

**1 FEBRUARY 2012**

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**COMMUNITY ACTION IN COALFIELD: IDENTIFYING NEW ISSUES AND AGREEING ACTIONS (2010/11 WORK PLAN)**

**Process for the Review of Local Area Plans for 2012**

**1.0 Why has it come to Committee?**

- 1.1 The report provides a proposed approach and timeline for the Area Committee to review its Local Area Plan for 2012 onwards.

**2.0 Background**

- 2.1 In February 2011 Sunderland Council agreed the approach to refresh the Sunderland Strategy, the purpose of which is to examine the robustness of the strategic framework for each Aim and identify ways to strengthen it, as well as the targets, milestones and delivery models, in addition to producing options for streamlined governance and a clear set of service delivery options for individual Aims.
- 2.2 The approach acknowledges it is vital that elected Members are central to the refresh of the Sunderland Strategy to ensure it reflects the needs of their communities, and that they, as community leaders, are able to identify and champion priorities to be addressed in their communities. As such it was agreed that the review and further development of Local Area Plans (LAPs) is integral to refreshing the Sunderland Strategy and would take place toward the latter stages of finalising the Sunderland Strategy refresh.

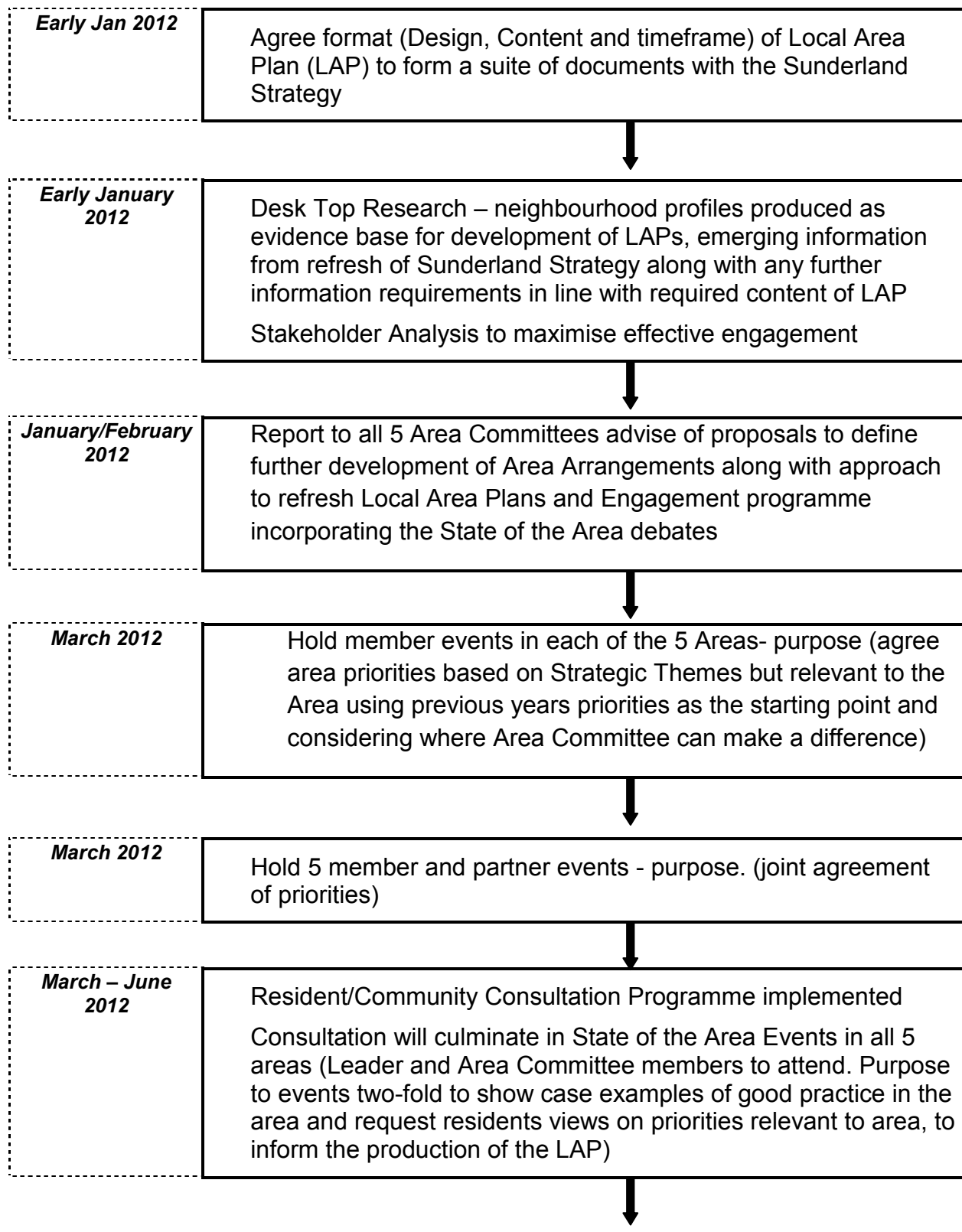
**3. Role of Area Committees in the development of the LAPs**

