended and 93 young people took part in a water talent identification process, which allows a coaching team to offer an exit route for a learn to swim scheme or club structure.

November 2009

- Level 2 Swimming Coaching 13-22 November 2009
- A swimming meeting scheduled on 13 November 2009 was used as a qualifying event for British swimmers to qualify for the Commonwealth Games in India

- ASA Talent Camp Level 3. The first level 3 Talent Camp was held on 21 and 22 November 2009. This Camp hosted over 60 potential top performance swimmers within the region.
- ASA – BAGCATS 25m Regional Championships 28 and 29 November 2009.

December 2009

- GP Referrals Swimming/Aquafit on Exercise. This additional session has been provided to customers on a Tuesday and Friday. The aim is to provide water based activities for current gym users.
- ASA Adult Free Swimming Lessons-Funding secured to offer free swimming to adults within Sunderland who are unable to swim. The first pilot scheme finished and 65 adults have completed an 8 week course.

Silksworth Ski Slope

20 June 2009 - Ravens Club National

21 June 2009 - Grand Prix (Dual Slalom)

5 Sept 2009 - All England Ski Race

6 Sept 2009 - All England Ski Race

20 Sept 2009 - English Schools Ski Association

17 Oct 2009 - Kings Ski Race (Regional University Ski Race)

Sunderland Tennis Centre

September 2009

- LTA Indoor Series 26th to 27th - 14's & under 4 courts per day 9am-7pm

October 2009

- LTA Indoor Series 3rd to 4th - 14's & under 4 courts per day 10am-5pm
- LTA Ariel Grand Prix 24th to 27th - 18's & 8am-8pm
- BASF D/C LTA 27 to 30 - 16's & under 4 courts per day 10am-5pm

November 2009

- LTA Indoor Series 14th to 15th - 12's & under 4 courts 10am-5pm
- LTA Ariel Grand Prix 21st to 22nd - 12's & under 9am-7pm
- LTA Ladies \$10,000 ITF Futures 1st to 8th - International event 9am-7pm
- AEGON Winter County Cup 26th to 29th - 18's & under 8.30am-7pm
- \$10K ITF Futures Tournament - 2nd to 8th November

February 2010

- LTA 18U Junior County Cup Friday 20th to Sun 22nd February

March 2010

- International Wheelchair Tournament, 26th to 29th March

Crowtree Leisure Centre

- Karate Competition (Sendai Karate Club) – 8th March, 14th June 2009
- Sunderland Echo Jobs Fayre – 18th February 2009
- Mayors Civic Ball - usually 2nd week in November 2009
- Cycle Fayre (Cycle Promotions) - 8th November 2009
- Rolls Royce Christmas Party - 13th December 2009

Seaburn Centre

- Antiques Fayre (1 per month organised by Quintet Promotions)
- Sunderland Schools Football Presentation - 28 April 2009
- Martial Arts Exhibition - 9 May 2009

- After Adoption Party (organised by Adoption Service) - 27th June 2009
- Music In Schools - 30th June 2009
- N.E. Vets Table Tennis Tournament – 5th to 6th Sept 2009
- Horticultural Show – 19 to 20th Sept 2009
- Diwali Festival of Lights (Sunderland Sanghi) - 25th October 2009
- Remembrance Service -11th Nov 2009
- Boxing Day Dip (organised by the Lions Organisation) - 26 Dec 2009

Washington Leisure Centre

May 2009

- Sun City Triathlon Club
- Washington Aquathlon Event (Swim and Run)
- St Robert's School - Record of Achievement Presentation to Pupils

September 2009

- Humbledon Outdoor Activities Association's Special Sports and Activities Day

Houghton Sports Centre

April 2009

- Bowls Fun day and lunch
- Houghton Art Club (Painting event)
- Sure Start fun day in our sports hall
- Chess Congress

June 2009

- Education and Business Connections School event

July 2009

- Sunderland Carers Group (Social bowls event)
- Wearable (Social bowls event)

August

- Connexions Job Fayre

September

- Houghton Feast Age Concern Rally

October

- Houghton Feast Art Exhibition
- Houghton Feast (open ceremony)
- Houghton Feast (Heritage Banner Group)
- Houghton Feast (Horticultural display)
- Houghton Feast (gymnastic display)
- Houghton Feast (5 a side competition)

November

- St Michaels Xmas Fayre

December

- Aikido Xmas Party
- Sure Start Panto

ACCESS TO HOUSING POLICY REVIEW – PROGRESS REPORT

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: SP1: Prosperous City; SP5: Attractive and Inclusive City

CORPORATE PRIORITIES: CIO1: Delivering Customer Focused Services, CIO3: Efficient and Effective Council; CIO4: Improving Partnership Working to Deliver ‘One City’.

1. Why has this report come to the Committee?

- 1.1 The report provides members with progress on the committee’s policy review around access to housing in Sunderland.

Background

- 2.1 Following the initial scoping of the policy review at the committee’s meeting held on 22nd September 2009, Members have commenced their evidence gathering in relation to Access to Housing in Sunderland. A number of focus groups have already been conducted and further focus groups and evidence gathering is still to take place.

3. Current position

- 3.1 At the last committee meeting held on 19 January 2010, members had the opportunity to discuss issues around sub-regional choice based lettings (CBL), with Mr Barry Lowther from the Tyne and Wear Housing Partnership. At this same meeting members also discussed issues around access to housing and choice based letting with the charity organisation Shelter.
- 3.2 On Thursday 28th January 2010 members met with Stephen Rudge from Coventry City Council. The meeting provided the opportunity for members to discuss issues around Choice Based Lettings with another authority who have developed and implemented a CBL scheme. The presentation from this event is attached at appendix 1 of this report for information.
- 3.3 Some of the main themes to emerge from these various presentations were as follows:

- The preferred option for a sub-regional Choice Based Lettings scheme would be for one with a single application process, single housing register, single website and single selection process but that allows for retention of local policies except where good practice and existing similarities have been identified.
- This type of option will allow for local housing policies to continue but will bring a common register and process.
- Any scheme should be developed through work with tenants/stakeholders to ensure fairness and transparency.
- A Choice Based Lettings scheme will not produce any more properties.
- Difficult to remove the hierarchical nature of a banding system.
- Coventry City Council started with a 3 band system which has developed sub-bands in each of the 3 bands. 75% of properties are allocated via banding system priority with 25% of properties prioritised by registration date alone.
- When Coventry first moved to CBL scheme list increased from 5,000 applicants to 27,000 applicants. However 49% of those registered have never made a bid for a property.
- Neighbourhood Renewal Funding provided £400,000 which allowed Coventry City Council to invest in a computer system and staff resource to operate a CBL scheme.
- Bidding is all done electronically and 97% of all applications are also electronic. Coventry research has indicated that home is the biggest access point to their scheme.
- Terminals are available in Coventry Civic Centre, one stop shops and libraries as well as Housing Association offices and Coventry Direct Bus goes to outlying areas.
- In Coventry the recession has meant that private landlords are approaching the council to let properties. This increases properties available in desirable parts of the city and the overall number of houses available.
- Numbers of houses coming on to the CBL scheme in Coventry is very low with approximately 70 per week.

