

**At a meeting of the COALFIELD AREA COMMITTEE held in HERRINGTON
BURN WMCA on WEDNESDAY, 5TH JANUARY, 2011 at 6.00 p.m.**

Present:-

Councillor D. Richardson in the Chair

Councillors F. Anderson, Blackburn, A. Hall, Heron, Rolph, D. Smith, Tate and Wakefield.

Also in Attendance:-

Ron Barrass	Member of the Public	
Susan Brown	Area Community Co-ordinator	Sunderland Council
Les Clark	Head of Street Scene	Sunderland Council
Emma Hindmarsh	Democratic Services Officer	Sunderland Council
Pauline Hopper	Area Officer	Sunderland Council
Phil Conn	Youth Lead Officer	SNCBC
Karen Lightfoot - Gencli	Commissioning and Inspection Officer	Youth Development Group
Graham Finlay	Inspector	Northumbria Police
Liz McEvoy	Area Renewal Coordinator	Sunderland Council
Annette Parr	School Improvement Service	Sunderland Council
John Rushworh	Head of Headways Sixth Form	City of Sunderland College
Helen Paterson	Area Lead Executive	Sunderland Council
Beverley Scanlon	Head of Service	Sunderland Council
Lee Wardle	VCS Network	
Julie Wardle	Empty Property Assistant	Sunderland Council

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Ellis and J. Scott together with Councillor Juliana Heron, Hetton Town Council and John Chapman (Gentoo)

Declarations of Interest

Item 3 – Community Action in Coalfield: Progress Review: (c) Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB), Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) and Community Chest – Financial Statement and Proposals for Further Allocation of Resources

Councillor Heron declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the applications relating to Friends of Copt Hill Website as Chair of the Friends of Copt Hill and Gillas Lane Primary School as a school governor and withdrew from the meeting prior to consideration of the item.

Councillor Wakefield declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the application relating to Hetton Bogs LNR as a friend of the Group and withdrew from the meeting prior to consideration of the item.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 3rd November, 2010

Councillor D. Smith asked for verification with regard to the sentence that read 'householders were "*selling*" unwanted wares on to scrap collectors for disposal.' Having subsequently referred to the written notes of the meeting, the Democratic Services Officer could confirm that the word "*selling*" was used by Nicky Rowland, Local Environment Manager.

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 3rd November, 2010 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Community Action in Coalfield: Identifying New Issues and Agreeing Actions (2010/2011) Work Plan

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with information on the progress made in relation to its Work Plan and the priorities identified by the Area Committee for 2010/11.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms Hopper, Area Officer, introduced the report and advised that new issues had been identified in relation to Sunderland 'The Place' and Review of Byelaws.

In relation to Sunderland 'The Place' Ms Hopper advised that the Environment and Attractive City Scrutiny Committee was carrying out a policy review in relation to the topic with the overall aim of understanding the concept of Sunderland as a place and the associated issues around its identity and image, as well as the perceptions people have of Sunderland.

It was proposed that any members wishing to take part in this phase of evidence gathering be offered the opportunity to take part in an informal discussion in order to feed in key messages to the Area Chair who will attend a facilitated discussion group with the other Area Chairs and members of the Environment and Attractive City Scrutiny Committee. The discussion would be facilitated by the lead officers for the policy review.

Ms. Hopper agreed to send an email around to Members to propose dates for an informal discussion.

In relation to the Review of Byelaws, Ms Hopper informed the Committee that Law and Governance were leading on a review of City Byelaws. A team of Officers from across the Authority have formed a task and finish group which was undertaking a review of sites covered by old and dated byelaws.

Councillor Speding advised that there were a number of sensitive issues regarding some bylaws, such as cemeteries, and it would be useful for Members to know the parameters of the review.

Councillor Rolph agreed that members needed more information on the scope of the review as she would be interested to know whether the bylaws made by the urban district councils were incorporated within those of Sunderland City Council.

Ms Hopper agreed to ascertain the scope of the review.

2. RESOLVED that

i) Members agree to hold an informal discussion for those Coalfield members who wish to participate in 'The Place' review before 20 January 2011.

ii) the Committee receive further information in relation to the parameters of the review into byelaws and agree to receive an update on the outcomes affecting the Coalfield area's cemeteries, beaches, countryside and parks via the ward bulletin service.

