

At a meeting of the PROSPERITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE on WEDNESDAY 19TH JANUARY, 2011 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Mordey in the Chair

Councillors Bell, D. Forbes, P. Gibson, Howe, Snowdon, A. Wright and T. Wright.

Also Present:-

Councillor D. Tate – Chairman of the Management Scrutiny Committee.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Cuthbert and J.B. Scott.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 15th December 2010

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 15th December, 2010 be confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to the following amendment:-

The final paragraph of the forward plan item be amended by the inclusion of 'that it had been reported in the Sunderland Echo' so it read:-

'Councillor T. Wright referred to item 01477 to approve the appointment of contractors to deliver the Marine Walk public realm improvements. He noted that it had been reported in the Sunderland Echo, that a lot of retailers in the area were not happy with the proposals and hoped that Officers were talking to them and appropriate consultations were being carried out.'

North East Chamber of Commerce – Business Update

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which introduced Andrew Sugden (Director of Membership and Policy) and Ross Smith (Head of Policy and Research) from the North East Chamber of Commerce (NECC) who had been invited to the meeting to discuss the work of the Chamber, and in relation to the Committee's policy review, its contribution to the development of the low carbon economy.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

A copy of the NECC's 2011 Manifesto was attached as an appendix to the report and copies of 'Sustaining Growth' the NECC's Second Energy Policy Report was tabled for the Committee's information.

Mr. Smith advised that the Chamber's Business Barometer was an accurate reflection of what had been happening in the business world. Growth until mid 2008 had been followed by a trough from mid 2008 towards the end of 2009. The following five quarters showed no change, however the last survey for the final quarter of 2010 had shown a healthy increase in business.

Members were advised of the following three themes which would underlie the NECC's lobbying priorities:-

- safeguarding assets and policy positions which were crucial to maintaining the recovery;
- the scope for reform to bolster competitiveness;
- investment in priority areas to unlock economic growth.

With regard to the Second Energy Policy Report, Members were advised that it made a series of recommendations to help foster low carbon industries. It noted that the UK was currently wrestling with the twin challenges of meeting ambitious CO₂ reduction targets and ensuring the UK provided sufficient energy to cater for economic recovery and growth. The Report believed that both goals would be unachievable unless the following Structural, Social and Cultural and Technological challenges were addressed.

Structural:

- Fiscal policy must be clear, simple and consistent; with greater consideration given to the administrative burdens that it placed upon many businesses;
- Regulations must only be implemented when it was deemed absolutely necessary, ensuring that regulatory and investment timescales were more closely matched;
- Providing businesses with a single point of contact for business support on issues such as access to finance was of crucial importance if we were to facilitate an expansion of the private sector in the North East.

Social and Cultural:

- Businesses and households needed to be better informed about the cost benefits of energy and resource efficiency, so that the way society, as a whole, used energy could begin to change;
- The changing architecture of business support, including the creation of Local Enterprise Partnerships in England, must take full account of the opportunities and risks for the North East's low carbon industries;
- The Renewable Heat Incentive must be implemented in full without delay on a long term committed basis;
- Investment in district heating schemes throughout the UK must be promoted with greater emphasis on improving knowledge and understanding among local authorities and the public.
- Consumer behaviour needed to be both better understood and changed via targeted interventions such as Government assistance for carbon reduction initiatives for high energy users.

Technological:

- We must consider rolling out a comprehensive transport strategy in the North East linking low carbon transport technology, low carbon travel planning and smarter working practices.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor P. Gibson, Mr. Sugden advised that the Chamber of Commerce would encourage as much environmentally sustainable growth as possible. It would be a 'definite win win' if this were to happen as many low carbon development businesses were based in the North East.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor A. Wright, Mr. Sugden stated that with regard to the promotion of 'Green Travel' the key issue was perhaps reducing the actual need to travel. The position of coach and bus operators was vital, although huge strides had been made, the batteries on electric buses remained huge and reduced passenger capacity by 15%.

Councillor Gibson referred to the display of the Nissan Leaf cars that had taken place outside the Members car park earlier that day and which he had only come across by chance. Members expressed concern that the Committee had not been invited to the event as it would have been extremely useful, being held on the same day as it was due to consider a presentation on Low Carbon Vehicles as part of its policy review.

Mr. Smith advised that Sunderland had a world leading role to play with regard to battery development with the Leaf production being the catalyst. The research and development work being undertaken in the City would result in an increase in battery life and a reduction in size.

Councillor T. Wright stated that he was well aware of the NECC through their training arm which he believed was second to none. He stated that skills and training were extremely important as would the LEP. He asked that as the LEP was to be business led, would the NECC be involved.

Mr. Sugden replied that the NECC were clearly pleased that the LEP had been secured as this was where skills funding would be directed in the future. In the current economic climate employers had retrenched with regard to the amount they invested in skills training and particularly in relation to apprenticeships. There was a concern within the NECC that this may ultimately lead to a skills gap. The youth unemployment figures were not good. A number of economic development issues formally dealt with in the region would now be controlled by Whitehall.

Councillor Howe stated that concerns had been raised with regard to lithium-ion batteries and also queried how the Government would ensure electricity generation kept pace with the demand from electric vehicles. He asked whether the Chamber were able to put pressure on the Government with regard to the Country's energy generating capacity.