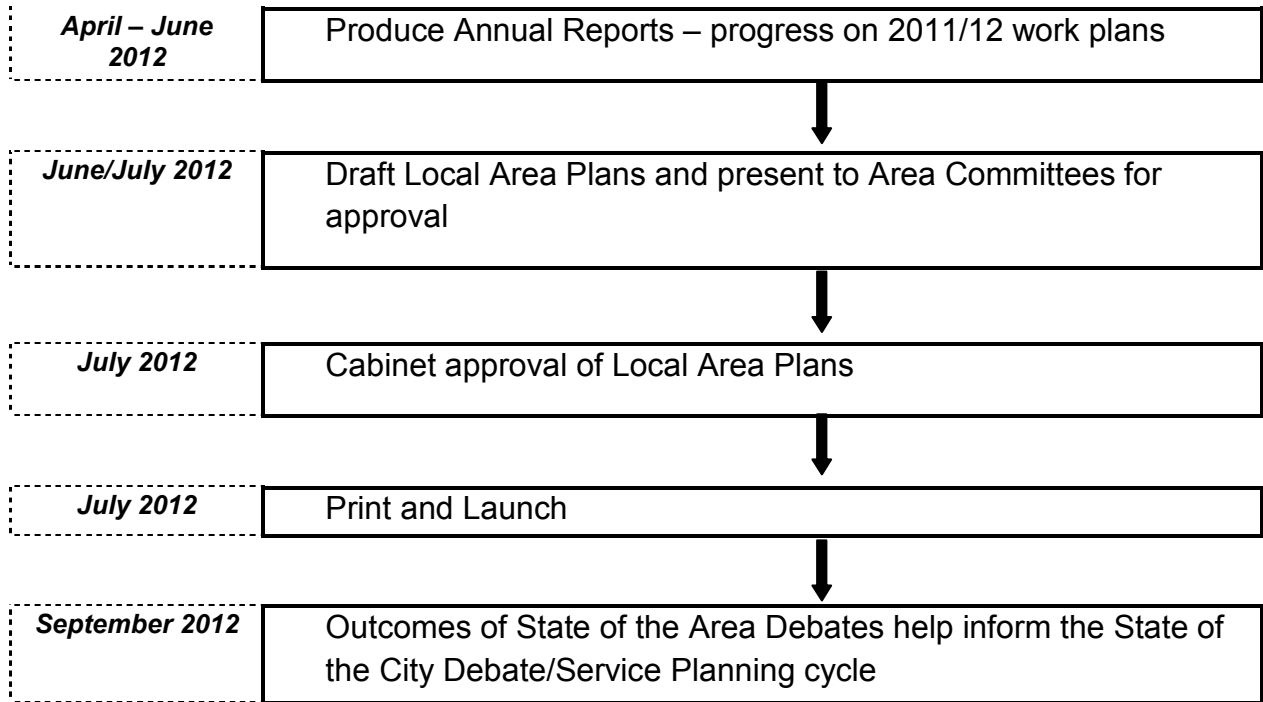
- 3.1 The role of Area Committee is to lead on the development and effective implementation of the Local Area Plan (as the local interpretation of the Sunderland Strategy, turning those priorities into reality and practical action for people in their area), monitor the quality and effectiveness of services delivered by the Council and other main providers in the Area and actively encourage local residents to become involved in decision-making on matters which affect them.
- 3.2 The LAPs were originally developed by Area Committees, and adopted by Cabinet, in July 2009. They provide the background history, Councillor representation on each Committee and a detailed profile of demographic information. The plan includes information on how the Area is performing in comparison with City standards, what the public is saying about their areas and the document's structure is in line with the Sunderland Strategy. LAPs provide the baseline of knowledge to inform priorities through which the Area Committees will work with partners and undertake actions to improve their area and improve the quality of life for their residents.
- 3.3 The development of LAPs is a structured, evidence led approach to priority setting and problem solving at a local level. It supports the Area Committees in achieving an enhanced partnership/joint working approach which both supports Elected Members appreciation of the benefits of working closely together, and with LSP colleagues, to address issues at a

grass routes level, and inform the city's strategic framework. Providing for a more pro-active way of working with partners to address issues and grasp opportunities.

3.4 LAPs are required to be reviewed and finalised in readiness for the new municipal year.

#### 4. Proposed Approach and timeline





**Recommendations:**

- Consider and provide feedback on the information provided
- Agree the proposed approach and timeline outlined in section 4

Contact Officer

Pauline Hopper, Area Officer (Coalfield)

Tel: 0191 561 7912 Email: [pauline.hopper@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:pauline.hopper@sunderland.gov.uk)