3.3 The Access to Housing working group are also to visit the Gentoo Customer Focus Group on Tuesday 9th February 2010 to discuss the

issues around access to housing with a selection of tenants. This will be an opportunity for members to hear from tenants about their own experiences, views and opinions on housing and the routes into housing available across the city. A verbal update on this will be provided at the meeting by the Scrutiny Officer.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 The information received from Stephen Rudge and the Gentoo Customer Focus Group will provide useful evidence as part of the committee's policy review into access to housing.

5 Recommendation

- 5.1 That Members note and comment on the information provided.

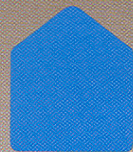
6. Glossary

CBL – Choice Based Lettings

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nigel.cummings@sunderland.gov.uk

Stephen Rudge
Head of Housing Policy &
Services
Coventry City Council

Your GUIDE to Coventry Homefinder



Coventry
HOMEFINDER

Letting you choose

Why everyone wants to be sent to Coventry

Imagine a city where, each day, 37 more families choose to live in a social home. *Martin Hilditch* discovers the secret to Coventry's appeal. *Illustration by Karine Faou*

If social housing providers in Coventry were in any other business they would be celebrating: demand for their product increased by an incredible 207 per cent within the space of a year. Put simply, people are queuing up to move in.

In 2007 there were 6,493 of them. A year later that number had jumped to 19,912 - comparable to the average home gate for the city's football team. Not bad for 12 months' work. In fact, over the year, it means that 37 more people a day decided they would like a social home in Coventry.

Steve Rudge, the council's head of housing and policy services, admits that when the Government Office called to collect its figures 'they were surprised that they had gone up as much as they had'.

And the council was in for a further shock when it found out the 207 per cent increase in its waiting list was the biggest jump anywhere in England. It has since grown further to 22,214.

So why has social housing in Coventry become so popular?

Despite the undoubted impact of the recession the council thinks the jump can be explained largely by a single word - choice.

In 2007 the council - which transferred all its stock to Whitefriars Housing Association in 2000 - completely altered the way social housing was allocated in the city.

It dumped the old, largely paper-based system, in which housing was offered to applicants based on their need for housing.

In its place came a choice-based lettings system - in which applicants can view a weekly list of available social homes and bid for the ones that take

their fancy. The government wants all councils to adopt choice-based systems by 2010.

'We wanted a system that not only did CBL but also made it much easier for people to apply for accommodation,' Mr Rudge said.

Three bands

But the change has exceeded expectations and produced some surprising results.

People who sign up to the new system are divided into three main bands. Band 1 is for those with a 'very urgent' need of a home - there are currently 97 applicants who fall into this category. A further 1,773 applicants fall into band 2, for urgent cases. 'Everybody else' falls into band 3, which currently means 20,344 people.

With roughly 2,500 homes becoming available every year, you might expect the vast majority of homes to

go to the urgent and very urgent cases, with a few thousand left over for everyone else.

But because people are able to bid themselves - and are not reliant on the council making them an offer - that is not happening.

In fact, 45 per cent of all lettings are being snapped up by band 3 cases, 40 per cent by band 2 and 15 per cent by those in band 1.

People in band 3 are in a position to bid for homes that are either unpopular or may not meet the needs of people in bands 1 and 2. And their success is leading people who previously would not have thought about applying for a social home to sign up.

'We certainly never appreciated that most of the lettings each week would be band 3 cases,' Mr Rudge said. 'That is because of the nature of the vacancies. Most of them are flats. Most of the people with housing need will be families. Families bid for the

smallest amount of property advertised each week.'

Sandy Warwick, homefinder officer for the council, confirmed that people get the most out of the system by using their three bids a week. 'With 20,000 people waiting for 2,000 properties, you have to keep bidding to stand a chance.'

Another possible reason for the rise in demand is the fact that the council currently allocates 25 per cent of homes based solely on the amount of time someone has been on the waiting list, as opposed to their need for a home. Not all councils with CBL systems do this.

'We have found that there are an awful lot of people out there who say, "I might as well have an application out there because I might need it sometime",' Mr Rudge added.

Of course, there are other practical reasons behind the rise too - such as the impact of the recession and the fact that the new list drew together the council's waiting list and those of the housing associations that operate in the city.

Despite its massive jump in its waiting list, Coventry probably shouldn't fret too much. According to housing academic Hal Pawson, who has researched the impact of CBL across the nation, it is far from alone.

Between 2000 and 2004 waiting list numbers for councils adopting CBL rose by an average 79 per cent - compared with an increase of 40 per cent for other councils, he said.

But the rise meant people had to be increasingly careful about how they interpret waiting list figures, he added. 'The changes we have seen in the last few years aren't just about



“The jump can largely be explained by a single word - choice.”

more and more people desperate for social housing,' he said.

Of the 1.8 million households on waiting lists in April 2008 just 760,000 were in legally defined 'housing need', he added.

But even if the rise represents demand and not need it is certainly not the case that Coventry's housing department can bask in its newfound popularity.

And with more and more councils signing up to CBL schemes it is unlikely to be the last to see the queue for homes suddenly snake into the distance.

➔ For more on this story visit www.insidehousing.co.uk

Coventry's vital statistics

6,493

Number of people on the waiting list in 2007

19,912

Number of people on the waiting list in 2008

207%

Annual rise in demand for housing within the space of a year

22,214

Number of people now registered on the waiting list

97

Number of people registered and in very urgent need of housing

1,173

Number of people in urgent housing need

20,344

People on waiting list with no measurable housing need

250 to 270

Approximate number of weekly bids for homes in popular areas of the city

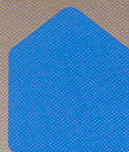
A Long And Winding Road!

- CBL Pilot site
- Parallel schemes
- Developed a city wide CBL scheme with all Housing Associations
- Draft CBL Code of Guidance
- Launch and 2008 review
- Conclusions

A Long And Winding Road!