Mr. Sugden advised that it was something the Chamber had lobbied the Government about. There was a disadvantage currently whereby energy access in the South East was actually subsidised yet in the North access to energy was charged for. With the aim of ensuring levels of electricity generation were maintained the Chamber would support the new generation of nuclear power. Thought would also have to be given to pressure put on the grid by peaks in demand for the charging of electric vehicles e.g. just before the morning and evening rush hours.

Councillor A. Wright referred to the Localism Bill and feared there was a potential for chaos with regard to the planning system. There was a need to push the Government to re-visit the drafting of the Bill which was shambolic and had the potential to create a free for all.

Mr. Smith confirmed that in the view of the NECC, the removal of the Regional Spatial Strategy was worrying. The potential for a patchwork of neighbourhood plans would create huge problems for developers. The NECC was to host a meeting for developers and Local Authorities during the following week with regard to the Localism Bill.

There being no further questions for Mr. Sugden or Mr. Smith the Chairman thanked them for their attendance. In reply Mr. Sugden thanked the Committee for their invitation and offered to return in 12 or 18 months if Members felt this would be useful.

2. RESOLVED that the report from the North East Chamber be received and noted and that the information provided with regard to the development of the low carbon economy be incorporated into the policy review.

Low Carbon Economy – Policy Review 2010/11: Vehicles

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which introduced Janet Snaith, Head of City Business and Investment Team who was present to provide Members with a presentation on the development of the vehicle sector of the low carbon economy in Sunderland.

(For copy report and presentation – see original minutes).

Ms. Snaith informed Members that Aim 2 of the Economic Masterplan was to become a national hub of the Low Carbon Economy. The key business sectors in this regard were Ultra Low Carbon Vehicles, Offshore Wind Energy and Software Development.

Creating a Low Carbon Economic Area for Ultra Low Carbon Vehicles would involve facilitating the transformation of the automotive manufacturing sector including providing support for innovation, skills development and infrastructure.

Sunderland was already positioned as a national hub for ultra low carbon vehicle manufacturing being the home for manufacturers such as Snorkel, Smith Electronic Vehicles and jumbtugs.

Nissan's Sunderland plant had been selected as the location for its European Centre of Excellence for Battery Manufacturing. More than £200 million was being invested in the plant and 350 people would be employed to produce 60,000 lithium-ion batteries annually from 2012. The plant would feature 'clean room' environments requiring high level technical skills. The plant was one of only 4 globally.

The plant had also beaten off competition from across Europe to secure production of the Leaf Electric Vehicle beginning in 2013 with 50,000 to be built each year. To facilitate the development of the battery plant and the Leaf production, Nissan had received £20.7 million grant funding from the UK Government.

With regard to research and development, a 20 year lease was being negotiated on Nissan's test track to provide an open facility for the testing and evaluation of low emissions vehicles. This would comprise part of the National Low Carbon Vehicle Research and Development Centre to be operated by Gateshead College with financial support from ONE North East. This would complement the R&D expertise at the University of Sunderland's Institute of Automotive and Manufacturing Advanced Practice (AMAP). AMAP had recently worked with Shen Li High Technology (Shanghi) and AVID Vehicles (Cramlington) to convert two buses to hydrogen power.

Sunderland City Council had been a key player in the success of the automotive manufacturing sector proactively engaging with Nissan to help the company realise their plans and providing a wide range of support to suppliers. Examples included:-

- financial incentives at key points in company development;
- identifying suitable sites and premises;
- providing help with recruitment and training;

- expert advice on technical issues such as site development and planning;
- various sector support initiatives and events.

With regard to skills and training, Nissan worked closely with local universities and colleges including the Skills Academy for Automotive Manufacturing at Gateshead College. Apprenticeships were a key part of Nissan's training strategy with students combining a year of study at the Academy with four years on the job training.

Gateshead College was developing the Skills Academy for Sustainable Manufacturing, Productivity and Innovation on the Nissan site. When completed in 2011, this would be the UK's first low carbon training centre.

The University of Sunderland has introduced an MSc in Low Carbon Vehicle Technology - the first qualification of its kind in the UK. The programme had been designed in consultation with the industry and was for people already employed in the sector.

With regard to supporting infrastructure for EVs Government-funded programme to create a network of charging points – played a key role in securing Nissan investment in EVs. 1,300 points were planned by 2013.

Sites in Sunderland include:-

- Sunderland City Council Car Parks;
- The Bridges;
- Park Lane Interchange;
- University of Sunderland;
- City Hospitals Sunderland;
- North East Business Innovation Centre;
- evolve Business Centre.

With regard to the strain on resources available, the following issues had been identified:-

- Abolition of ONE North East (the RDA has projects worth £50 million underway and eight people working full-time on EVs).
- The City Council's limited capacity to take up the slack, given the current round of budget cuts.
- End of the Government's Grant for Business Investment (GBI) scheme.
- Regional Growth Fund might be difficult to tailor to the needs of the sector (for example, bidding rounds might not fit with company plans).

The following issues had also been identified regarding the market potential for EVs:-

- Uncertainty over timescales for consumer uptake of EVs – they are likely to remain a niche vehicle for the next 20 years.

