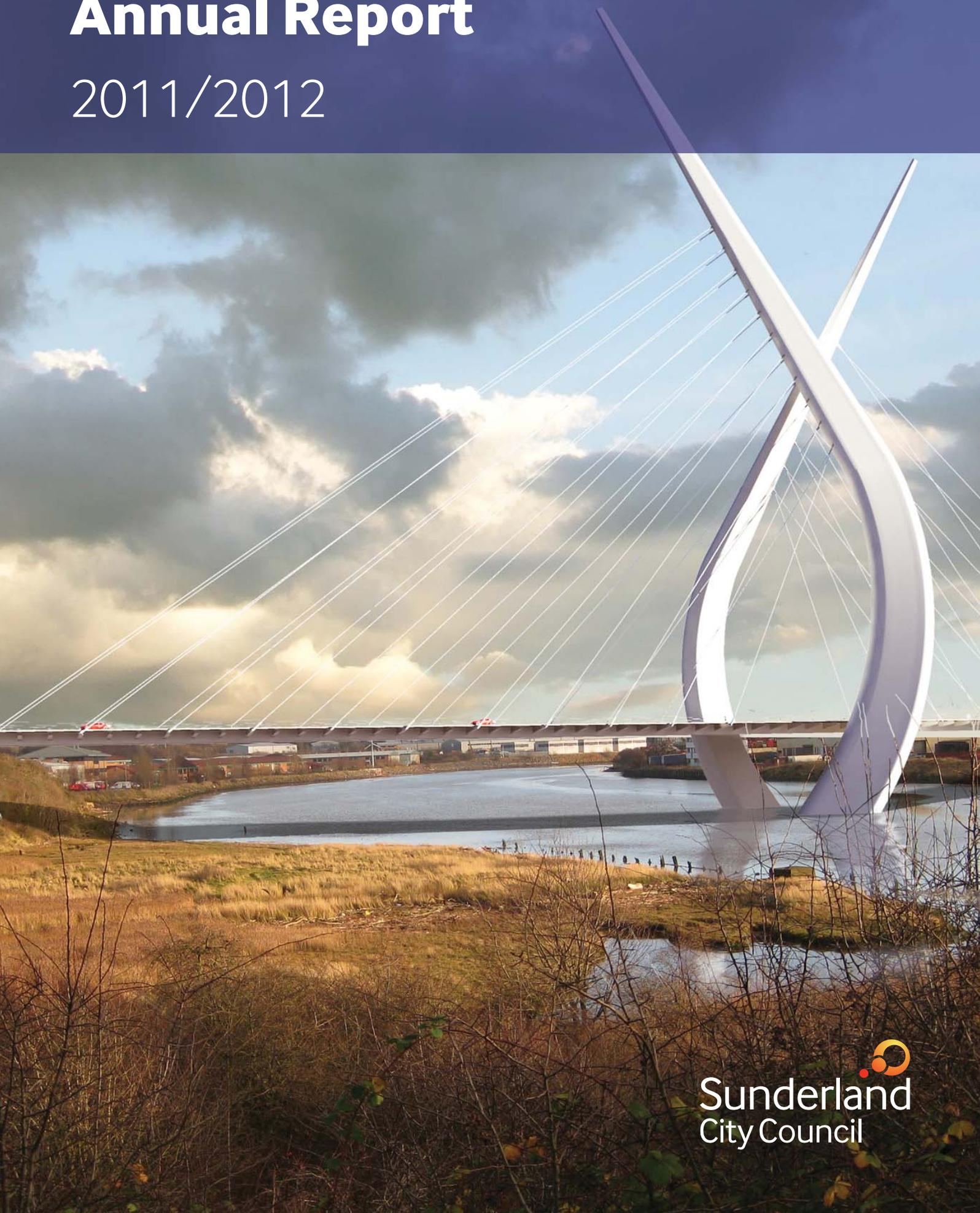


Area Committees Annual Report

2011/2012



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Foreword



Councillor Celia Gofton
Portfolio Holder for Responsive Services
and Customer Care

I take great pleasure in being able to introduce Sunderland City Council's first Area Committee Annual Report which captures the key achievements delivered through the hard work of all five Area Committees during 2011-12.