- Final publication of CBL Code of Guidance
- Re-think of the Conclusions
- House of Lords decisions
- Re-think of the re-thought conclusions
- Final implementation
- “Fair and Flexible”

Your GUIDE to Coventry Homefinder



Coventry
HOMEFINDER

Letting you choose



Coventry Homefinder - Bands

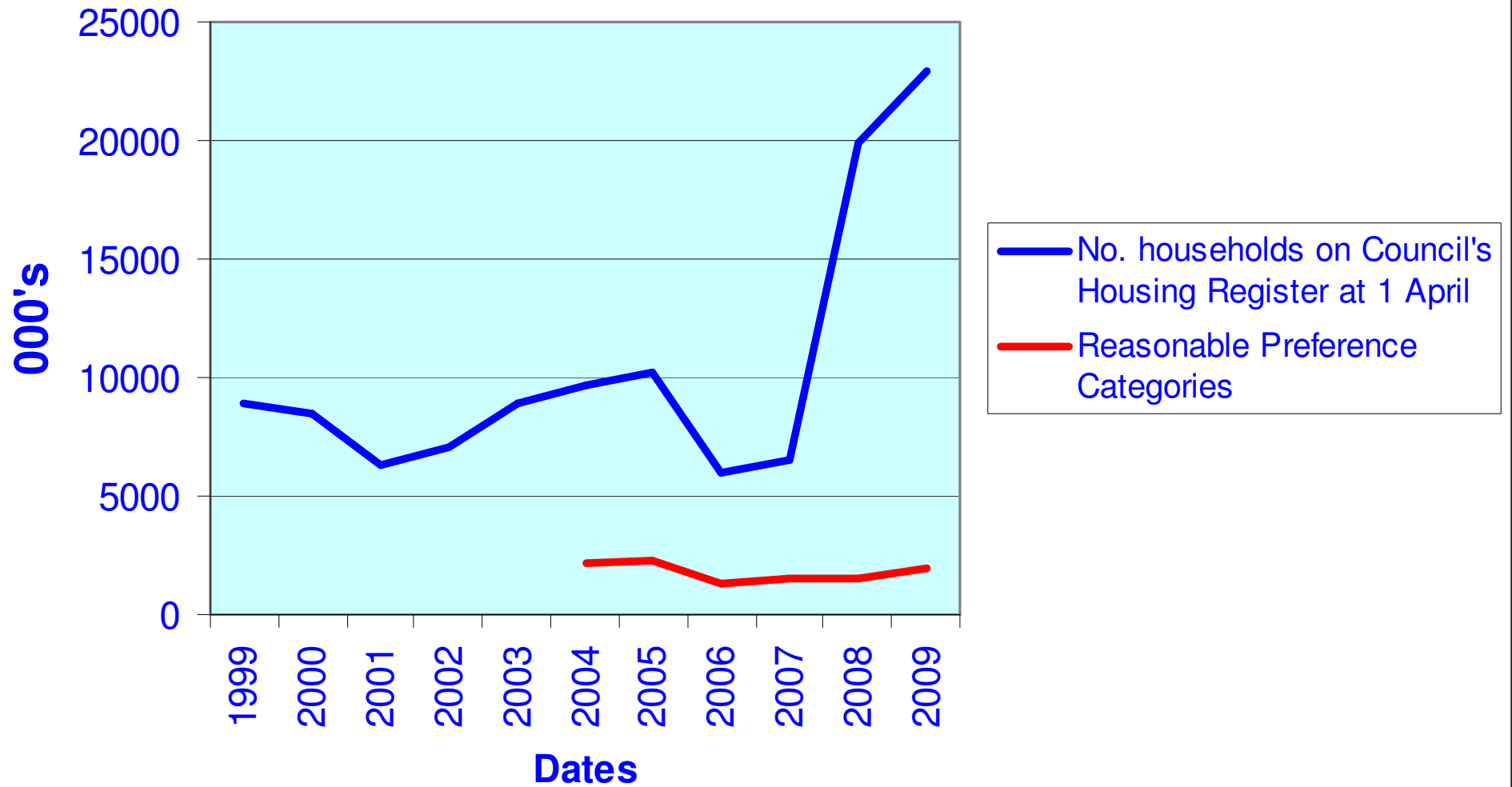
Applicants are given a banding based on their assessed level of housing need:

Band	Criteria	Examples
Band 1	Very Urgent Needs	Statutory Homeless
		Decants - to facilitate demolition or redevelopment
		Violence and harassment
		Severe overcrowding
		Severe medical issues
		Releasing specialist accommodation - for example disabled persons bungalows
		Two or more priorities in Band 2
Band 2	Urgent Needs	Medical issues
		Overcrowding
		Insanitary conditions
		Substantial under occupation - of 4 or 5 bed properties
		Social and welfare needs
		Homeless prevention
Band 3	All other Homefinders	All other Homefinders

75% of properties prioritised by banding

25% of properties prioritised by registration date alone

Summary of Housing Register figures



22 January 2010

Band 1	95
Band 2	2,186
Band 3	<u>22,975</u>
	<u>25,256</u>

49% of those registered have never made a bid.

Properties Let

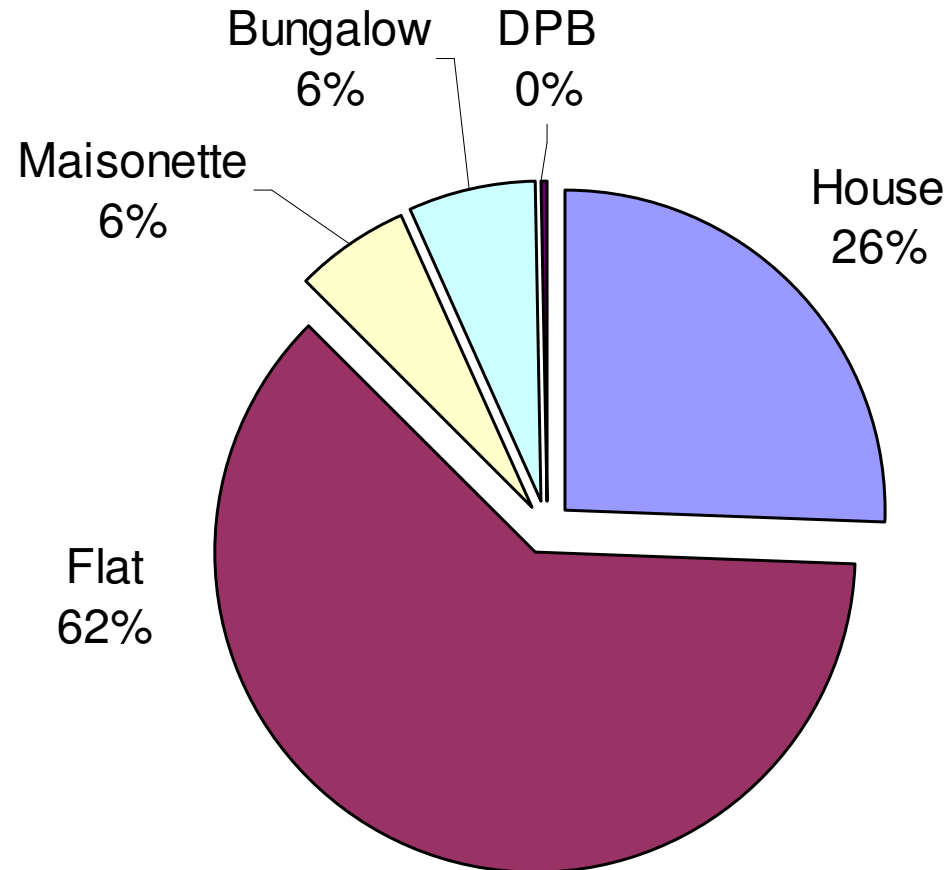
2424 properties were advertised on Coventry Homefinder during 2008-09 and successfully let.