- Electricity generation capacity currently doesn't exist to support large-scale adoption of EVs.
- Nissan was playing the 'long game' – establishing brand identity (they are investing £400 million in plant that would initially produce just 50,000 units per annum).
- Not just EVs – global R&D was taking place in Sunderland on alternative technologies such as hybrid vehicles and hydrogen fuel cells.
- This needed to be viewed as a long-term opportunity for the City – It couldn't afford to focus on ultra low carbon vehicles to the exclusion of conventional technologies.

The Chairman referred to the electric fleet vehicles already being provided by Smith Vehicles and asked if it was possible to phase in such vehicles to the Council's fleet as and when the traditional vehicles came to the end of their natural life.

Ms. Snaith advised that the Association of North East Councils (ANEC) were investigating the whole low carbon agenda and that Sunderland were the lead authority with regard to vehicles. The very issue raised by the Chairman was being looked at however the vehicles were currently very expensive and therefore an approach for funding had been made to the European Investment Bank. It remained to be seen whether fleets would be pooled across the region or would remain with individual Local Authorities.

Councillor Howe referred to slide 6 of the presentation regarding the North of Nissan Strategic Site and expressed concern that it included green belt land. Kevin Donkin, Policy Officer advised that the land though now designated green belt had originally been scheduled for industrial use. The Council was keen to retain all its green belt however the site was a strategic imperative. The remaining green belt would remain sacrosanct.

Councillor D. Forbes regretted that an opportunity had been missed to utilise the former BR Rail Freight facility at White Mare Pool to distribute Nissan's vehicles, rather than placing a further burden on the over stretched road network.

Ms. Snaith advised that Nissan had considered looking to open part of the Leamside Line to link the White Mare Pool facility to the East Coast Main Line however the costs involved had been prohibitive.

There being no further questions for Ms. Snaith or Mr. Donkin the Chairman thanked Ms. Snaith for her presentation and it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the presentation be received and noted and that the information provided be used as evidence for the Committee's Policy Review.

Sunderland Employment Strategy 2011-2014

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which sought the views and comments of the Committee on the draft Sunderland Employment Strategy 2011-2014.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Karen Alexander, Employment and Training Manager presented the report outlining the key aspects of the Employment Strategy and contrasting the current delivery model with the effect the Coalition Government's new policy to reform the welfare state would have on the Strategy.

The Chairman suggested that it appeared that under the new provisions which would come into effect on 1st April the Council would move away from being a direct delivery arm to providing a strategic overview. Ms. Alexander explained that there should still be areas of support for people just that they would no longer be either funded or directly provided by the Council. The Council's role would be to pass on its knowledge regarding how to deliver such mainstream services. The services would be based around a framework contract. The Government had sought bids from large secure organisations to deliver the services. Two organisations known as 'Prime Contractors' would be appointed to cover the northern region who would then sub-contract services. The Council's Job Linkage Team had positioned itself to become a sub-contractor.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor T. Wright, the Committee was advised that the names of the successful prime contractors should be announced in early April. Nine firms had made the short-list.

The Chairman asked if the new delivery proposals would be a more efficient way of providing the services. Ms. Alexander replied that, that was the Government's intention, however there was a large amount of guess work regarding the end result. Concern had been raised about the potential for 'creaming and parking' whereby if funding was to be outcome based providers may be incentivised to concentrate their efforts on clients who were easy to place in work and 'park' the more difficult cases whilst doing so. The Chairman expressed his concern that the hardest to reach appeared to be labelled in this way. In addition Members expressed concern that national service providers would not have the needs of the local area at their heart, that the new offer would not sustain the current level of Job Linkages and that the new service was likely to be inferior to the current one.

The Chairman having thanked Ms. Alexander for her report, it was:-

4. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Low Carbon Place Task and Finish Group Work Programme 2010-11

Claire Harrison, Assistant Scrutiny Officer, presented a report of the Chief Executive (copy circulated) which provided Members with the current Work Programme for the Committee's Low Carbon Place Task and Finish Group for the 2010-11 Council Year.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Harrison advised that the retrofit visit would take place the following day. Members were also advised that the Task and Finish Group would be submitted to the Committee in April.

5. RESOLVED that the Low Carbon Place Task and Finish Group Work Programme for 2010-2011 be received and noted.

Forward Plan – Key Decisions for the Period 1st January, 2011 to 30th April, 2011

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide Members with an opportunity to consider those items on the Executive's Forward Plan for the period 1st January, 2011 to 30th April, 2011 relating to the Prosperity and Economic Development Scrutiny Committee.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

6. RESOLVED that the Forward Plan be received and noted.

Work Programme 2010-11

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which attached for Members' information the Committee's current programme of work for the 2010-11 Council year.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

7. RESOLVED that the Committee's Work Programme for 2010-11 be received and noted.

The Chairman then closed the meeting having thanked everyone for their attendance

(Signed) M. MORDEY,
Chairman.

PROSPERITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

16th FEBRAURY 2011

LOW CARBON TASK AND FINISH GROUP – VISIT TO EVOLVE BUSINESS CENTRE

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To provide feedback on a visit by the Task and Finish Group to meet with a number of technology companies based at the Evolve Business Centre.
- 1.2 To receive a short presentation from Mr Joe Olabode of PCI Services on the work of his firm and his views on the facilities on offer at the Evolve Centre.
- 1.3 To note the current work programme for the Low Carbon Place Task and Finish group during the 2010-11 Council year.