Community Action in Coalfield: Progress Review

(a) Work Plan 2009/10, 2010/11 and Task Group Updates

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated which provided an update on the progress against agreed actions in the current year's 2010/2011 Work Plan.

• Coalfield in Bloom

Ms. Hopper invited Ms. Susan Brown, Area Community Co-ordinator to provide a progress report on the Bulb Planting and Landscaping Priority.

Ms. Brown advised that the project was now ready to move to phase 2 which would encourage and support the local community and voluntary groups involved

to date to further develop their capacity in order to undertake a wider range of partnership projects within their neighbourhoods.

Councillor R. Heron advised that HRCAP community allotment at Seaham Road was having two open days in June and September and he stated that it would be beneficial for other sites to do the same.

Councillor A. Hall requested sight of the findings of the Environment and Attractive City Scrutiny Committee's review into allotments and enquired how the two allotment sites would be chosen. She suggested that careful consideration needed to be given to which particular sites would be chosen.

Discussion ensued in relation to allotment sites across the coalfield area.

The Chairman advised that the fence height of the allotment behind Dubmire School was a problem as it was difficult to see what activities were taking place.

Inspector Graham Finlay stated that the Police had done a lot of work around the allotments in Easington Lane where dismantled cars and drugs use had been exposed and a long term action plan had been established via LMAPS.

Councillor Rolph agreed with Councillor Hall that all Members should have an input in to which two allotments sites should be chosen and decide which ones could be made the most of, for example Burnside allotments would only require a small amount to clear it.

Ms. Hopper advised that she had previously held a meeting with Ethel Wilson, Allotments Co-ordinator and the Chairman. Six sites had been identified across the city as being problematic, 5 in the Coalfields.

Councillor Anderson commented that as there was a great demand for allotments and the idea of communal gardens which are inclusive, bringing benefits to individuals, neighbourhoods and communities was to be encouraged.

Ms. Susan Brown advised that there had been a lot of interest in smaller gardens and communal spaces and ideas were being developed with the support of Groundworks.

3. RESOLVED that the Committee note the update and agree to Phase 2 of the Project including development of allotment and community garden facilities.

- **Heritage**

Ms. Hopper provided an update in relation to the Heritage theme. She advised that the Task and Result group had recommended that the scoping exercise be carried out before further resources were approved against heritage projects. It was however recognised that funding should be allocated against priorities selected for 2010/11. Therefore it was recommended that the Committee consider allocating a nominal budget of £40,000 to the Heritage theme, as detailed in the finance Item 3b.

In response to a request from Councillor Hall, Ms. Hopper agreed to determine the progress in relation to funding identified for the Alice Well at Cox Green.

4. **RESOLVED** that the Committee

- i) note the update and agree to receiving recommendations from the Task and Result Group with regards to next steps
- ii) Consider allocating £40,000 to the Heritage priority (as set out in Item 3b of the report)

- **Local Shopping Centres**

Ms. Hopper updated the Committee with regard to the Local Shopping Centres theme. She advised that the Task and Result group had recommended that the scoping exercise be carried out before further resources were approved against Shopping Centre projects. It was however recognised that funding should be allocated against priorities selected for 2010/11. Therefore it was recommended that the Committee consider allocating a nominal budget of £80,000 to the Shopping Centres theme, as detailed in the finance Item 3b.

Councillor Rolph requested that ward councillors be invited to the 'walk round' of each area with the Business Investment Team and Street Scene Officers.

5. **RESOLVED** that the Committee

- i) Note the update and agree to receive the results of the audit and a suggested action plan
- ii) Consider allocating £80,000 to the Shopping Centres priority (as set out in Item 3b of this report)

- **Child Poverty**

Ms. Hopper updated the Committee with regard to the child poverty theme. She invited Councillor Anderson, Deputy Leader and Child Poverty Lead to provide feedback.

Councillor Anderson advised that the findings of the Sunderland Child and Family Poverty Needs Assessment 2010 provided the basis of the revised Sunderland Child and Family Poverty Strategy. The review will need to take into account the Strategies Priorities in the reshaping of services following the Comprehensive Spending Review.