Property Types

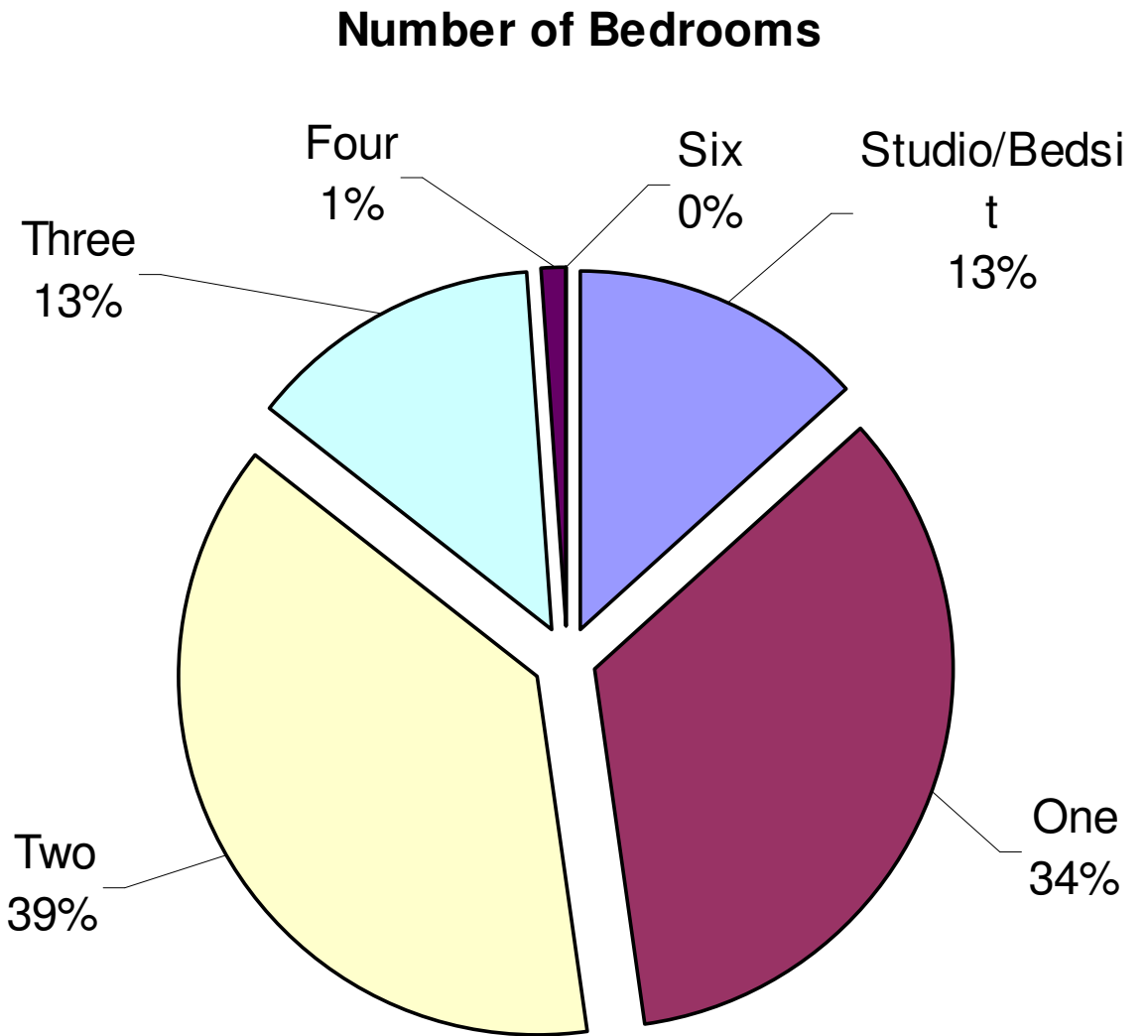
Property Type	Number	Percent
House	619	25.5%
Flat	1499	61.8%
Maisonette	145	6.0%
Bungalow	153	6.3%
DPB	8	0.3%
Total	2424	100.0%

Property Types



Number of Bedrooms

Number of Bedrooms	Number	Percent
Studio/Bedsit	323	13.33%
One	835	34.45%
Two	915	37.75%
Three	326	13.45%
Four	24	0.99%
Five	0	0.00%
Six	1	0.04%
Total	2424	100.00%



Location

The city is divided into 40 geographical areas for CBL. The 10 areas with the highest number of lettings in 2008-09 were:

Location	Number	Percent
Hillfields	221	9.12%
Willenhall	192	7.92%
Willenhall Wood	158	6.52%
Foleshill	144	5.94%
Tile Hill North	139	5.73%
Wood End	121	4.99%
Bell Green	117	4.83%
Canley	113	4.66%
Spon End	98	4.04%
Stoke Aldermoor	98	4.04%
Total for top ten	1401	57.80%
Overall Total	2424	100.00%

Location

In comparison, the 10 areas with the lowest number of letters in 2008-09 were:

Location	Number	Percent
Gosford Green	15	0.62%
Longford	15	0.62%
Binley	14	0.58%
Earlsdon	14	0.58%
Allesley	12	0.50%
Cannon Park	11	0.45%
Keresley	8	0.33%
Whitley	3	0.12%
Allesley Park	1	0.04%
Allesley Village	1	0.04%
Total for lowest ten	94	3.88%