2. Background

- 2.1 At the Committees meeting on the 22nd September 2010, it was agreed that a core task and finish group would be established to investigate the Low Carbon Place aspect of the Policy Review.
- 2.2 Councillors Bell, Cuthbert, P Gibson, Mordey, Snowdon and A Wright were nominated to serve on the group. It was agreed that a work programme would be developed and included on the main Committee agenda. All Members of the Committee are able to attend any evidence gathering sessions of interest.

3. Progress update

- 3.1 On 4 February 2011, members of the Group visited the Evolve Business Centre based at Rainton Bridge South Business Park. The visit provided members with the opportunity to view the facilities on offer at the Centre and also meet and speak with four firms currently based there. The visit was hosted by Tom Hurst, Chief Investment Officer from the Business and Investment Team
- 3.2 The Evolve Business Centre is a new state of the art e-commerce centre designed specifically to meet the needs of the areas technology based companies. The Centre is intended as a developing hub for

knowledge based information and communication technology businesses.

- 3.3 Evolve's aim is to support and enable SaaS (Software as a Service), ISV's (Independent Software Vendors) and technology companies to develop and grow; providing an ideal environment for technology companies to use as a base and networking centre.
- 3.4 The building provides high quality office space spread over three floors and is globally connected with the highest possible standard of broadband telecommunications infrastructure. Businesses also have access to fully equipped meeting, training and conference facilities as well as a prestigious boardroom. Business support, information and advice is available from the Council's Business Investment Team,
- 3.5 The Centre plays a key role in nurturing new technology companies and ensuring that businesses do not leave the area due to a lack of infrastructure restricting their growth.

PCI Services

- 3.6 Mr Joe Olabode of PCI Services IT Solutions noted that the company provided the SME business community with professional consultancy, implementation and support services. He had previously been located in Newcastle and Gateshead but had relocated to Sunderland in 2006. Much of this was down to the excellent facilities on offer at the Centre and the support provided to businesses. The firm has managed to remain in profit despite the economic downturn and prospects for the future looked healthy. The long term goal was to build the business in Sunderland and build upon the strong personal relationships and trust that had been developed with clients. This was felt to be vital to the company's long term success.
- 3.7 Mr Olabode referred to the help and support that had been provided by the Council and the good mutual relationship that had developed over the years. In terms of what else could be provided by the Council, Mr Olabode referred to the importance of the Software City concept having real substance and identity. It was important that the new development at Tavistock should tie in and link up with the facilities at Evolve in order to avoid any danger of fragmentation.

ON TRAC Ltd

- 3.8 Mr Peter Johnson, Business Development Director explained that the company developed web-based information systems for companies to help them to gather and deliver information to their employees, customers and supply chain partners. The Company had had a successful year and were now well positioned to become the UK's principal supplier of intelligent data interrogation on demand. Mr Johnson noted that the software sector was an area where rapid

growth in turnover could be achieved in a relatively small timescale with a consequent benefit for the local area.

- 3.9 The key to success was to identify a niche market and then get to know that market really well. Also vital was operating from a well equipped prestige building which provided potential clients with confidence in the ability of the firm to do business.
- 3.10 The provision of high quality infrastructure was also important and reference was made to the lack of a high quality hotel in the area which could be used by visiting clients.
- 3.11 In relation to what else the Council could provide, Mr Johnson felt that technology companies were often short of marketing skills and that the Council should be looking to further bolster the good service already provided.

Guroo Ltd

- 3.12 Jonathan Wells, Managing Director noted that the company specialised in providing e-learning resources for schools. The company had tapped into a growing market for e-learning resources nationally and good prospects existed for its growth internationally – particularly in the US. The firm is committed staying in the area and is keen to employ people locally as the standard of the workforce and skills levels were high. The company were particularly impressed with the support provided and the facilities available at the Evolve Centre.
- 3.13 In relation to what else the Council could provide, Mr Wells referred to the companies satisfaction with the level of support currently provided, the flexibility provided by the design and layout of the building and the importance maintaining a high profile locally. Also important was the infrastructure and environment of an area in terms of schools, housing, transport links and leisure facilities. All of these factors were important in determining the location of a company.
- 3.14 It was felt that the Council should be further promoting the technology facilities available in the city and the progress that had been made. It was suggested that more events could be held within the city to promote inward investment and that this should be given a higher priority in terms of the Council's marketing and promotion.

The Test Factory

- 3.15 Kevin Beales noted that the Test Factory provides a service to clients which enables them to create and manage their own online tests such as identifying training needs, post training assessment, inductions, testing product knowledge, compliance and recruitment.