6. **RESOLVED** that the Committee note the update and agree to receive a further report in March/April 2011

- **Review of the Greenspace Strategy**

Ms. Hopper presented the report and advised that a second workshop would be

held during the afternoon of 27 January 2011 and would be used to feedback on queries raised at the first workshop and present new updated maps. The appraisals of the sites were complete and the results would be shared asking delegates key questions, for instance: What would you like to see more of in your area? How far would you be prepared to travel for specific amenities? The findings of the workshop would then inform a survey which will be posted on the Council's website for residents to complete. The results will shape the Greenspace Topic Paper which will be presented to Cabinet.

Councillor Wakefield advised that he was uncomfortable with 2.3 of the report which advised that Taylor Wimpey had expressed an interest in becoming involved and had received electronic maps to comment on. He was concerned that Taylor Wimpey had a financial interest in the strategy and therefore other companies should have been invited to join also.

Councillor Rolph advised that Taylor Wimpey had become involved because they were involved with the regeneration of the former Lambton Coke works in conjunction with English Partnerships and provided funding for a Community Ranger service in Elba Park.

Councillor Rolph questioned whether the second workshop on the afternoon of 27 January would be used to evaluate the sites. Ms Hopper agreed to speak to Clive Greenwood to check if the session of 27 January would be discussing the sites. She also agreed to ascertain if any other companies such as Three Rivers or Shepherds Homes had attended the first workshop.

Councillor Speding enquired whether the Committee were meant to be looking at a Greenspace Strategy or housing land availability.

Ms. Hopper advised that the Greenspace Strategy formed part of the Local Development Framework. The Local Development Framework (LDF) has to be based on a thorough understanding of local needs, opportunities and limitations including housing availability. Although part of the same policy framework, identifying greenspace was a different exercise to land ownership.

Councillor Tate felt it would be useful for the Committee to be informed which land had been identified as 'Greenfield' (not previously developed) or 'Greenbelt' (specifically defined area of land around and existing developed area).

Mr. Les Clark, Head of Streetscene advised that the exercise was purely to gain an accurate baseline across the city of what greenspace was out there and what was in use. Policy Planning Guidance notes stipulated that information had to be accurate and up to date. The LDF sets out the planning framework within which planning decisions were made.

7. RESOLVED that the Committee note the information regarding the second workshop and receive further updates regarding the outcome of the workshop and future actions.

- **Responsive Local Services**

Mr. Clark provided an update with regard to Responsive Local Services and advised that 4 of the 6 new posts of Area Response Manager for Street scene had been appointed. The Manager for the Coalfield Area would be introduced at the next committee meeting.

Councillor Anderson paid tribute to the Graffiti Service who she had had the misfortune to have to call recently. She was very impressed with the rapid response and extremely grateful for the service provided.

Referring to the Out of Hours Noise Service Pilot, Councillor Anderson was interested to hear more about the services that were provided.

Mr. Clarke advised that the service fell between two stools; the Police and the local authority. The pilot focussed on Friday and Saturday nights when the majority of problems tended to fall. A proposal was being developed to work with the Police and Environmental Health Officers to work during the whole night time period.

Councillor Rolph commented that the report contained too much jargon. She asked for an explanation of 'the transitional arrangements for the new dry recycling scheme.' Mr Clark advised that this related to the change from the black recycling box to the green bins. In response to a request from Councillor Rolph to clarify what 'the gathered data to prepare the GIS information layers that will populate the SLM viewer' meant, Mr Clark explained that GIS stood for Geographical Information System which was a system that captures, stores, analyses, manages, and presents data that are linked to location. The SLM (Strategic Land Management) viewer was the specific web system.

Councillor Rolph suggested that a faster and more efficient service could lead to greater demand for services and she enquired whether requests were increasing.

Mr. Clark advised that the information did not suggest there was any increase but it was early days for the programme. Furthermore, an aim of Responsive Local Services was to try to solve a problem before a call was necessary.

Councillor Hall advised that she had previously asked for the service request data to be broken down into where the request had come from (public, staff or Councillor).

