

Coalfield Area Committee

14 July 2010.

Report of the Office of the Chief Executive

Community Action in Coalfield Area – Identifying New Issues and Agreeing Actions (2010/11 Work Plan)

1. Why has it come to Committee?

- 1.1. At its meeting in April 2010, the Committee agreed the report 'Towards a new work plan', which discussed and agreed the principle of up to six priorities, to include Responsive Local Services, to form the 2010-11 work plan. Area Committee then agreed those priorities at its meeting of 16 June 2010.
- 1.2. In addition to agreeing the new work plan and priorities, Area Committee also agreed to a new focused and targeted way of working which has resulted in a new agenda format which allows the Area Committee to identify links between issues and activity. This process provides robust data and evidence with regard to issues, performance management information, and streamlines the reporting processes.
- 1.3. The Community Leadership Programme has also consolidated this approach by working with Members to embed mechanisms which improve their capacity to operate as effective community leaders developing a longer term vision for their area and promoting quality of life improvements in support of this.
- 1.4. Coalfield Area Committee has agreed to focus its efforts where they can make a real difference and have identified 7 key priorities:
 - Child poverty
 - Heritage
 - Bulb planting and landscaping
 - Shopping centres
 - Play provision
 - Unadopted roads
 - Responsive Local Services (RLS)

It was also recognised that other cross cutting areas of work, e.g. equality and inclusion and community engagement, must be considered while delivering against those priorities.

- 1.5 Two 'Local Task and Result Groups' have been established – one for Heritage, and one for Local Shopping Centres. With regard to Child Poverty, the focus of Area Committee work and the additionality they can bring will be taken forward through established structures and reported back to Area Committee. A Task and Result group may be set up at a later date, if deemed appropriate. Bulb Planting and Landscaping will be a short focused piece of work and be discussed and actioned by the whole Committee. Play Provision and Unadopted Roads will be regular items, with the lead agent consulting with, and bringing information to Committee to identify targeted activity. Responsive Local Services will continue to present service performance for neighbourhood services to Area Committee. These groups will

report through Item 3 on this agenda with regard to proposed focus, activity and options for delivery.

- 1.6 During the 2009/10 Council year, each Area Committee conducted a time-limited pilot arrangement for questions received from members of the public. Experience across the five committees was variable, with one committee receiving seven questions, while others received between none and four. Coalfield Committee received no questions. From the questions received it has been demonstrated there is a need to ensure that Committee time is dedicated to dealing with questions that affect groups of residents, while using other mechanisms to resolve more specialist issues, for example those that affect only an individual.

In the light of this, a mainstreaming of questions to the Committee is proposed from July 2010. Residents' questions to the Committee will form an information stream within 'Community Insight' element on item 2 of the agenda. Considering these together with information from a range of other sources and information streams will provide the Committee with a rounded view of current and emerging community priorities. This will allow the Committee to prioritise areas for Members' attention and target Committee action, based on improved intelligence about issues current in the community

2. Performance Management

- 2.1 A range of data sources have been utilised in the development of the priority setting. The progress and performance management of all new issues and projects will be measured using a wide range of intelligence from internal and external sources.

3. Progress Report 2010/11 Action Plan

- 3.1 Heritage : The Task and Result Group for Heritage met on Tuesday 6 July. The Group will present proposals for a programme of work and estimated budget requirements to September Area Committee.
- 3.2 Local Shopping Centres: The Task and Result Group for Local Shopping Centres will meet on July 16th and present proposals for a programme of work and estimated budget requirements to September Area Committee.
- 3.3 Child Poverty: Consultation will take part at this meeting of the Area Committee.
- 3.4 Bulb Planting and Landscaping: Consultation will take part at this meeting to agree a programme of work with locations and timescales. City Services have undertaken an initial audit to identify sites across the whole of the Coalfield area, which will be brought to the meeting. Estimates for possible schemes have been obtained and will be discussed to identify budget requirements. Gentoo have expressed an interest in contributing to the proposals, including costs, to develop a partnership project.
- 3.5 Responsive Local Services are designed to:
- Increase levels of resident satisfaction through providing services that are responsive to community needs and effectively communicating improvements
 - Tailor services in recognition of differing area/locality circumstances either through local problem solving or adapting service standards
 - Recognise and enhance the community leadership role of elected members.

The initial scope of RLS focused upon five discrete service areas of Litter, Graffiti, Refuse, Grass Cutting and Dog Fouling. The next wave of services to be included are under review, however it is anticipated that enforcement will be included. The analysis was completed in June and the next wave will be confirmed in July 2010.

Although the target services within the scope of RLS remain a priority in terms of tailoring, the problem solving element of project does not exclude other issues being addressed that arise from the information presented to members at each committee.

4. Recommendations/Options

Members are requested to :

1. Note the contents of this report
2. Approve a nominal amount of £50,000 SIB funding (subject to a full detailed application and appraisal) to deliver a bulb planting and landscaping programme in the Coalfield area and accept a full application from City Services, to be approved at the September 2010 meeting.

5. Background papers

- 5.1 Coalfield Local Area Plan
- 5.2 Reports to previous committees