Sunderland City Council is committed to ensuring that the residents of Sunderland are provided with good quality services which meet their needs and are relevant to their local circumstances. In times of financial pressure this brings significant challenges and emphasises the need to ensure that decisions on what, and how, services will be provided make

most effective use of our knowledge of our communities and the resources available.

The Area Committees have an increasingly important role in ensuring that services meet the requirements of their communities. Wherever possible locally elected members take decisions and shape and influence the delivery of public sector services at a very local level. In utilising elected members unique understanding of the communities in which they serve and putting the needs of residents at the forefront of decisions made we will continue to ensure that services delivered at a local level meet the needs of communities and quality standards are maintained.

Throughout the year all five Area Committees have continued to work with residents, officers and partners, including the Voluntary and Community Sector, to both identify areas for priority action and ensure delivery of services and activity in line with those actions.

A key outcome for Area Committees is to influence service delivery at an area level; however, they also have a delegated Strategic Initiatives Budget which they can use to allocate against agreed area priorities. Area Committees have continued to ensure best value and maximum outcomes achieved through allocating SIB funding to support the delivery of local priorities

This annual report provides a snapshot of activity carried out in each of the areas either funded directly by Area Committees or where activity has been delivered through successful partnership working or directly influencing service provision to meet local requirements.

As portfolio holder for Responsive Services and Customer Care I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate everybody who has played a part in delivering the outcomes of the Area Committees resulting in improving the quality of life to the residents of Sunderland.



Area Arrangements in Sunderland

The Area Committees are appointed by the Council to ensure improved service delivery at a local level in the context of best value and more efficient, transparent and accountable decision making. They deliver this role through:-

- leading on the development and delivery of Local Area Plans (which are subject to Cabinet approval) and identifying all main priorities for the improvement of an area.
- monitoring the quality and effectiveness of services delivered by the council and other main providers in the area, and
- Actively encourage local residents to become involved in decision making on matters which affect them.

The Area Committees work closely with council officers, external partners, voluntary and community groups and local people in both the development and delivery of Local Area Plans and in doing so ensure that strong and consistent links are made between local and city-wide plans and the overarching commitments of the Sunderland Strategy. The plans help to develop and shape services to address need at an area level.

Community involvement and engagement is at the heart of everything Area Committees do and, throughout the year, when identifying what actions need to be taken to deliver the priorities, committees consider the needs of local neighbourhoods and residents across all of the wards in their areas. Through consultation with residents, representation from the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Networks or local people helping to deliver actions, a wide range of organisations and individuals are encouraged to support and influence the work of Area Committees.

The Area Committees hold delegated budgets, Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) and Community Chest, which are

allocated to projects and initiatives that can demonstrate that their work will support the delivery of the Local Area Plans and identified priorities which will improve the quality of life in the area.

At the end of each municipal year Area Committees produce an Annual Report which reviews and evaluates the degree to which it has successfully achieved its objectives and been effective in promoting Community Leadership. It considers what the key achievements have been, as well as, the performance of all projects and initiatives that have been awarded Area Committee resources. This report provides a snapshot of those key achievements across all five Areas.

The Area Committees have a membership which includes all elected members from the Area's wards working alongside service delivery partners and members from the Area Voluntary and Community Sector Network.

The five Committee Areas include:-

- Coalfield Area Committee comprising Shiney Row, Houghton, Copt Hill and Hetton Wards
- Sunderland East Area Committee comprising Millfield, Hendon, St. Michael's, Ryhope and Doxford wards
- Sunderland North Area Committee comprising Castle, Redhill, Southwick, Fulwell and St. Peter's wards.
- Sunderland West Area Committee comprising St Anne's, Pallion, Sandhill, Barnes, St Chad's and Silksworth wards
- Washington Area Committee comprising Washington Central, Washington North, Washington South, Washington West, Washington East wards.

Coalfield Area Committee



Councillor Dennis Richardson,
Chair of the Coalfield Area Committee

At the beginning of this financial year Coalfield Area Committee set out its priorities for the year ahead.