Following an enquiry from Councillor Blackburn, Susan Brown confirmed that Friends of Hetton Bogs had identified an ongoing issue with litter at the entrance to Hetton Lyons Country Park via the VCS Network meetings.

At this juncture Ms. Hopper introduced the dedicated Empty Homes Officer for the Coalfields Area, Julie Wilkie. Ms. Wilkie gave a brief overview of her role and she advised members that she would forward them the details of the empty properties in the area on a monthly basis.

Ms. Hopper would circulate Ms. Wilkie's contact details to all members.

8. RESOLVED that

- a. the contents of the report be received and noted;
- b. the Committee receive further updates regarding any issues arising from the intelligence group including the learning points from winter maintenance issues

Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB), Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) and Community Chest – Financial Statement and Proposals for Further Allocation of Resources

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to request the Committee's consideration of proposals for the allocation of the Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB), the Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) and Community Chest to support initiatives that will benefit the area.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Hopper presented the report and outlined the funding balance. With regard to SIB, Ms. Hopper advised that following the November 2010 Committee meeting £175,986 remained to be allocated during 2010/11. This amount includes £27,000 brought back to the budget with regard to the Hetton Memorial Garden Project and £58 with regard to the New Herrington study.

As identified in Report 3a, the priorities of 'Local Shopping Centres' and Heritage' were still in the scoping stage and therefore had not had SIB allocated to specific projects to address these priorities. Initial discussions at the Task and Result groups and updates to Area Committee suggested that the outcome of the scoping/audit exercises would identify a range of costed projects which could be implemented at the next stage. It was therefore recommended that Committee allocate a proportion of the remaining SIB to each priority in order to ensure that 2010/11 funding is targeted on selected 2010/11 area priorities.

Based on indicative costs identified at Task and Result group meetings it was recommended that an amount of £80,000 be 'earmarked' from this year's budget for the Local Shopping Centres priority, and £40,000 be 'earmarked' for the Heritage priority. This would leave a balance of £12,592 with one meeting remaining.

The Chairman stated that the Committee may wish to consider allocating remaining £12,000 to put towards allotments and community gardens.

Councillor Rolph advised that a previous allocation to Herrington Burn YMCA had been missed off the statement. Ms. Hopper agreed to amend the statement and adjust the final balance accordingly.

9. RESOLVED that:-

- i) The Committee note the financial statement set out in Section 2 of the report;

- ii) the application for SIB funding of £32,394 as a contribution towards The Underground Project be approved;
- iii) the application for SIB funding of £10,000 as a contribution towards the Kepier Hall Car Park Project be approved;
- iv) the application for SIB/SIP funding of £1,000 and £5,100 respectively as a contribution towards South View Phase 3 be approved;
- v) the application for SIP funding of £1,185 as a contribution towards Lake Road Underpass Steps be approved;
- vi) the application for SIP funding of £11,500 as a contribution towards Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS)
- vii) The Committee agree to allocate a nominal budget of £80,000 to the Local Shopping Centres priority
- viii) The committee agree to allocate a nominal budget of £40,000 to the Heritage priority;
- ix) The committee approve the 12 proposals for support 2010/11 Community Chest set out in Annex 1b, and
- x) the update be received and noted.

Influencing Practice, Policy and Strategy

- **Refreshing the Coalfield Local Area Plan (LAP)**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to consider refreshing the LAP. To support the Committee throughout the process, information had been provided on four main elements; what people are telling us, developments to be considered, proposed framework for managing the refresh and recommendations including terms of reference.

(For copy report – see original minutes.)

Ms. Hopper presented the report and took Members through the proposed consultation framework.

Councillor Rolph commented that the new area arrangements were supposed to give more scope and influence to elected members. However the proposal set out in the report was too top down not bottom up and effectively put a 'straight jacket' on member input. She advised that a lot of the desktop studies that had been carried out related to citywide issues not area ones.

Councillor Rolph advised that the Committee had looked at environmental projects in 2010/11 however this was not reflected in the proposals contained within the report and felt the Committee should be looking at their existing plan and refining it as appropriate. She therefore entirely disagreed with the process.