- 3.16 The key reason for the company locating in the area was the Council's commitment to the Software City concept and the support and guidance that was provided. The firm employs 20 full time staff. The local workforce possessed the necessary skills and the building provided high quality infrastructure. The flexibility of the building also meant that the firm could grow while still being located in the building and with the minimum of disruption. The firm had a high potential for growth and access to a growing global market
- 3.17 In terms of what else the Council could provide, Mr Beales referred to the importance of developing and embedding the Software City concept. It was hoped that this could provide the basis for self perpetuating growth and success - with new innovation breeding further innovation. It was important that there was a very visible commitment to the growth of the software sector as part of the local economy. While only in existence for 3 years, it was felt that a lot had already been achieved and that potential existed for its further development, particularly when the economy emerges from the present downturn. It was also important that there was clarity on the implications of the Regional Growth Fund and its potential for local businesses.

4 Task and Finish Group Work Programme

- 4.1 The Task and Finish Group work programme is included as Appendix A of this report.
- 4.2 This is a flexible document and can be added to or amended throughout the course of the year. The views of members are sought on contents of the programme.

5 Recommendation

- 5.1 That Members note the information in the report and contained in the work programme and consider any additions to the work programme.

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	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	JANUARY	FEBRUARY
Meetings	<p>20th October 2010 3pm-4pm</p> <p>Low Carbon Homes- the Challenges and Opportunities of retrofit- Catherine Pope</p> <p>Future work of Task and Finish Group</p>			<p>Gentoo Energy Manager</p> <p>Council Buildings- Progress and future opportunities (AA)</p> <p>Update on low carbon homes and mapping (CP)</p>	<p>Task and Finish Group with relevant council officers.</p>
Visits		<p>Visit to schools: Portland School Washington School Richard Avenue Primary School</p>		<p>Visit to retrofit scheme in North Tyneside and site in Sunderland.</p> <p>Visit to Evolve</p>	<p>Visit to low carbon business.</p> <p>NAREC- National Renewable Energy Centre</p>
Feedback to main Committee	Update report	Update report	Update report	Update report	Findings of the group.

PROSPERITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

16 FEBRUARY 2011

SUNDERLAND UNIVERSITY- CARBON AGENDA AND MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Strategic Priorities: SP1 Prosperous City

**Corporate Priorities: CIO1: Delivering Customer Focused Services, CIO4:
Improving partnership working to deliver 'One City'.**

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To provide Members of the Prosperity and Economic Development Scrutiny Committee with information about Sunderland University's Carbon Agenda and Management procedures.

2. Background

- 2.1 In June 2006 the Carbon Trust awarded the University its highest accolade for planning and implementing objectives to improve environmental practices and performance in the areas of waste management, energy management, procurement, transport and travel practices. The University's Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development Group (EPSD) serves to enable continuous improvements to be made on environmental issues through the EPSD action plan.

3. Current Position

- 3.1 Claire Charles, Environment Co-ordinator will attend the meeting to deliver a presentation highlighting the measures that have been implemented at the University to reduce their Carbon emissions.

4 Recommendation

- 4.1 That the report of the University be received and information incorporated into the policy review.

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**PROSPERITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
16 FEBRUARY 2011**

LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF STRATEGIC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 This paper provides an update for Members on the establishment of the North Eastern Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP).

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP) are intended to bring together businesses and local authorities in order to set the strategy and vision of economic growth in an area. On Thursday 23 December 2010, Business, Local Authorities, Higher Education, Further Education and the Voluntary and Community Sector submitted a joint proposal to the Secretaries of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and Communities to establish a North Eastern LEP covering Durham County, Northumberland and the five Tyne and Wear authority districts.
- 2.2 In an statement to the House of Commons, on Thursday 13 January 2011, Mark Prisk MP, Minister of State for Business and Enterprise, announced that the Government had approved the North Eastern LEP proposal, and was encouraging partners to move towards establishing the partnership and forming the LEP Board.

3.0 North Eastern LEP Proposal

- 3.1 The North Eastern LEP proposal sets out a vision for the LEP area to become Europe's premier location for low carbon, sustainable, knowledge-based private sector growth and jobs. To achieve this vision, partners have identified that the LEP should focus on delivering actions against four strategic economic priorities:

- **Supporting Enterprise and Private Sector Business Growth**
- **Building on Key Economic Strengths**
- **Improving Skills and Performance**
- **Strengthening Transport, Connectivity and Infrastructure**

- 3.2 The proposal to Government outlined a series of actions that the LEP would be looking to implement against the four strategic economic priorities. The LEP is also seeking commitments from Government in ten areas that are seen as crucial to helping the LEP deliver effective outcomes against the four priorities.
- 3.3 The foundations of the LEP will be based on strong business leadership and local democratic accountability. Underpinning the operation of the LEP will be four core principles:
- **Business-driven. The LEP will be led by a business chair and will be a champion and an advocate for business and community interests.**
 - **Leadership and Local Accountability. The LEP will deliver dynamic business leadership and local democratic accountability.**
 - **Added Value and Efficiency. The LEP will add value, be action-orientated, be guided by robust evidence and operate in a non-bureaucratic manner. The LEP will simplify current economic development arrangements by focusing exclusively on the strategic economic priorities agreed by the Partnership.**
 - **Commitment to Cross-Boundary Collaboration. The LEP will work according to a natural economic area, and will, where appropriate, work with other local enterprise partnerships and neighbouring partner organisations.**
- 3.4 The proposal also sets out broadly the intended composition of the LEP Board (including the Chair) and a planned LEP Forum, as well as signalling the intention to make resources available to introduce new support for the LEP.
- 3.5 A copy of the proposal document has been circulated under separate cover.