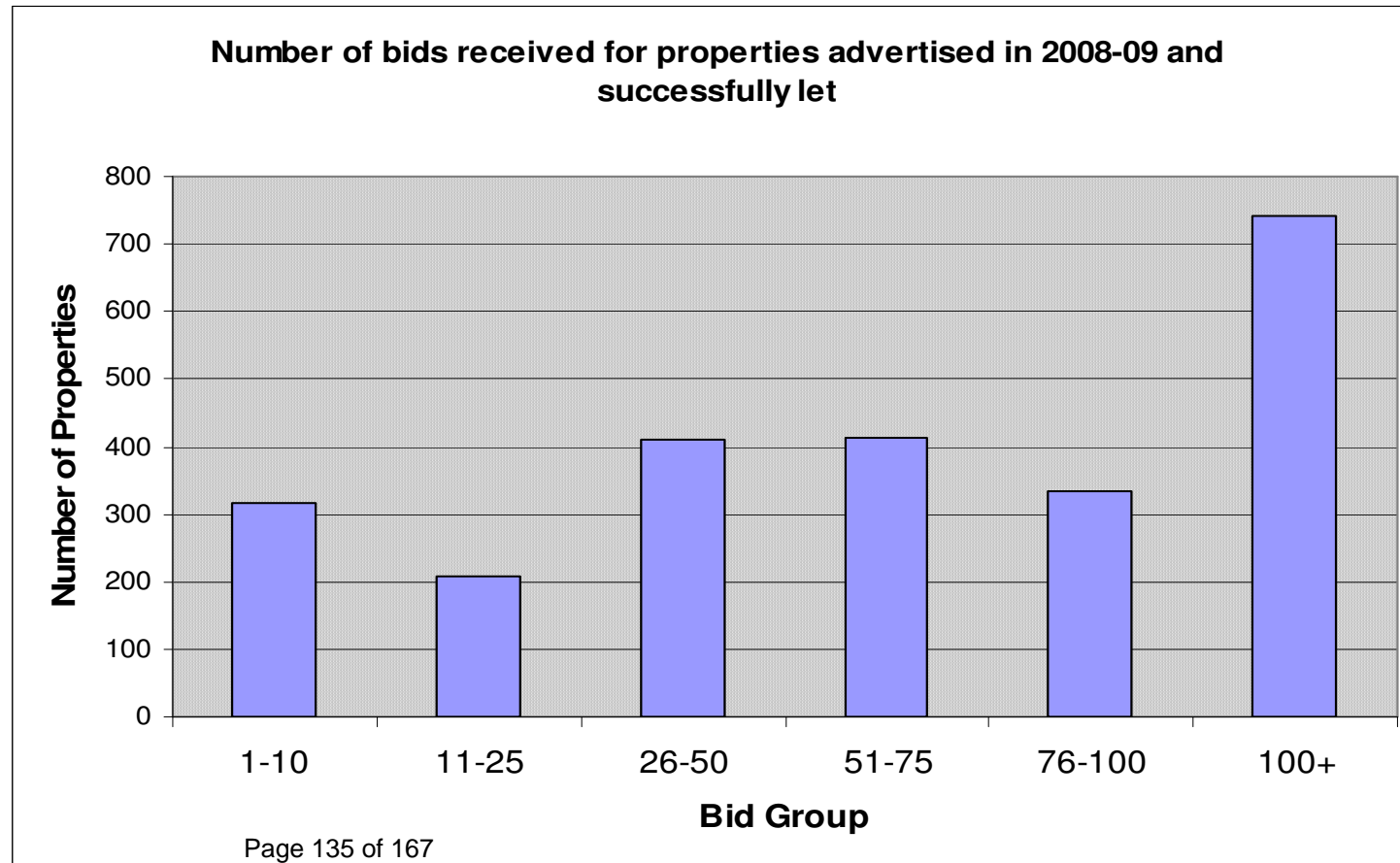
Bids Received

A total of 222,018 bids were made during 2008-09.

This gives an average of 92 bids for each property that was let.

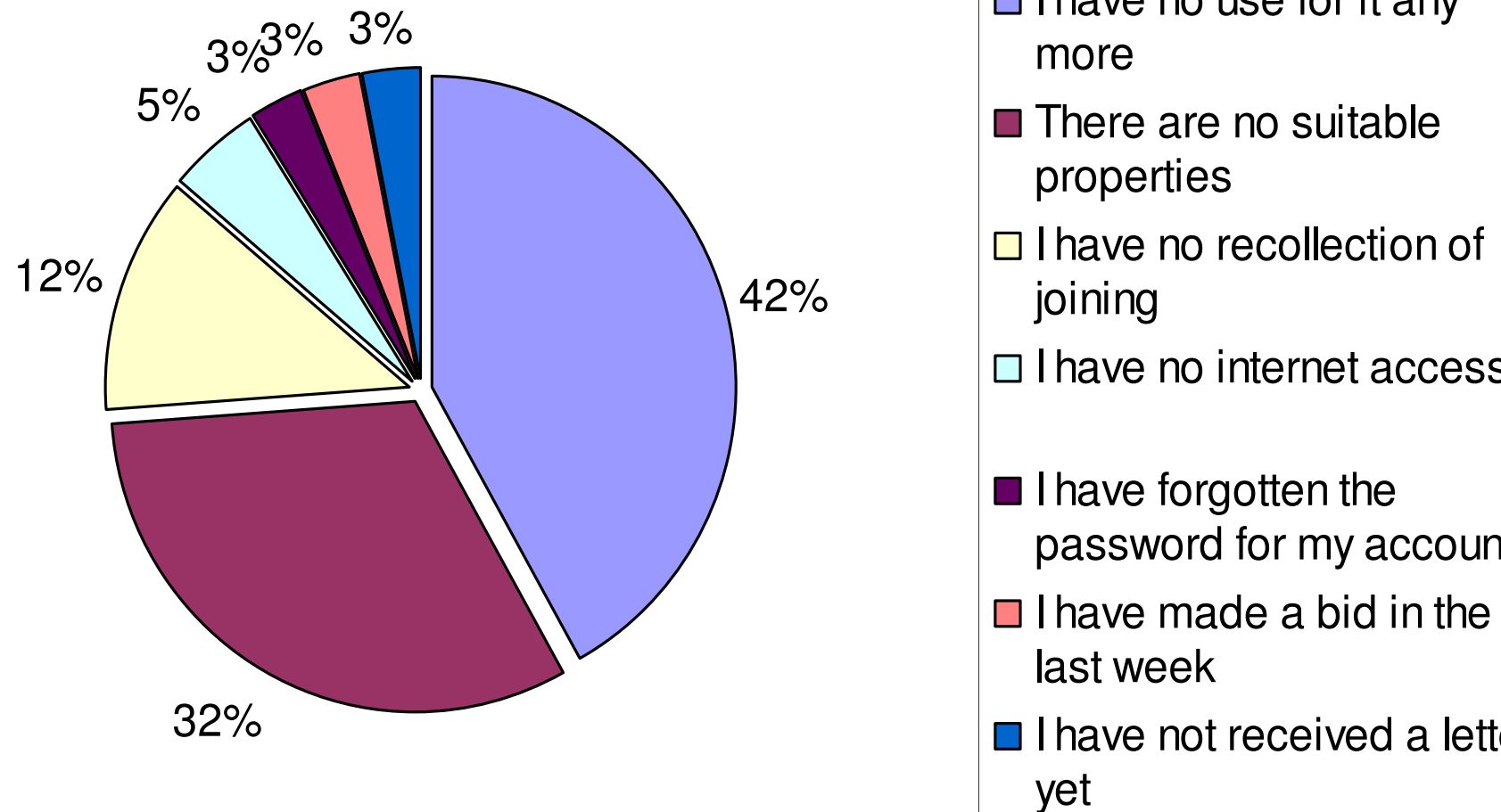
The highest number of bids was for a 3 bedroom house in Colbrook, which received 579 bids.