Ms. Hopper advised that the priorities selected by the Committee at the workshop may not reflect the initial findings. Ms. Hopper advised that the process could be flexible in the way it was carried out. If it was felt appropriate, Members could look at the current plan as a starting point at the first meeting.

10. RESOLVED that the Committee agree to:-

- i) Establish a LAP Task and Finish Group and note the terms of reference for the group, outlined in Annex 1;
- ii) Agree membership of the group;
- iii) Agree the proposed consultation framework outlined in Section 4;
- iv) Note the findings of the report and agree to receive a further report in March 2011;
- v) Consider the list attached at Annex 2 and suggest other groups to be included;

The Chairman thanked Members, Officers and Partners for their attendance.

(Signed) D. RICHARDSON,
Chairman.

30 MARCH 2011**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE****COMMUNITY ACTION IN COALFIELD
2011/12 Priorities and Workplan****1. Why has it come to Committee?**

- 1.1 This report updates Members on the progress of developing the 2011/12 Workplan and the priorities that have been identified for the Coalfield Area through this process.

2. Progress

- 2.1 A meeting was held with elected members for the Coalfield Area where discussion took place regarding the issues within the Coalfield. Initial priorities for a one year work plan for 2011/12 were provisionally agreed as follows:

- Activities for young people (to be incorporated into the current youth disorder priority)
- Support for older people (suggest a Task and Result group be formed)
- Empty properties (suggest the relevant officers consult and report to Area Committee)
- Public transport (suggest escalation to LSP or scrutiny with regular input/feedback)
- Neglected land (suggest a Task and Result group be formed)

It was agreed the following priorities would be carried over from the existing work plan:

- Heritage
- Local shopping centres
- Youth disorder (activities for young people as above to be incorporated)
- Allotments and gardens
- Child poverty
- Unadopted roads
- Play provision
- Speeding and dangerous traffic

- 2.2 A Task and Finish Group has been established with elected members from the Coalfield Area, the Area Lead Executive, Area Officer, Council Officers and Partners relevant to the identified priorities.

The Task and Finish Group will:

- Provide information to validate the identified priorities.
- Consider the issues that exist within each of these priorities that may need to be addressed.
- Identify strategies, plans or actions that are in place to address the priorities and issues.
- Identify the gaps in addressing the priorities and issues where Committee can add value.
- Create a draft annual work plan based upon the findings which will be shared with Area Committee for discussion and input.

Based upon the identified priorities, a meeting of the Task and Finish Group was arranged and asked to consider:

- What are the issues
- What is currently being done

- What can Area Committee do to provide additionality

2.3 The information collected has been collated and is attached at Annex 1. This will be used by the Task and Finish group at their next meeting to propose specific actions to be included in the 2011/12 workplan.

3. Next Steps

- 3.1 Local residents and the Community and Voluntary Sector will be given the opportunity to express their views on the identified priorities for the area.
- 3.2 The views received from this exercise, along with other qualitative research available within the Council, will be used within the Task and Finish Group to add value and support the development of priorities and the 2011/12 workplan.
- 3.3 A final design of the 2011/12 workplan will be provided to members for input.
- 3.4 The final plan will be presented to June Committee for agreement.
- 3.5 It is proposed that, where relevant, Task and Result groups will be set up to develop and progress actions against each priority and that a maximum number of three elected members are part of each Task and Result group. It is requested that all members consider being a member of one Task and Result group to ensure even representation from all parties and wards.

Recommendation

- Note the update on the development of the 2011/12 workplan and progress made.
- Agree to receive the final plan at June Committee for agreement.
- Consider membership of emerging Task and Result groups for each new priority

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**Coalfield Area Committee
Proposals for 2011/2012 Priorities**