4.0 Proposed Next Steps

- 4.1 Initial discussion has focused on the need to establish the LEP Board and to identify an Interim Chair of the Board to act as an advocate or spokesperson for the LEP. The Interim Chair would also provide a strategic inter-face with Government, and could help design a process for recruiting Business Board Members to the LEP Board.
- 4.2 A business plan is being prepared which will firm up a series of activities based around the four strategic economic priorities set out in the LEP

proposals and the resources required to deliver these. Consideration is also being given to a wider stakeholder event by the end of March 2011.

5 Recommendation

- 5.1 That the report be noted.

WORK PROGRAMME 2010-11

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Strategic Priorities: SP3 – Prosperous City

Corporate Priorities: CIO1: Delivering Customer Focused Services, CIO4: Improving partnership working to deliver ‘One City’.

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 The report attaches, for Members’ information, the current work programme for the Committee’s work during the 2010-11 Council year.
- 1.2 The work of the Committee in delivering its work programme will support the Council in achieving its Strategic Priorities of a Prosperous City, support delivery of the related themes of the Local Area Agreement, and, through monitoring the performance of the Council’s services, help the Council achieve its Corporate Improvement Objectives CIO1 (delivering customer focussed services) and CIO4 (improving partnership working to deliver ‘One City’).

2. Background

- 2.1 The work programme is a working document which the Committee can develop throughout the year. The work programme allows Members and officers to maintain an overview of work planned and undertaken during the Council year.

3. Current position

- 3.1 The work programme reflects discussions that have taken place at the 8 June 2010 Scrutiny Committee meeting. The current work programme is attached as an appendix to this report.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 The work programme developed from the meeting will form a flexible mechanism for managing the work of the Committee in 2010-11.

5 Recommendation

- 5.1 That Members note the information contained in the work programme and consider the inclusion of proposals for the Committee into the work programme.

	JUNE	JULY	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
Cabinet referrals and responses			Progress on Policy Review - Working Neighbourhoods Fund (Cllr Charlton/A Patterson)	Progress on Policy Review – Tourism and Marketing (Jane Hall/Cllr D Wilson)						
Policy Review	Proposals for policy review (Scrutiny Officer)	Scope of review (Scrutiny Officer)	Approach to review (Scrutiny Officer/Janet Snaith) / Low Carbon Place – (Katheryn Warrington)	Progress on Review - Report of Working Group (Scrutiny Officer) Employers Survey (Janet Snaith)	Progress on Review (Scrutiny Officer) – Low Carbon Industry (Software) Update on Task and Finish Group (Claire Harrison)	Progress on Review (Scrutiny Officer) – Low Carbon Industry (Port) Port Offshore Wind (Matthew Hunt Port Director) Update on Task and Finish Group (Claire Harrison)	Progress on Review (Scrutiny Officer) – Low Carbon Industry (Vehicles) North East Chamber of Commerce (Andrew Sugden) Update on Task and Finish Group (Claire Harrison)	Progress on Review – University (Scrutiny Officer) Update on Task and Finish Group - Software City (Jim Diamond)	Draft report (Scrutiny Officer) Sunderland College Employers Survey – Feedback (Janet Snaith)	Final Report
Performance			Performance & VfM Assessment (Gillian Robinson)			Performance Framework Q2 including Progress on policy reviews (Gillian Robinson)				Performance Framework Q3 including progress on policy reviews (Gillian Robinson)
Scrutiny	Work Programme 2010/11 Forward Plan	Economic Masterplan (Vince Taylor) Work Programme 2010/11 Forward Plan Request for Conference (J Diamond) Centre for Public Scrutiny Annual Conference - Feedback	Work Programme 2010/11 Forward Plan	Seaburn Masterplan (Ben Winter) Work Programme 2010/11 Forward Plan Feedback from Conference – (Cllr Mordey)	Regional Update (Vince Taylor) Work Programme 2010/11 Forward Plan	Work Programme 2010/11 Forward Plan	Employment Strategy (Vince Taylor) Council Led Employment Service (Karen Alexander) Work Programme 2010/11 Forward Plan	Local Enterprise Partnership (Vince Taylor) Work Programme 2010/11 Forward Plan	Work Programme 2010/11 Forward Plan	Annual Report Work Programme 2010/11 Forward Plan

CCFA/Members items/Petitions										
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PROSPERITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

FORWARD PLAN – KEY DECISIONS FOR THE PERIOD 1 FEBRUARY 2011 – 31 MAY 2011

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

16 February 2011

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide Members with an opportunity to consider those items on the Executive's Forward Plan for the period 1 February 2011 – 31 May 2011.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Council's Forward Plan contains matters which are likely to be the subject of a key decision to be taken by the Executive. The Plan covers a four month period and is prepared and updated on a monthly basis.
- 2.2 Holding the Executive to account is one of the main functions of Scrutiny. One of the ways that this can be achieved is by considering the forthcoming decisions of the Executive (as outlined in the Forward Plan) and deciding whether Scrutiny can add value in advance of a decision being made. This does not negate Non-Executive Members ability to call-in a decision after it has been made.
- 2.3 Members requested that only those items which are under the remit of the Committee be reported to this Committee. The remit of the Committee covers the following themes:-

Inward Investment and Business Support; Regeneration; Improving employability; Encouraging economic prosperity; Boosting the skills and knowledge level of the workforce; City Centre; and Marketing & Tourism.