Number of Bids Received	Offers Accepted
1-10	317
11-25	208
26-50	409
51-75	413
76-100	335
100+	742
Total	2424



Survey of Non-Bidders in Priority Bands

100% of non-bidders in a priority band were surveyed during March 2009 to establish the reasons they had not placed a bid on Homefinder:



Comparison Of Register And Propertie Available - Bedrooms

Minimum bedroom need (at 01-04-09) compared to total vacancies by bedroom for the year 2008-09:

Vacancies by bedroom		Requirement by minimum bedroom need			
Size	Number	Band 1	Band 2	Band 1+2	Band 3
Studio	323	20	575	595	10179
One	835	5	111	116	1714
Two	915	36	553	589	6335
Three	326	25	396	421	2436
Four or more	25	20	164	184	366

Ethnic Origin of Main Applicant

Ethnic Origin of main applicant	Band 1		Band 2		Band 3		Total Register		Population
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Asian British - Bangladeshi	2	1.9%	16	0.9%	98	0.5%	116	0.5%	
Asian British - Indian	4	3.8%	49	2.7%	401	1.9%	454	2.0%	
Asian British - Pakistani	2	1.9%	46	2.6%	285	1.4%	333	1.5%	
Asian British - Other	3	2.8%	23	1.3%	213	1.0%	239	1.0%	
Black British - African	12	11.3%	150	8.3%	1802	8.6%	1964	8.6%	
Black British - Caribbean	2	1.9%	27	1.5%	491	2.3%	520	2.3%	
Black British - Other	1	0.9%	11	0.6%	226	1.1%	238	1.0%	
Chinese	1	0.9%	2	0.1%	24	0.1%	27	0.1%	
White and Asian	1	0.9%	17	0.9%	150	0.7%	168	0.7%	
White and Black African	2	1.9%	19	1.1%	189	0.9%	210	0.9%	
White and Black Caribbean	1	0.9%	18	1.0%	355	1.7%	374	1.6%	
White and Black Other	0	0.0%	7	0.4%	127	0.6%	134	0.6%	
White British	57	53.8%	1081	60.1%	13370	63.6%	14508	63.3%	
White Irish	2	1.9%	28	1.6%	306	1.5%	336	1.5%	
White Other	1	0.9%	55	3.1%	1121	5.3%	1177	5.1%	
White and Other	4	3.8%	75	4.2%	706	3.4%	785	3.4%	
White and Other (Total)	11	10.4%	175	9.7%	1166	5.5%	1352	5.9%	
Total	106	100.0%	1799	100.0%	21030	100.0%	22935	100.0%	

Is it a common allocation scheme or a scheme whereby people are nominated by the Council, to the Associations?

Other “intriguing” issues

- Homelessness
- Age of registration
- Properties purpose built/adapted for those with mobility problems
- Owner Occupiers
- Bedrooms/Permitted number of people
- Checking at registration
- “Band chasing”
- Reviews and complaints

Other “intriguing” issues

- Limitation of bids
- “Serial bidders”
- Contacting successful bidders
- Ready for Letting/letting times
- Simplicity

Coventry Homefinder – Proposed Revised Bands

Band	Sub-Banding	Criteria
Band 1	Band 1a	Exceptional medical need.
		Severe overcrowding (two or more bedrooms lacking).
		Tenants of partner HAs needing to be 'decanted' to enable a redevelopment scheme to proceed.
		Statutory Homeless cases (one bidding round only).
	Band 1b	Tenants of partner HAs moving to release specialist disabled person's accommodation.
		Tenants of partner HAs moving because their own home is 'under-occupied' by two or more bedrooms.
		People fleeing racial harassment, hate crime or domestic violence that have to be rehoused.
		People with an urgent medical need who are also overcrowded (one bedroom lacking).

Coventry Homefinder – Proposed Revised Bands

Band	Sub-Banding	Criteria
Band 2	Band 2a	<p>Urgent medical need or social/welfare issues.</p> <p>Overcrowding (one bedroom lacking).</p> <p>Children who have been 'looked after' by the Local Authority and are moving to independent living.</p> <p>People living in unsanitary conditions.</p>
	Band 2b	<p>Homeless prevention, where the person has been accommodated in private rented accommodation and the landlord is not renewing the tenancy agreement.</p> <p>Tenants of partner HAs living in a house and moving because their home is under-occupied by one bedroom.</p> <p>People living in short-stay hostel accommodation.</p> <p>Non-urgent medical need.</p> <p>Band 1 cases reviewed and banding reduced.</p>
	Band 2c	<p>Non statutory homeless applicants; statutory homeless applicants who are 'intentionally homeless' and statutory homeless applicants where the duty has been discharged but the household has not accepted a qualifying offer of accommodation.</p>

Coventry Homefinder – Proposed Revised Bands

Band	Sub-Banding	Criteria
Band 3	Band 3a	People with no housing need recognised in Bands 1 and 2, but who have a local connection with Coventry
		People with a housing need identified in Bands 1 and 2, but who have no local connection with Coventry
	Band 3b	People with no housing need recognised in Bands 1 and 2, and with no local connection to Coventry
		Owner-occupiers

Mobility

- Local need v. national mobility
- Cross boundary working

Making better use of the housing stock: dealing with under-occupation and vacation of specialist housing

Supporting people in work/seeking work

Target allocations to various groups



Vulnerable applicants

- CBL team
- Role of supporters, advisors, agencies
- Short-stay hostels

Next steps

- Regional working
- Charging
- Private sector properties

What's good?

- An accessible system
- A single point of entry for social housing
- All stock owning associations are part of Coventry Homefinder
- Most transactions being done electronically
- Properties are being let
- Still relatively simple

What's not so good?

- Ease of joining means that we can't check every application
- Still unease about role of 'support agencies'
- Differences between whom the Local Authority has to allow on the system and whom Associations have to house
- Differing size "rules"
- Reviews and complaints
- Importance of improving banding
- Contact difficulties, have been emphasised
- No additional properties produced (obviously!)

“By revising their allocation policies in the light of this new guidance, councils will be able to make full use of the available freedoms to meet the specific needs of their communities”

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

FORWARD PLAN – KEY DECISIONS FOR THE PERIOD 1 FEBRUARY – 31 MAY 2010

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

16 FEBRUARY 2010

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide Members with an opportunity to consider those items on the Executive's Forward Plan for the period 1 February – 31 May 2010 which relate to the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee.