Key areas where Area Committee wanted to focus work and resources and bring real benefits to the local community included heritage, local shopping centres, additional activities for children and young people, empty properties and neglected land.

Work plans were developed for each area to monitor actions against these priorities. The Committee invested £238,902, by awarding grants via area funding streams, to support these projects. External funding of £317,961 was also used to deliver projects designed to improve the quality of life for local residents.

Partnership working has been key to ensuring we get value for money and maximum benefit from our resources. Funding was allocated to organisations that helped us deliver what we said we would, and as a result of our partnership with our Voluntary and Community Sector Area Network, we have involved more residents and community groups in our work than ever before.

This has encouraged more groups and organisations to get involved and we look forward to working with them in the future.

A lot of excellent work has taken place over 2011-2012. Some of the highlights are:

- 18 local groups are taking part in the Community Challenge project, to develop and deliver community based projects including production of a **heritage** calendar.

Two Heritage Community Development Workers have been appointed to work on local events, heritage trails and educational projects

- Christmas events in **local shopping centres** proved extremely popular, and the format is to be repeated throughout the year. We're working with local traders to support them through difficult economic times and have assisted with establishing a trader's forum.
- We've provided funding to make sure there are **activities for young people** of all ages and during school holidays. XL youth villages and other youth work across the area have been very successful in reducing reports of anti-social behaviour and Area Committee funding has ensured that these can continue.
- Several projects have taken place to tidy up derelict **allotments** making them suitable for rent and reducing the waiting list in the area.
- Funding was awarded to a community organisation to allow them to offer more **support for older people**, through financial and welfare advice sessions. Volunteering opportunities are being developed, and so far over 50 new people pledged to give up their time to help support others.
- **Empty properties** can have a very negative effect on communities. In the last year 90 properties in the Coalfield area have been brought back into use, and funding is being sought to enable more to be secured.
- Over 100 areas of **neglected land** were identified, which make the area unattractive and can attract crime. Work is ongoing to clean up what we can, and identify the owners of private sites.

As more of the services we deliver move to area based working, following on from the successful implementation of the Responsive Local Services teams in each area, the focus is on residents needs more than ever before. It is vital that local communities become involved, and have their say on how, where and when the City Council delivers its services in their area.

We're committed to improving on the successes and positive outcomes we have seen this year in the Coalfield, and will continue to keep local communities at the heart of everything we do.

I would like to thank all members of Area Committee, including partners, officers and residents, for their hard work and support throughout the year in helping to achieve positive results and better services for local people.

And finally, I will ensure that we continue to build on the strong partnership working in the Coalfield area. Thanks to the continued support of local and strategic partners and the dedication of local organisations and volunteers, the Coalfield Area Committee has successfully delivered many of the outcomes they set out to achieve. We will further develop these partnerships in the coming year to ensure even more improvements are made in our local area.

East Area Committee



Councillor Ellen Ball,
Chair of Sunderland East Area Committee

At the beginning of this financial year the Sunderland East Area Committee set out its priorities for the year ahead and developed a Work Plan for 2011/2012 to monitor actions against those priorities which include:-

- cleaner and greener streets,
- supporting the introduction of coastal path,
- increasing employment and enterprise opportunities and access to welfare advice,
- improving public transport,
- delivering positive activities to children and young people during school holidays and develop junior youth clubs and
- reduce overall crime in East Sunderland by 2%.

The Committee and its partners invested a total **£764,648**, (£446,177 of Area Committee's Strategic Initiatives Budget and £318,471 partner contributions) into activity to support the delivery of LAP priorities and improve the quality of life for local residents. Throughout 2011/12, we have worked hard to ensure that we get value for money and maximum benefit from our resources. We have allocated funding to organisations which helped deliver the priorities outlined above. 79% (target was 80%) of the Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) has been successfully allocated to those key priorities, which is an improvement of 28% on last year, which shows great progress on how we as a Committee are proactively allocating our area funds against our priorities. When awarding grants we focused on partnership

working, which has ensured residents and the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS), via East Sunderland VCS Area Network have helped to deliver local activity. This, in turn, has encouraged a wide range of organisations to support the work of Area Committee.