- 2.4 In the event of Members having any queries that cannot be dealt with directly in the meeting, a response will be sought from the relevant Directorate.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Committee considers the Executive's Forward Plan for the period 1 February 2011 to 31 May 2011.

4. Background Papers

- 4.1 Forward Plan for the period 1 February 2011 – 31 May 2011.

Contact Officer: Jim Diamond, Scrutiny Officer
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**Forward Plan -
Key Decisions for
the period
01/Feb/2011 to
31/May/2011**



**E Waugh,
Head of Law and Governance,
Sunderland City Council.**

14 January 2011

Forward Plan: Key Decisions from - 01/Feb/2011 to 31/May/2011

No.	Description of Decision	Decision Taker	Anticipated Date of Decision	Principal Consultees	Means of Consultation	When and how to make representations and appropriate Scrutiny Committee	Documents to be considered	Contact Officer	Tel No
01486	To approve the establishment of provider agreements with the maintained and PVI sectors to govern the EYSFF grant for the early education of 3 and 4 year olds	Cabinet	16/Feb/2011	Law and Governance, CS Finance, CS Admissions, PVI Sector, maintained sector	Meetings with officers, consultations with PVI & maintained providers, distribution of papers and consultation forms	To contact Officer by 21 January 2011- Children, Young People and Learning	Government guidance on Code of Practice for LAs on Delivery of Free Early Years Provision for 3 & 4 year olds	Rachel Putz	5615640
01428	To consider the Review of Job Linkage, including the options for the ongoing provision of a Council-led Employability Service. To agree the preferred option.	Cabinet	16/Feb/2011	Council officers, LSP partners and relevant stakeholders, delivery providers, service users	Meetings, briefings, emails	Via Contact Officer by 21 January - Prosperity and Economic Development Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet report and Review of Job Linkage	Karen Alexander	5611339
01461	To recommend the Revenue Budget 2011/2012 to Council	Cabinet	16/Feb/2011	Reps. of Business Ratepayers, Unions, Headteachers, Governors, Youth Parliament, Citizens Panel	Presentations, Meetings, Surveys	At meetings arranged and otherwise to Contact Officer by 21 January - Management Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet Report	Sonia Tognarelli	5611851

Forward Plan: Key Decisions from - 01/Feb/2011 to 31/May/2011

No.	Description of Decision	Decision Taker	Anticipated Date of Decision	Principal Consultees	Means of Consultation	When and how to make representations and appropriate Scrutiny Committee	Documents to be considered	Contact Officer	Tel No
01464	To recommend the level of Council Tax Collection Fund 2011/2012 to be taken into account to Council	Cabinet	16/Feb/2011	None	N/A	To the Contact Officer by 21 January - Management Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet Report	Sonia Tognarelli	5611851
01453	To seek approval to adopt the Community Assets Policy for Sunderland City Council	Cabinet	16/Feb/2011	Corporate Capital Strategy Group; Head of Land and Property; Voluntary and Community Sector; Portfolio Holder for Responsive Services & Customer Care; Elected Members	Draft Community Assets Strategy via Consultation Database; e-Newsletters; Report; Focus Groups; Forums; Area Networks	Via the Contact Officer by 21 January - Management Scrutiny Committee	Report and Strategy	Julie Gray	5617574
01477	To approve the appointment of contractors to deliver the Marine Walk public realm improvements and Roker pods (Sea Change).	Cabinet	16/Feb/2011	Appropriate Chief Officers	Report	Via the contact office by 21 January - Prosperity and Economic Development Scrutiny Committee	Report	Dan Hattle	5612439

Forward Plan: Key Decisions from - 01/Feb/2011 to 31/May/2011

No.	Description of Decision	Decision Taker	Anticipated Date of Decision	Principal Consultees	Means of Consultation	When and how to make representations and appropriate Scrutiny Committee	Documents to be considered	Contact Officer	Tel No
01463	To recommend the level of Council Tax to Council	Cabinet	16/Feb/2011	Representatives of Business Ratepayers and Unions	At Special Meeting in February	At Special Meeting and otherwise to Contact Officer by 21 January - Management Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet Report	Sonia Tognarelli	5611851
01462	To recommend the Capital Programme, Prudential Indicators and Treasury Management and Investment Strategy for 2011/2012 to the Council	Cabinet	16/Feb/2011	Representatives of Business Ratepayers and Unions	At Special Meeting in February	At Special Meeting and otherwise to the Contact Officer 21 January - Management Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet Report	Sonia Tognarelli	5611851
01482	to approve Option and Lease Agreements with PfR for the development of wind turbines at Hetton Lyons Country Park and land north of the former Ryhope Golf Course.	Cabinet	16/Feb/2011	All Council Directorates	Circulation of prior EMT report and with EMT.	Via the Contact Officer by 20 January 2011 - Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee.	Proposal to enter Option and Lease Agreements	Kathryn Warrington	5611535

