

SUNDERLAND NORTH AREA COMMITTEE

8TH NOVEMBER 2010

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 The first formal meeting of the Task and Finish Group for the Greening of the North Area took place on 15th October 2010.

2.2 The membership and terms of reference for the Task and Finish Group were agreed.

2.3 The following workstreams were discussed within the group as tasks which would enable the Greening of the North Area:

Community Allotments/Gardens
Cleaving of land owned by Private Landowners/Partners/Council
Problem Areas
Specific Projects

2.4 Community Allotments

Three sites across the North area were proposed and discussed by the group for development into Community Allotments/Gardens as follows:

Downhill Primary School site
8 unlettable sites at Summerbell Allotments
4 sites on Shields Road Allotments

On the Downhill site the proposal is to create ten mini garden plots, a small nature area and improve the existing brick built planters.

On the Summerbell site the proposal is to clear 8 unlettable gardens in all. Two will be redeveloped out and used as community allotments. Six will have basic works undertaken in order to be let by the association.

On the Shields Road site 4 allotments will be cleared with 2 being redeveloped and two receiving a more basic treatment to allow letting by the association.

The estimated costs for the development of the proposed allotments

sites are as follows (these costs have been developed by Groundworks and their Landscape Architect but require further work regarding plans, designs and consultation):

£40,000 Downhill
£30,000 Summerbell
£25,000 Shields Road
£9000 Tools and rental etc
£43,050 Community engagement and squad supervisor

Potential funding for the development of the proposed allotments has been identified as follows:

£32,300 Future Jobs Fund
£50,000 Community Spaces

Applications will also be submitted to the Coalfields Regeneration Trust, The Monument Trust (Sainsbury's Family) and The Big Lottery Reaching Communities to support the development of the Community Allotments.

The balance of funding required for the entire project will be £97,050, subject to successful funding applications into the above community funding streams.

Further to the outcome of the funding applications, a full SIB application will be developed within the Task and Finish Group and presented to a future meeting of this Committee. Elected members will regularly be informed and consulted on the work of the group.

2.5 Cleansing of Land

The group discussed the cleansing of land currently owned by private landowners, partners and the councils. It was proposed that the Task and Finish Group work with landowners to support them to clean up the land they own by accessing the Community Payback Scheme, the Princes Trust Project Team within the Colleges and private and community businesses who participate in Team Challenges within the community.

2.6 Specific Projects

A project had previously been suggested within the Voluntary Community Sector Network meetings, River Rubbish Ramble. This project would involve engagement with the schools and voluntary sector on the North side to participate in a litter pick along the river from Queen Alexandra Bridge to the Glass Ctr. The children would stop at regular intervals and be given information on heritage sites along the river. The group discussed the potential issues with this project but agreed that initial investigations on the feasibility of such a project be undertaken.

2.7 Identification of Land

Work has commenced to identify and collate information regarding land across the North Area which could be used for Community Allotment sites, including problem areas and derelict or waste land, regardless of ownership.

The information includes the land and location, ownership, current situation and plans in place. The group will use this information to identify what action could be taken in order to improve the land or resolve identified problems. The current list will be circulated to all members for information as well as add any further information they area aware of. The Greenspace Topic Paper and Strategic Land Management will also provide information to add to this.

Recommendation

- Note the report provided.
- Agree the proposed sites on which Community Allotments could be developed.
- Agree in principle SIB funding to support the development of Community Allotments pending full application
- Agree the proposal to work with private landlords to achieve the cleansing of private land
- Agree the investigation into the feasibility of the River Rubbish Ramble.