	Priorities	What is being done currently	Proposed actions to influence services
1	<p>Support for Older People</p> <p>Older People (women over 60 and men over 65) in Coalfield make up 20.2% (9,505) of the population.</p> <p>In Coalfield 1,657 residents over 65 are receiving nursing, community based or residential care services, this is 20.5% of the area's population. In relation to individual wards more residents in Shiney Row (22.1%), and Copt Hill (24.2%) are in receipt of care than the average for the area.</p> <p>Residents in Coalfield (44%) consider that older people in the local area are able to get the services and support they need to continue to live at home for as long as they want to, to a greater level than the city average (40%).</p> <p>Resident's satisfaction with GPs (85%) is greater than the city average (83%) and satisfaction with their local hospital is in line with the city</p>	<p>Age UK (local office based at the Hetton Centre):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefits, tax, pensions and other money advice • Legal and consumer advice • Travel and motor insurance • Info on housing choices and help at home • Work and learning advice • Finding and using health services <p>Sunderland City Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefits and pension • Winter fuel payments • Planning for retirement • Direct payments <p>Day Opportunities (extended luncheon club) - Gilwood Court, Station Road, Shiney Row</p> <p>Social Activity Group - Bramble Hollow Extra Care Scheme, Four Lane Ends, Hetton</p> <p>Day care, Permanent care, Sunderland telecare, Meals on wheels, Handypersons service, Community equipment service and wheelchair service provided by Sunderland City Council</p> <p>Extra care scheme at Bramble Hollow, Hetton (Housing 21 and Sunderland City Council). Cherrytree Gardens, Houghton le Spring due to open Summer 2011 (Gentoo and Sunderland City Council)</p> <p>Active at 60 - a £1 million government grant programme, provided by DWP and administered by</p>	<p>Please note:</p> <p>The Task and Finish Group meeting in March will begin to identify actions which will be further developed by each Task and Result group once formed.</p>

	<p>average (78%). Residents aged 65+ are most likely to be satisfied with their family doctor/local hospital.</p>	<p>the Community Development Foundation.</p> <p>Welfare benefit advice at Shiney Row Advice and Resource Project (SHARP)</p> <p>Gentoo operate a 'Busybodies' scheme which provides a maintenance and repair service for the home and garden. A small charge applies</p> <p>Innovation scheme – allotment site on Race Course estate</p> <p>Bethany Centre – Daily Drop Ins, tea / coffee, lunch, speakers, activities</p> <p>Myre Hall – Luncheon club</p> <p>Access Point, Easington Lane – coffee mornings</p> <p>Stephenson House (Methodist Church) – Tea dances</p> <p>Church Hall, Hetton – 50 / 50 dancing</p> <p>Princess Gardens – Luncheon club</p> <p>Shiney Row – Over 60's Fellowship night, ladies club</p> <p>Grangewood Care Home – Seasonal coffee mornings (Spring / Summer)</p>	
2	<p>Empty Properties</p> <p>As at January 2011 there were approximately 400 empty homes (private sector) across the area</p>	<p>Health, Housing and Adult Services are responsible for working with owners of residential properties in the private sector</p> <p>One of the key priorities in the Sunderland Housing Priorities Plan (SHPP) is to bring empty properties</p>	

		<p>back into use</p> <p>A private sector housing officer (empty properties) has been in post since November 2010. The officer is dedicated to the Coalfield area and is working proactively to identify empty properties and support owners to bring them back into use where appropriate</p> <p>Non residential properties causing a problem can be dealt with by the enforcement team within the Development Control service at Sunderland City Council</p> <p>An area based Empty property Action Plan 2011/12 is being developed by HHAS. The Area Committee will be consulted</p> <p>Eppleton and Broomhill Estates are awaiting demolition pending acquisition of the final properties. There are currently no plans to redevelop the site</p> <p>The empty property officer is working with Gentoo and the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) to explore a possible project to bring a small number of empty properties back into use through young unemployed people refurbishing empty properties over the next 3 – 4 years.</p>	
3	Public Transport Residents within the Coalfields report the lowest satisfaction (57%) within the city with their local bus services. Residents aged 65+ are most likely to be very satisfied (40%) whilst those in the age group 25-34 being more likely to be dissatisfied	<p>A rep from Nexus attends Area Committee as a key partner</p> <p>The accessible bus network (ABN) is defined as non-core services, whether subsidised by Nexus or provided commercially. Getting these local services right is often a key element in helping to enhance people's quality of life. Consultation regarding the ABN has taken place.</p>	Area Committee to escalate the issue to the most relevant LSP or Scrutiny group and ensure regular input and feedback to Area Committee

