

SUNDERLAND WEST AREA COMMITTEE

1st February 2012

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

COMMUNITY ACTION IN SUNDERLAND WEST – PROGRESS REVIEW

Work Plan 2011/12: Update on Priorities

1 Why has it come to Committee?

- 1.1 The report provides an update of outstanding issues from the 2010/11 work plan and progress against agreed actions in the current year's (2011/12) Work Plan; Annex 1.

2 Background

- 2.1 The purpose of the work plan is to clearly identify the key priorities for Area Committee to discuss, deliver actions and monitor throughout the year, with the overall outcome to improve the quality of life for residents within the West area.

3 Job Prospects

- 3.1 Following November's meeting, committee agreed to establish a member only 'Task Finish' group to focus on measures to alleviate youth unemployment. This met on 7th December. The notes of this meeting have been circulated to members.
- 3.2 In addition, a city wide group has been established to look into apprenticeships and the action the Council can take to improve the situation for young, unemployed people. This group is council led and includes all the major training organisations in the City.
- 3.3 The working group is collating information on apprenticeships and will investigate possible interventions from the council to complement existing provision. A report to Cabinet is expected by the end of January and it is proposed to re-convene the West's Task and Finish group following the Cabinet report.

4 Crime and Community Safety

- 4.1 At November's meeting, there was a verbal report and statistical update from the Police and Tyne and Wear Fire and rescue Service regarding crime and Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) within the West.
- 4.2 A further update will be presented to this meeting. A statistical breakdown from the Fire and Rescue Service is contained at Annex 2.
- 4.3 In addition, there has been an under spend on Operation Freedom, the Police led multi agency project funded by Area Committee, which came to an end in September 2011. The project has been successful in helping to improve community relationship and reduce ASB. The Eden Vale and Thornhill Project Group are requesting the under spend be committed to securing an additional Police presence in Eden Vale, which has seen an increase in ASB since the ending of Operation Freedom. Whilst incidents across the West have declined, Eden Vale still remains a hotspot. With the environmental works and the progress in coordinating youth provision (see Eden Vale report), this proposed initiative is seen as an element in a coordinated programme to alleviate the well documented difficulties in the area.

- 4.4 The under spend from Operation Freedom is £9,750. The police have produced proposals, which involve existing shift patterns and extra patrol cover, which will provide a police and Community Support Officer presence until the end of June, at a cost of £7,016. In addition, the East Police Team, supported by East Area Committee provides additional patrols around Thornhill School.
- 4.5 Further, it is proposed the remaining expenditure, approximately £2,700, be ring fenced to the Eden Vale and Thornhill Project Group, to add to ASB initiatives.

5 Youth and Play

- 5.1 Following the successful Summer Activities programme, funded by the West Area Committee, it was agreed to use the Children's Services devolved funding to organise holiday activity programmes during October half term, Christmas and February half term holidays. The February programme is currently being organised.
- 5.2 The Youth and Play Task and Finish group met in January to consider the committee's work plan priorities: activities for 8 -12 year olds; and further holiday activity provision.
- 5.3 Following this and as a result of a number of changes being considered to the commissioned youth providers, a report containing proposals to action the priorities in 5.2 will be presented to committee at its March meeting.

6 Health and Well Being

- 6.1 The Health and Well Being Task and Finish group met in December 2011. Discussion centred on the 'Health Champions' project: community engagement and targeting specific groups; and sustaining the programme. To this end, the Teaching Primary Care Trust has commissioned consultants to carry out a full evaluation of the project, which will be completed by the end of February.
- 6.2 It is proposed that committee receive a presentation and summary of findings at its March meeting. Further, this will also be delivered to the city's Health and Well Being Board.
- 6.3 It is worth noting that there are a total of 154 Health Champions across the city, 16 of which are based in, or are residents of, Sunderland West, including 4 councillors. A further 603 people across the City are undergoing training, 63 of which are based in, or are residents of, Sunderland West, which includes 1 councillor. Further, there is also a proposal to add two more courses in 2012 to the programme for the people who have undertaken all five modules; one course around early signs and symptoms of cancer and the other around diet, nutrition and malnutrition.

7 Environment and Street Scene

- 7.1 At the last meeting, committee agreed to fund a £6,000 per ward 'Walk and Talk' programme, which will enable members to deliver a series of environmental improvements as community leaders.
- 7.2 A programme has been drawn up and circulated to members and the Area Response Manager will provide an update at the meeting.

8 Recommendations

Committee is requested to:

- i) Note the report, progress updates and actions as detailed in this report and in the Work Plan attached as Annex 1;
- ii) Agree the proposal, in 4.3 and 4.5, above from the Eden Vale and Thornhill Project Group to allocate unspent resources from 'Operation Freedom'.

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