Through the **cleaner and greener streets** priority we aligned £36,000 towards the delivery of a Walk and Talk Programme. My colleagues, the local Councillors, led the way with partners and residents walking the streets to identify local issues and agree solutions. Over 175 issues were identified for action, this work was further complemented by the Love Where You Live campaign, which saw over 20 events and 60 volunteers from the East VCS Area Network get involved in practical exercises to improve our streets, for example, litter picks and removing graffiti.

In support of the **employment, enterprise and welfare advice** priority we commissioned £124,392 worth of activity aimed at targeting families and people not in receipt of benefits, who reside in East Sunderland, so far it has helped 30 people move into employment, 19 businesses start up and 177 people receive access to welfare advice and support.

The Area Committee has a key role in influencing service delivery to ensure the specific needs of the local area are met. Over the last year, we have worked to inform and influence services delivered to children and young people in the East area. Under our **youth and teenager** priority we drove the way forward in implementing the City's first joint surgeries between Councillors and members of Sunderland Youth Parliament, engaging with young people from across the East area in local secondary schools and youth clubs, this will continue as it has now formed part of core services provided by Children Services. In addition, the need to provide at least one junior youth club per ward has been built into the commissioned ward contracts, as from March 2012. This is down to all Area Committees identifying

this as an area for improvement regarding front line service provision. Our own Youth Task and Finish group delivered a joint initiative with funding from Children Services, commissioning £75,000 worth of activity via the VCS, so far, 807 children and young people have benefited from participating in positive activities during school holidays or by being involved in one of the newly established junior youth clubs.

Thanks to a strong partnership approach in **tackling crime**, from Northumbria Police, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service and indeed ourselves as a Council, we have seen an overall reduction of crime across the East Sunderland by 6.1% and Central Sunderland by 6.3% (target was 2%).

Other key achievements I would like to acknowledge include:

The continuous commitment and hard work of our East Sunderland VCS Area Network, and the tremendous dedication of volunteers who have enabled this Committee to deliver key actions against the majority of our priorities in our work plan.

The joint area work delivered by Eden Vale and Thornhill Project Group, in helping to deliver a cohesive youth programme, community events and develop a webpage to share information with local residents.

The supporting infrastructure behind the scenes of Area Committee, for example, Community Chest panels, East LMAPs, Task and Finish Groups, Community Cohesion Networks and East VCS Area Network.

I'll like to thank all the Councillors, partners and officers who meet up outside of Area Committee and who have worked hard over the last twelve months to make sure East Sunderland Area Committee made a difference.

A special thank you to the Vice Chair for his support towards myself as Chair, but also co-Chair of the Area Network and several Task and Finish Groups.

North Area Committee



Cllr Richard Bell
Chair of the North Area Committee

The Sunderland North Area Committee agreed that the priorities for the year ahead would continue to be aspirational, raising individuals and communities pride and sense of belonging in the area in which they live as well as address some of the key issues identified by residents within the area.

With this in mind North Area's priorities were identified as:

- Attractive and Cared for Environment
- To physically improve the natural environment and facilities in the area as well as address some of the day to day issues that residents were dissatisfied with.
- Heritage
To work with local groups and communities and use heritage as a tool to raise individuals pride and understanding in the local area and support the improvement of cohesion between different groups.
- Activities for Young People
To identify gaps in activities available for young people and work to reduce those gaps, providing positive and engaging activities that young people want to participate in.
- Anti Social Behaviour
To work with individuals and local communities to reduce anti social behaviour and the impact of anti social behaviour in the area.

During 2011/2012 the North Area Committee has worked hard to maximise the use of resources and achieve best value for investment made

in improvement works and projects. Committee have allocated the majority of the SIB budget proactively to the priorities identified in the Local Area Plan and have successfully used Task and Finish Groups and partnership working to identify projects and mechanisms of delivery to address those key priorities within the Local Area Plan.