	<p>(24%) with this service.</p> <p>Similarly residents within the Coalfields are least satisfied with the provision of local transport information (49%). Those residents aged 65+ are most likely to be satisfied (73%) with the service whilst those within the 35-54 age group being most dissatisfied (17%).</p>	<p>4 elected members from Sunderland are part of the Integrated Transport Authority (3 of which are Coalfield Area Councillors). The main objective of the ITA is <i>to promote and encourage safe, integrated, efficient and economic transport facilities and services for Tyne and Wear and its surrounding area through the development of partnerships between other local authorities, transport operators, public service providers, local communities and Nexus</i></p>	
4	<p>Neglected Land</p>	<p>The Strategic Land Management (SLM) programme will contain information on land ownership.</p> <p>A team of 5 land management inspectors (1 for each area) will inspect council land and property and report any issues to property services.</p> <p>The Area Response Manager, Area Response Officer and four ward managers for the Coalfield area will be in place by the end of March 2011. The team can be contacted directly to report and discuss any issues.</p> <p>A greenspace audit is being carried out and consultation is currently underway. This will inform the Local Development Framework (LDF)</p>	

30 MARCH 2011

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

COMMUNITY ACTION IN COALFIELD – PROGRESS REVIEW

Progress Report on 2010/11 Priority: Review of Greenspace Strategy

1. Why has it come to Committee?

- 1.1 The report provides an update of progress against agreed actions in the current year's (2010/11) work plan (**Annex 1**).

2. Report on the Coalfield Area Workshop

- 2.1 Elected members, partners, residents and officers attended a workshop, held at Easington Lane Community Access Point in January 2011. The purpose was:
- 1) To explain progress on the Green space Audit and demonstrate improvements made since the first consultation in October 2010
 - 2) To gain a better understanding on the local value of green spaces. This included:
 - scoring and mapping all green space sites in terms of their quality and local value, and making sure that the scoring is correct
 - Asking what the most important types of greenspace are in the area
 - Asking what makes a greenspace site valuable to local people
 - Asking what types of greenspace people would like to see more of
 - Asking how far local people would travel to use different types of greenspace
 - Asking what the most important greenspaces are to local people, and what makes them so good.
- 2.2 During the workshop a variety of maps were displayed to participants, who were then asked to individually identify issues relating to the above questions, and to independently vote on their preferences. The full results of the Workshop have been sent to members previously, and are available on request.
- 2.3 The Workshop was open to all and initial results have proven to be very beneficial to help frame an online survey on Greenspace value. Those attending agreed that the value survey should be extended for a number of months to enable a much wider range of responses to be received. It is now proposed to commence the online survey as soon as possible (with paper copies available on request) and to work with schools and community groups further in Spring and early Summer. The results will feed into the Greenspace and Green Infrastructure Strategy due to be complete at the end of 2011. It is also intended to publicise the draft results on individual site value for public scrutiny in the summer.
- 2.4 A training session on Green Infrastructure was also held in March for Councillors at the Crowtree Leisure Centre. Dr Ingo Schuder from Natural England carried out the training, which helped to introduce and explain the objectives and scope of Green Infrastructure and to demonstrate its relevance to local neighbourhood improvement.

Recommendation:

- Note the information regarding the second workshop and receive further updates regarding the progress of the Greenspace and Green Infrastructure Strategy.

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30 MARCH 2011

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

COMMUNITY ACTION IN COALFIELD – PROGRESS REVIEW

Progress Report on Regeneration at Rectory Park

1. Why has it come to Committee?

- 1.1 The report provides an update of progress on the Regeneration at Rectory Park, Houghton.

