

## **SUNDERLAND NORTH AREA COMMITTEE**

**28<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

### **REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

#### **COMMUNITY ACTION IN SUNDERLAND NORTH – PROGRESS REVIEW Work Plan 2010/11: The Greening of the North Area**

##### **1. Why has it come to Committee?**

1.1 The report provides an update of outstanding issues from the 2009/10 work plan and shows progress against agreed actions in the current year's (2010/11) work plan, **Annex 1a**.

##### **2. Work plan 2010/11: The Greening of the North Area**

###### **2.1 Community Allotments**

Recruitment of apprentices through the Future Jobs Fund has been completed and we now have a team who, under a project supervisor will be completing the initial clearance and building works on site to develop the community allotments. Sunderland City Council has provided transport for the squad to support the project.

2.3 Summerbell is the first site on which work has commenced and Groundworks are working with City of Sunderland College to offer involvement in different stages of the project to young people currently completing the Princes Trust Course and college trainee bricklayers looking for opportunities for experience.

2.4 Further funding applications have been made to a variety of sources to continue to support the financial requirements of the project.

2.5 The community engagement element of the project has also commenced and through the Community and Voluntary Sector interest is being sought from groups and individuals who would benefit from engagement and participation in the project. The community engagement will continue through the first year of the project targeting groups from the North area who would benefit from the project, including intergenerational work, green exercise, healthy lifestyle options and educational opportunities.

###### **2.6 Council Allotments**

As a result of Allotment Watch and the policy review of allotments undertaken through Scrutiny, work has commenced on addressing some of the issues on individual sites as well as supporting the actions identified within the action plan for the policy review.

2.7 A letter has been written to all individuals on the allotment waiting list for 2 years or more to ensure the waiting list is as up to date as possible.

2.8 A baseline of information is being established to confirm the number of sites per plot, occupied sites, vacant sites and derelict sites and electronic plans to be created and linked to the strategic land management.

### 3. Cleansing of Sites

3.1 Contact has been made with private landlords regarding a joint approach to cleaning up sites identified.

3.2 This work has also been shared with the Area Response Manager to ensure there is joint working on the clean up of individual sites.

### 4 Specific Projects

#### 4.1 River Rubbish Relay

The relay took place in January and was a success with a number of residents, partners and voluntary groups supporting the project and litter pick. The relay also identified a number of issues regarding the coast to coast route relating to rubbish and fly tipping which have been referred to Responsive Local Services for resolution.

#### 4.2 Fulwell Quarry

Recent metal thefts, motorcycle disorder and illegal tethering of horses has prevented the development of specific uses of the site.

4.3 The metal theft and motorcycle disorder is being dealt with and progressed through LMAPS.

4.4 The illegal tethering of horses has been addressed through property services and Gentoo.

4.5 A site visit has now been arranged for 6<sup>th</sup> April to review the site and how it could be developed to encourage improved use by the community and local residents.

#### 4.6 Sunderland North Community Sports Complex

CEED have developed a project for the Sunderland North Community Sports Complex to establish the pond area as a natural wildlife area and natural play area of benefit to local communities. The development includes a consultation exercise with young people, parents and residents regarding how the site could be used and the reinstatement of the lighting to the area. An SIB funding application has been submitted and will be presented to Committee later as part of the financial reporting and applications.

#### 4.7 Roker Park Lodge

The current lease for community use of the lodge is due to expire and property services are currently renegotiating a new lease with the CEED, the Community Group who have occupied the site for the last five years.

- 4.8 As part of this work meetings have been held with CEED to consider how the Lodge can be used to support the community and develop better use of the site as a community facility and educational resource.

**Recommendation**

- Note the content of the report.
- Agree the progression of the project on Sunderland Community North Complex.
- Agree the development of Roker Park Lodge as a community and educational facility subject to the detail being provided.

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