Some key examples of value for money, a partnership approach and successful outcomes include:

- The delivery of activities for young people, which has seen the Youth Development Group lead and work collaboratively with Area Committee and a number of voluntary and community organisations across the North Area to plan and deliver activities for young people within the 11 – 19 age bracket. These activities have been planned and delivered with significant input from the young people within the area as well as tackled the local resident perception of young people hanging around the streets with nothing to do.
- The refurbishment of Sunderland North Community Sports Complex, an area identified as having a number of issues by local residents including drink and drug related anti social behaviour, motorcycle disorder, young people hanging about, issues with feelings of safety and experiencing environmental problems such as litter and fly tipping. Through significant partnership working, community and resident engagement these issues have been tackled with lighting installed, environmental improvements tackling litter and improving anti social behaviour as well as the improvement and extension of facilities on site.
- Delivery of a heritage education programme in partnership with Beamish, SAFC, local primary schools, community groups and

local residents. The education programme has seen a number of primary schools from the area participate in a programme looking at work and leisure within the North area of Sunderland and how this has changed over the years. This programme has allowed knowledge and experiences to be shared and cross generational work to be delivered which has not only raised individuals and families understanding and appreciation of the area in which they live but to improve cohesion and perceptions across generations within the area.

- Successful and positive working with area based responsive services to address day to day issues and influence service delivery to target areas and make best use of resources. This working relationship has seen many days of action with volunteers and the local community working together to physically improve the local area and address issues that matter the most to local residents.

Overall North Area Committee have taken a very focused approach in this year identifying four very clear priorities which tackled concerns and issues that were pertinent to the local area and highlighted by residents. This approach has seen the establishment and development of very successful partnership working which has worked together to make the local area a better place to live.

Lastly, as Area Chair I would like to thank the Committee, our partners, local communities and residents for helping us to achieve so many successes in this year and look forward to working to continuing to work with you all.

West Area Committee



Councillor Peter Gibson,
Chair of West Area Committee

At the beginning of the last financial year, Area Committee set out its priorities for the year ahead, and developed a Work Plan for 2011/2012 in order to monitor actions against these priorities. During this exercise it was acknowledged that community involvement should be at the heart of everything we do and so, throughout the year, when identifying what actions we could take to deliver the priorities, we considered the needs of our neighbourhoods and how we would engage with community and voluntary sector groups and with our residents across all of the wards in the West area. Through very successful partnership working we have reached large numbers of people; whether it is consultation with residents, representation from the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) network or local people helping to deliver actions, we have encouraged a wide range of organisations to support the work of Area Committee.

With this in mind West Area's priorities were identified as:

- Youth and Play provision: diversionary activities to alleviate anti social behaviour (ASB):
- To identify gaps in activities available for young people and work to reduce those gaps, providing positive and engaging activities for young people to participate in. and to work with individuals and local communities to reduce ASB and its impact.
- Traffic and Highways: To ensure the provision of safety schemes meets the needs of local residents.

- Job Prospects: To increase the job skills of the most vulnerable and hard to reach and increase people's employability.
- Health and Well Being: To focus on areas of concern and promote steps to alleviate risk taking behaviour and improve people's life styles and life chances.
- Child and Family Poverty: Support and influence the development of the City's Child and Family Poverty Strategy and the neighbourhood model of service delivery.
- Environmental and Street Scene improvements, including shopping centres. To physically improve the natural environment and facilities in the area as well as address some of the day to day issues that residents were dissatisfied with.

In addition, as the municipal year progressed, the particular issues affecting Eden Vale and the neighbouring Thornhill area, in Sunderland East, were seen as requiring further attention. The West and East Area Committees established a joint Project Group to coordinate provision in the area and develop proposals to alleviate ASB.

We established 'Task and Finish' Groups to progress our priorities on 'Environment and Street Scene', 'Health and Well Being', 'Youth and Play', and 'Job Prospects'. For 'Child Poverty' and 'Traffic and Highways' we asked for and received reports, which allowed the committee to make key changes to how services developed.

We have worked hard to ensure that we get best value and maximum outcomes from our Strategic Investment Budget and Strategic Investment Plan funding and have allocated the majority of our budget to delivering the priorities outlined in the 2011/12 Work Plan. We will continue to develop this and work in partnership with local groups,

agencies and partners to identify project proposals to meet local needs and priorities.