2. Background Information

- 2.1 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 To this end, it has been agreed that, on a pilot basis, the most recent version of the Executive's Forward Plan should be included on the agenda of each of the Council's Scrutiny Committees. The Forward Plan for the period 1 February – 31 May 2010 is attached marked **Appendix 1**.

3. Current Position

- 3.1 Following member's comments on the suitability of the Forward Plan being presented in its entirety to each committee it should be noted that only issues relating to the specific remit of the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee are presented for information and comment. Due to agenda and publication deadlines a revised copy of this information will be circulated at the meeting reflecting any amendments.
- 3.2 For members information the remit of the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee is as follows:-

Major Projects; Sustainability overview; Creating Inclusive Communities overview; Housing overview; Housing Strategy; Private Housing; Housing Associations; Culture overview; Art Development; Museums; and Heritage.
- 3.3 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.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 To consider the Executive's Forward Plan for the period 1 February – 31 May 2010.

5. Background Papers

None

Contact Officer : Nigel Cummings 0191 561 1006
Nigel.cummings@sunderland.gov.uk

**Forward Plan -
Key Decisions for
the period
01/Feb/2010 to
31/May/2010**



**R.C. Rayner,
Chief Solicitor,
Sunderland City
Council.**

14th January 2010

Forward Plan: Key Decisions from - 01/Feb/2010 to 31/May/2010

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
01339	To agree Port of Sunderland governance arrangements.	Cabinet	03/Feb/2010	Chief Solicitor	Meetings and email	Via Contact Officer by 20 January 2010 - Management Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet report	Colin Clark	5611507
01340	To agree abnormal costs for disposal of the Newcastle Road Baths site.	Cabinet	03/Feb/2010	Chief Solicitor, Director of Financial Resources	Meetings and email	To contact officer by 20 January 2010 - Management Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet Report	Nick Wood	5612631
01293	To agree St Peter's Riverside & Bonnersfield Planning Framework draft Supplementary Planning Document for public consultation.	Cabinet	03/Feb/2010	Strategic partners, Portfolio Holders and Chief Officers	Meetings, briefings and email	Via contact officer by 20 January 2010 - Environment and Attractive City Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet report and St Peters Riverside and Bonnersfield Planning Framework: draft Supplementary Planning document.	David Giblin	5611540

Forward Plan: Key Decisions from - 01/Feb/2010 to 31/May/2010

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
01272	To approve the council's contribution to the Houghton PCC Development on the Houghton Sports Complex site.	Cabinet	03/Feb/2010	Portfolio Holders; Ward Members; Director of Financial Resources; Centre Users; Coalfield Community	Individual briefings; Community Consultation Days	Via the Contact Officer by 20 January 2010 - Management Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet Report	Mike Poulter	5617549
01317	To recommend the Revenue Budget 2010/2011 to Council	Cabinet	03/Feb/2010	Reps. of Business Ratepayers, Unions, Headteachers, Governors, Youth Parliament, Citizens Panel	Presentations, Meetings, Surveys	To Contact Officer by the end of January 2010 - Management Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet Report	Keith Beardmore	5611801
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

Forward Plan: Key Decisions from - 01/Feb/2010 to 31/May/2010

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
01319	To recommend the level of Council Tax to Council	Cabinet	03/Feb/2010	Representatives of Business Ratepayers and Unions	At Special Meeting in February	To contact Officer by the end of January 2010 - Management Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet Report	Keith Beardmore	5611801
01342	To consider any key decisions which may arise from the Youth Offending Service Inspection Improvement Plan	Cabinet	03/Feb/2010	YOT Partnership Board, YOS Management staff	Scheduled meetings	Via Contact Officer by 20 January 2010 - Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee	Sunderland YOS Core Case Inspection Report	Julie Firth, Acting YOS Manager	5663000
01344	To approve the first draft of the CYPP 15 year commissioning strategy and three year delivery plan.	Cabinet	03/Feb/2010	Children's Services Leadership Team, Children's Trust, members	Presentation of draft plan to various fora, drop-in events	Via Contact Officer by 20 January 2010 - Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee	Children and Young People's Plan 2009-2010, Needs Assessment	John Markall	5661836

Forward Plan: Key Decisions from - 01/Feb/2010 to 31/May/2010

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
01318	To recommend the Capital Programme, Prudential Indicators and Treasury Management and Investment Strategy for 2010/2011 to the Council	Cabinet	03/Feb/2010	Representatives of Business Ratepayers and Unions	At Special Meeting in February	To contact Officer by the end of January 2010 - Management Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet Report	Keith Beardmore	5611801
01320	To recommend the level of Council Tax Collection Fund 2010/2011 to be taken into account to Council	Cabinet	03/Feb/2010	None	N/A	To contact Officer by 20 January 2010 - Management Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet Report	Sonia Tognarelli	5611851
01355	To authorise a funding agreement between the Council, the HCA and ONE for regeneration purposes.	Cabinet	03/Feb/2010	Chief Solicitor, Director of Financial Resources	Email and meetings	To contact officer by 21st January 2010 Management Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet report	Colin Clark	5617849

Forward Plan: Key Decisions from - 01/Feb/2010 to 31/May/2010

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
01359	To agree to vary the contract with Balfour Beatty to include the design and construction of the proposed ASD centre and remodelling of music provision.	Cabinet	03/Feb/2010	Biddick School Governing Body, Children's Services SEN Team, Director of Financial Resources, City Solicitor	Meetings with schools, distribution of draft document for comment	To the contact officer by 20 January 2010 - Children, Young People and Learning	PfS Guidance, BSF Outline Business Case, SEN Review documentation	Beverley Scanlon	5611965
01362	To consider the implementation of further key improvement projects	Cabinet	03/Feb/2010	BIP Programme	Appropriate Cabinet Member, Chief Officers	Via Contact Officer Report by 20 January 2010 - Management Scrutiny Committee		Helen Paterson/ Andrew Seekings	5612399
01357	To agree the procurement of childcare places for disadvantaged 2 year olds under the Pathfinder Project, and free childcare for 0-5 year olds under Children's Centres family support childcare service	Cabinet	03/Feb/2010	Procurement, Legal Services, Finance	Meetings to discuss requirements and circulation of report for comment	To the contact officer by 21 January 2010 - Children, Young People and Learning	Government guidance	Rachel Putz	5615640