Forward Plan: Key Decisions from - 01/Feb/2011 to 31/May/2011

No.	Description of Decision	Decision Taker	Anticipated Date of Decision	Principal Consultees	Means of Consultation	When and how to make representations and appropriate Scrutiny Committee	Documents to be considered	Contact Officer	Tel No
01454	To approve the Sunderland Partnership Volunteering Strategy for Sunderland City Council.	Cabinet	16/Feb/2011	All Heads of Service; Corporate Communities Group; Voluntary & Community Sector; Elected Members; Area Cttees; Scrutiny Cttees; Sunderland Partnership Organisations; Inclusive Communities Thematic Group	Draft Volunteering Strategy and Action Plan including consultation questions circulated via Consultation Database; e-newsletters and distributions lists; reports; Websites; printed copies; face to face contact	Via the Contact Officer by 21 January - Management Scrutiny Committee	Report and Strategy	Julie Gray	5617574
01483	To approve the 2009/2010 based LDF Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)	Cabinet	09/Mar/2011	Head of Law and Governance, Director of Financial Resources	Circulation of draft cabinet paper	To the contact officer by 21 February - Environment and Attractive City Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet Report	Neil Cole	5611574
01451	To agree the Low Carbon Homes Strategy	Cabinet	09/Mar/2011	Cabinet, Service Users and Ward Members, Portfolio Holders	Briefings and/or meetings with interested parties	Via the contact officer by 21 February - Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee	Report	Alan Caddick	5662690

Forward Plan: Key Decisions from - 01/Feb/2011 to 31/May/2011

No.	Description of Decision	Decision Taker	Anticipated Date of Decision	Principal Consultees	Means of Consultation	When and how to make representations and appropriate Scrutiny Committee	Documents to be considered	Contact Officer	Tel No
01452	To agree the revised Financial Assistance Policy	Cabinet	09/Mar/2011	Cabinet, Service Users and Ward Members, Portfolio Holders	Briefings and/or meetings with interested parties	Via the contact officer by 21 February - Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee	Report	Alan Caddick	5662690
01479	To approve the Appointment of Frank Haslam Milan and Three Rivers Housing Association as development partners to develop a Core & Cluster scheme on Council owned land at Redcar Road, Sunderland	Cabinet	09/Mar/2011	Cabinet, Service Users and Ward Members, Portfolio Holders	Briefings and/ or meetings with interested parties.	Via the contact officer by 21 February - Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee	Report	Alan Caddick	5612690
01484	To approve the Local Development Framework Core Strategy revised preferred option for public consultation.	Cabinet	09/Mar/2011	Head of Law and Governance, Director of Financial Resources	Circulation of draft cabinet paper	To the contact officer by 21 February - Environment and Attractive City Scrutiny Committee	Core Strategy revised Preferred Option	Neil Cole	5611574

Forward Plan: Key Decisions from - 01/Feb/2011 to 31/May/2011

No.	Description of Decision	Decision Taker	Anticipated Date of Decision	Principal Consultees	Means of Consultation	When and how to make representations and appropriate Scrutiny Committee	Documents to be considered	Contact Officer	Tel No
01412	To approve the procurement of specialist vehicles to be used in the waste and cleaning service.	Cabinet	09/Mar/2011	Procurement; Appropriate Chief Officers; Portfolio holder for Attractive and Inclusive City	Report; Briefings	Via Contact Officer by 21 February - Environment and Attractive City Scrutiny Committee	Report	Les Clark	5614540
01438	To agree the Social Care Contributions Policy for Personalisation	Cabinet	09/Mar/2011	Cabinet, Service Users and Ward Members, Portfolio Holders	Briefings and/or meetings with interested parties	via the Contact Officer by 21 February - Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee	Report	Neil Revelly	5661880
01487	To approve and adopt the Internal Waste Plan	Cabinet	09/Mar/2011	All Council Directorates	Circulation of draft cabinet paper and the draft Internal Waste Plan document.	To the contact officer by 21 February - Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee.	Internal Waste Plan and accompanying Cabinet Report	David Henry	5612434

Forward Plan: Key Decisions from - 01/Feb/2011 to 31/May/2011

No.	Description of Decision	Decision Taker	Anticipated Date of Decision	Principal Consultees	Means of Consultation	When and how to make representations and appropriate Scrutiny Committee	Documents to be considered	Contact Officer	Tel No
01403	To consider the outcome of Public Consultation (March - June 2010) in relation to the Accessible Bus Network Design Project	Cabinet	09/Mar/2011	Portfolio Holder for Attractive and Inclusive City; Nexus; Appropriate Chief Officers	Briefings; Meetings; e-mails	Via the contact officer by 21 February - Environment and Attractive City Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet Report	Bob Donaldson	5611517
01424	To agree the Review of the Sunderland Private Landlords Self Accreditation Scheme	Cabinet	09/Mar/2011	Housing Portfolio Holder, Ward Members, Residents and Owners of property	Briefings and/ or meetings with interested parties	Via the Contact Officer by 21 January - Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee	Report	Alan Caddick	5662690
01400	To agree the Access to Housing Project - Allocations Policy	Cabinet	06/Apr/2011	Cabinet, Service Users and Carer Groups, Portfolio Holder, Adult Services Staff and Partners	Briefings and/or meetings with interested parties	Via the Contact Officer by 21 March - Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee	Report	Alan Caddick	5662690