Some key examples of activity delivered include:

- The delivery of activities for young people, which has seen the Youth Development Group lead and work collaboratively with Area Committee and a number of voluntary and community organisations across the West to plan and deliver activities for young people within the 8 – 19 age bracket..
- Delivered, in partnership with the Teaching Primary Care Trust (TPCT), the 'Health Champions' project to up skill locally based staff and volunteers in order to develop a systematic approach to tackling health behaviours.
- Developed an 'Enterprise Coaching' project, targeted at young people, to provide support and guidance to promote self employment opportunities.
- Successful and positive working with area based responsive services to address day to day issues and influence service delivery to target areas and make best use of resources.

The West Area Committee has identified priorities, which tackled concerns highlighted by residents and that are relevant to area circumstances. This approach has seen the establishment of very successful partnership working, which has helped to improve services at a local level.

I would like to thank the Area Committee, our partners, local communities and residents for their hard work and commitment to achieving positive outcomes for the West and making the local area a better place to live.

Washington Area Committee



Councillor Bernie Scaplehorn
Chair of Washington Area Committee

At the beginning of this financial year Washington Area Committee once again set out its priorities for the year ahead and developed a Work Plan for 2011/2012 to monitor actions against these priorities. The two key priorities which Area Committee wanted to focus resources and set out to bring real tangible benefits to the local area were:

- Helping local people access employment opportunities with a focus on Washington's young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs).
- Engaging young people and linking those young people to the broader community and tackling youth related anti social behaviour.

The Area Committee were also keen to continue working to deliver key pieces of work underway from the year before and included additional priorities from 2010/11 in this year's work plan. This included:

- Attractive neighbourhood – including road safety and traffic management and Responsive Local Services
- Community inclusion, engagement and citizenship
- Tackling health inequalities

Throughout 2011/12, the Committee has worked hard to ensure best value and maximum outcomes from resources, and have allocated the majority of the budget to projects which will help deliver the key priorities outlined in the Work Plan – all of this year's Strategic Initiatives Budget has been successfully allocated to those

key priorities. During this process, a focus on partnership working and involvement has ensured both residents and the Voluntary and Community Sector have helped to deliver local activity. A collaborative, multi agency partnership is in place delivering real benefits for the area. This in turn has encouraged a wide range of organisations to support the work of Area Committee.

Good examples of this successful partnership approach include the Youth Opportunities Project, the Activities Programmes for young people, and a number of community heritage projects and events held throughout the year. These projects represent a successful multi agency approach, have addressed local concerns and have helped tackle real problems.

Other key achievements I would like to acknowledge include:

- The Area Committee's influence and support for the development of the Washington Workspace Project, a £6m investment to provide managed workspace in Washington by 2013.
- Meaningful engagement and dialogue with local employers to encourage opportunities for young people
- The second successful Washington Heritage Festival held in September.
- Reduction in youth related anti social behaviour and hotspots across the area

Two Task and Finish Groups have worked well throughout the year:

- The Employment Task Group has brought about a real partnership approach with the voluntary and community sector, public sector and the private sector to deliver innovative projects such as key research projects, Business Breakfasts and the Youth Opportunities Project.

- The Young People's Task Group has ensured a collaborative approach to deliver projects to children and young people which has resulted in more young people engaged, new ways of working introduced and a reduction in ASB across the area.

Overall by taking a focused approach, the Task Groups have directed resources and ensured partnership involvement resulting in benefits delivered at a local level.

Building on the successful implementation of the Responsive Local Services Project and the establishment of area based teams; there have been a number of compliments and positive comments from residents regarding the level of good service received. Additional work with Northumbria Police through Operation Lantern has also seen a co-ordinated response to resident's concerns through the Council's Response Teams, the Neighbourhood Policing Teams and Gentoo coming together on scheduled walkabouts and being visible and responsive to our residents.

In summary, the Washington Area Committee has encouraged, adopted and embedded partnership and collaboration in everything they have delivered this year. This has resulted in real and meaningful successes for Washington's community.

I would like to thank all members of Area Committee, including partners, officers and residents, for their hard work and support throughout the year in helping to achieve positive results and better services for local people.