Forward Plan: Key Decisions from - 01/Feb/2010 to 31/May/2010

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
01354	To approve the Procurement of Replacement Equipment for Sunderland Telecare	Cabinet	03/Feb/2010	Cabinet, Service Users and Carer Groups, Portfolio Holder, Adult Services Staff, Health Partners	Briefings and/or meetings with interested parties	Via Contact Officer by 21 January 2010 - Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee	Full Report	John Fisher	5661883
01360	To agree the transfer of responsibility for 16-19 funding from the Learning Skills Council to the Local Authority in April 2010	Cabinet	03/Feb/2010	LA in sub regional group, 14-19 Partnership	Meetings and distribution of draft reports for comment	To the contact officer by 20 January 2010 - Children, Young People and Learning	ASCL Act, November 2009, REACT Briefing notes	Lynda Brown	5611410
01358	To approve procurement of training for the Early Childhood Services & Childcare Workforce; to establish a framework of training providers for practitioners working in Early Childhood Services and Childcare	Cabinet	03/Feb/2010	Corporate Procurement, Legal and Finance Services	Meetings and circulation of report for comment	To the contact officer by 21 January 2010 - Children, Young People and Learning	Childcare Pathfinder Framework	Rachel Putz	5615640

Forward Plan: Key Decisions from - 01/Feb/2010 to 31/May/2010

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
01361	To agree to procure and make a financial contribution to a new sub-station in Washington.	Cabinet	03/Feb/2010	DCX, Director of Financial Resources	Circulation of draft papers	Via contact officer by January 22nd Management Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet Report	Janet Snaith	5611166
01343	To approve the draft Sunderland City Council Community Asset Policy	Cabinet	10/Mar/2010	Corporate Strategy Group; Portfolio Holder	Capital Meetings	Via the Contact Officer by 22 February 2010 - Management Scrutiny Committee	Report; Policy Document	Julie Gray	5617574
01278	To agree to the council entering into a Joint Venture Agreement and to the acquisition of industrial units at Stadium Village regeneration area.	Cabinet	10/Mar/2010	Director of Financial Resources and Chief Solicitor	Meetings and emails	Via contact officer by 19 February 2010 - Prosperity and Economic Development Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet report	Nick Wood	5612631

Forward Plan: Key Decisions from - 01/Feb/2010 to 31/May/2010

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
01352	To approve the BSF Strategy for Change Submission to Partnerships for Schools (PfS) for Sunderland's Wave 2 Programme	Cabinet	10/Mar/2010	Schools in Wave 2 Programme	Meetings with schools, distribution of draft documents	To the contact officer by 22 February 2010 - Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee	PfS Guidance, Sunderland's Readiness to Deliver Submission	Beverley Scanlon	5611965
01090	Approve submission document & sustainability appraisal for development in the Hetton Downs area to form part of the Council's Local Development Framework.	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	Cabinet report, report on preferred option consultation responses, submission document for Hetton Downs Area Action Plan, formal sustainability report.	Dave Gilblin	5531564
01353	To approve the Highway Maintenance Programme for 2010/11.	Executive Director City Services	15/Mar/2010	Member with Portfolio for Attractive and Inclusive City	Meetings	To contact Officer by 26th February 2010 - Environment and Attractive City Scrutiny Committee	Report ; Work Programme	Graham Carr	5611298

WORK PROGRAMME 2009-10

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Strategic Priorities: CIO1: Delivering Customer Focused Services, CIO4: Improving partnership working to deliver 'One City'.

1. Why has this report come to the Committee?

- 1.1 The report attaches, for Members' information, the current work programme for the Committee's work during the 2009-10 Council year.
- 1.2 The work of the Committee in delivering its work programme will support the Council in achieving its Strategic Priorities of a Healthy, Learning, Attractive and Inclusive City, support delivery of the related themes of the Local Area Agreement, and, through monitoring the performance of the Council's services, help the Council achieve its Corporate Improvement Objectives CIO1 (delivering customer focussed services) and C104 (improving partnership working to deliver 'One City').

2. Background

- 2.1 The work programme is a working document which Committee can develop throughout the year. As a living document the work programme allows Members and Officers to maintain an overview of work planned and undertaken during the Council year.

3. Current position

- 3.1 The work programme reflects discussions that have taken place at the 19 January 2010 Scrutiny Committee meeting. The current work programme is attached as an appendix to this report.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 The work programme developed from the meeting will form a flexible mechanism for managing the work of the Committee in 2009-10.

5 Recommendation

- 5.1 That Members note the information contained in the work programme and consider the inclusion of proposals for the Committee into the work programme.

6. Glossary

n/a

Contact Officer: Nigel Cummings, Review Co-ordinator: 0191 561 1006 :
nigel.cummings@sunderland.gov.uk

	JUNE 15.06.09	JULY 14.07.09	SEPTEMBER 22.09.09	OCTOBER 20.10.09	NOVEMBER 17.11.09	DECEMBER 15.12.09	JANUARY 19.01.10	FEBRUARY 16.02.10	MARCH 16.03.10	APRIL 27.04.10
Policy Review	Proposals for policy review (Review Coord)	Scope of review (Review Coord)	Approach to review (Review Coord)	Progress on Review (Review Coord)	Progress on Review (Review Coord)	Progress on Review (Review Coord)	Progress on Review (Review Coord)	Progress on Review (Review Coord)	Draft report (Review Coord)	Final Report
Scrutiny		Empire Theatre Annual Report Forward Plan	Forward Plan	Climate Change (JG) Homelessness Report (PB/DS) Young Persons Supported Housing Project (PB/DS) Forward Plan	Major Projects Report (JB) Football Investment Strategy (JR) Britain in Bloom(IC/NA) Forward Plan	Review of Local Studies in Sunderland (NC/HL) Forward Plan	Climate Change (JG) Sustainability Appraisals (NCo) Review of Local Studies – Setting the Scene (VM) Forward Plan Bowes Railway Report (VM)	Accommodation with Support Design Guide (AC) Annual Sport and Leisure Report (RL) Forward Plan	Forward Plan English Heritage – Christmas Workshop	Annual Report (Review Coord) Climate Change (JG) Forward Plan
Scrutiny (Performance)			Performance & VfM Assessment Progress on Policy Review 08/09 – A Place to Play		Heritage Update (JH)	Progress on Policy Review 08/09 – A Place to Play	Performance Framework Q2 Strategic Planning Process	Annual Delivery Plan		Performance Framework Q3 Progress on Policy Review 08/09 – A Place to Play
Ref Cabinet	Terms of Reference of the Review Committee	Cabinet Response to the Policy Review-A Place to Play								

Committee business	Work Programme 2009/10 (Review Coord)	Work Programme 2009/10 (Review Coord)	Work Programme 2009/10 (Review Coord) Conference Attendance	Work Programme 2009/10 (Review Coord) Cooption Report	Work Programme 2009/10 (Review Coord)	Work Programme 2009/10 (Review Coord)	Work Programme 2009/10 (Review Coord)	Work Programme 2009/10 (Review Coord)	Work Programme 2009/10 (Review Coord)	Work Programme 2009/10 (Review Coord)
CCFA/ Members items/Petitions							Review of CCfA Mechanism			
Information										