The year ahead

The Area Committees' Community Leadership role is strengthening further over the coming months. Having a direct local influence over the design, delivery and review of a number of services. Those services include refuse, litter, graffiti, dog fouling, and fly tipping with the addition of parks, repairs and play inspection this year, this equates to 80% of place services being directly influenced by Area Committees and delivered at a local level. Furthermore there is an opportunity to include additional services if the model proves successful.

The Council will be devolving decision making on the widest level of appropriate services to an appropriate Area level.

The Area Committees will continue to identify key priorities for their Areas. Influencing decisions on services delivered at a local level in addition to allocating its own resources and ensuring local impact against key corporate priorities.

Place and People Boards are to be established in each area to deliver against those priorities on behalf of the Area Committee. They will be practical action orientated groups. Each will be chaired by 1 of Area Committee's 2 Vice Chairs and have elected member representation from each of the Area's wards.

This change in approach will ensure that Area Committees are engaging more effectively with communities and in doing so achieve better outcomes for local people with a more responsive approach to service delivery.

2012/13 will also see the introduction of the first State of the Area Debates. Events are to be held at community venues in each of the five areas of the city. This will give Area Committees the opportunity to showcase their achievements from over this last year and provide local residents with the opportunity to have their questions answered and concerns addressed by a panel of ward councillors and community partners.

The issues and suggestions raised at these events will identify what issues and priorities each Area Committee should be concentrating on throughout the year ahead in addition to helping to decide what needs to be discussed at the State of the City event later in the year.

The Area Committee arrangements will become increasingly influential in terms of ensuring local services meet local requirements. They will look different in 2012. However, Area Committee members will continue to build on the successful working relationships already in place with council officers, partners and the community to ensure services respond to the needs of the residents of Sunderland.



The Area Arrangements Team

The Area Arrangements Team supports the Area Committees in the development and delivery of Local Area Priorities and consists of:-

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Membership of Area Committees 2011/12

Coalfields Area Committee

Chair: Cllr Dennis Richardson
Vice Chair: Cllr John Scott
Cllr Florence Anderson
Cllr James Blackburn
Cllr Sheila Ellis
Cllr Anne Hall
Cllr Robert Heron
Cllr Kathryn Rolph
Cllr Derrick Smith
Cllr Mel Speding
Cllr David Tate
Cllr Colin Wakefield

East Area Committee

Chair: Cllr Ellen Ball
Vice Chair: Cllr Alan Emerson
Cllr Paul Dixon
Cllr David Errington
Cllr Christopher Fairs
Cllr Margaret Forbes
Cllr Elizabeth Gibson
Cllr Iain William Kay
Cllr Paul Maddison
Cllr Thomas Martin
Cllr Barbara McClennan
Cllr Michael Mordey
Cllr Lynda Scanlan
Cllr Richard Vardy
Cllr Peter Wood

North Area Committee

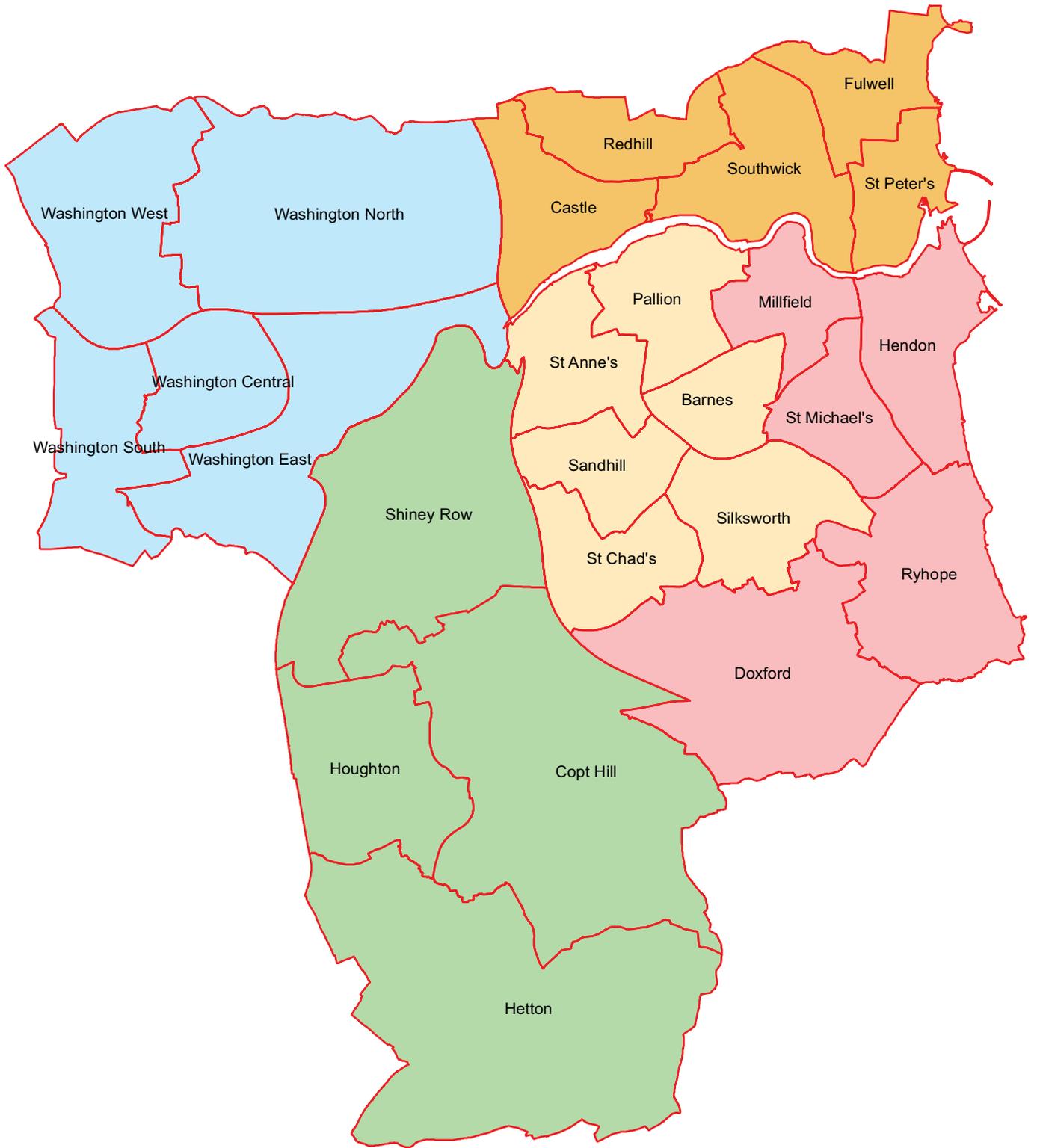
Chair: Cllr Richard Bell
Vice Chair: Cllr Stephen Bonallie
Cllr Bryan Charlton
Cllr Rosalind Copeland
Cllr Barry Curran
Cllr Stephen Foster
Cllr Tom Foster
Cllr Bob Francis
Cllr George Howe
Cllr Doris MacKnight
Cllr Christine Shattock
Cllr Paul Stewart
Cllr John Scott Wiper
Cllr Lillian Walton
Cllr Norma Wright

West Area Committee

Chair: Cllr Peter Gibson
Vice Chair: Cllr Michael Essl
Cllr David Allan
Cllr John Gallagher
Cllr Cecila Gofton
Cllr Lee Martin
Cllr Anthony Morrissey
Cllr Robert Oliver
Cllr Stuart Porthouse
Cllr Lisa Smiles
Cllr Patricia Smith
Cllr Philip Tye
Cllr Debra Waller
Cllr Paul Watson
Cllr Susan Watson
Cllr Amy Wilson
Cllr Alan Wright
Cllr Thomas Wright

Washington Area Committee

Chair: Cllr Bernard Scaplehorn
Vice Chair: Cllr Graeme Miller
Cllr Jill Fletcher
Cllr John Kelly
Cllr Len Lauchlan
Cllr Fiona Miller
Cllr Neville Padgett
Cllr Ivan Richardson
Cllr Dianne Snowdon
Cllr George Thompson
Cllr Dorothy Trueman
Cllr Henry Trueman
Cllr Eddie Wake
Cllr Peter Walker
Cllr Linda Williams



Regeneration Area

- Coalfield
- Sunderland East
- Sunderland North
- Sunderland West
- Washington