2. Background

- 2.1 Rectory Park is located on a site which has been a garden to the old rectory since the 12th Century. Over the past 800 years the site has evolved continually to give us a relatively modern Park on an ancient site, however, the Park has fallen into disrepair and is in need of extensive works to curtail an ongoing erosion of the facility. The Friends of Rectory Park Group, together with Coalfield Area Councillors and residents from the local community have been meeting for some period of time resulting in Officers of City Services and the Chief Executive becoming involved towards the development of a masterplan for the Park.
- 2.2 With the support of the Deputy Manager of Planning Implementation, a masterplan was drawn up for the park and a number of meetings with the Friends of Rectory Park have directed the development of work to be carried out. The Friends Group has expanded with the involvement of Planning Implementation, Property Services and Property Maintenance together with City Services parks staff, the City Arboriculturist and, through the Conservation Officer, English Heritage. The work will be carried out in a phased approach to allow time and resources to be invested into raising the relevant amount of funding.
- 2.3 To date, bids to the following Sunderland City Council funding streams have been successful in providing financial assistance:
- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| Community Chest | £1,600 |
| SIB (Strategic Investment Budget) | £50,000 |
| SIP (Strategic Improvement Plan) | £4,000 |

The Coalfield Area Committee approved all of the above applications and were keen to provide this funding and offer support to ensure some early results were achieved and also enable the Friends of Rectory Park to apply for further funding from alternative sources to deliver future phases.

3. Progress

- 3.1 As part of phase 1 there has been a significant amount of work carried out. The toilet block has been demolished and extensive repair work is being carried out to rebuild the stone wall and associated railings. Tree works have taken place in two phases and a number of minor works including the removal of redundant shrubs and litter bins have taken place. The Tithe Barn roof has been repaired to a high standard and the works to the fountain have been started. Other works including bulb planting with the Friends group and local school children has taken place and will continue as the project progresses.

Recommendation

That the update is noted and Committee agree to receive a further update as part of the Annual Report in June 2011

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30 MARCH 2011

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CITY SERVICES

COMMUNITY ACTION IN COALFIELD – PROGRESS REVIEW

Progress Report on 2010/11 Priority: Heritage

1 Why has it come to Committee?

The report provides an update of progress against agreed actions in the current year's (2010/11) work plan (**Annex 1**).

2 Background

- 2.1 Members will be aware that as part of taking forward Heritage as a priority for the Coalfield area, it was agreed to carry out an audit/study which would investigate the heritage offer within the Coalfields area to provide recommendations into the future delivery of the heritage agenda within the Coalfield area.
- 2.2 As part of the process the necessary procurement regulations were adhered to and in December 2010 North of England Civic Trust (NECT) were awarded the contract to carry out the study.
- 2.3 Heritage within Sunderland is an area of continuing growth and the Coalfields area has its own very distinctive and individual range of heritage assets and activities, for which there is a strong sense of pride.
- 2.4 In order to develop the heritage offer NECT were tasked with the following:
- To carry out a full audit of current available collections, memorabilia, records, archives and built heritage within the Coalfield area,
 - A full review of the current heritage offer in the area, assessing the individual strengths and weaknesses of the heritage assets, collections and records relating to the Coalfields and how they contribute to the area and the City.
 - Assess the added value of collaboration between heritage sites and assets within the area, including guidance on volunteers, management and governance etc
 - Assess current demand/usage and how they can be further developed
 - Set out a proposed way forward for the heritage agenda, identifying resources, risks, contingencies and benefits.
 - Submit proposals for future heritage projects within the Coalfields area that would allow local, voluntary and community groups to be able to deliver and engage and that would have physical outcomes that benefit the local community.

3 Progress

- 3.1 In order to fulfill the contract NECT have carried out the following:
- 5 public consultation events held
 - Approximately 150 questionnaires filled in
 - 30+ conversations with relevant contacts (ongoing)
 - Gazetteer/audit of collections ongoing
 - Report on tourism offer and potential completed
- 3.2 The public consultation events mostly took the form of drop-in events, at which 7 questions were asked to gain a snapshot of local views on heritage, which included:
- What does heritage mean to you?
 - What sort of heritage buildings or places are you familiar with in the Coalfield area?
 - What about things like traditional music, food and things which aren't buildings or places?
 - Are you involved in any sort of heritage activities at the moment?

- Have you ever been to a Heritage Open Days event?
 - If you were planning a day out, where would you get/look for information about where to go?
 - What sort of things do you like to do in your free time?
- 3.3 The Hetton Centre and Easington Lane Community Access Point (ELCAP) events proved most successful, with Hetton providing the most diverse audience and ELCAP having the most interest in heritage, particularly in coalmining.
- 3.4 The event at Dubmire Primary School was aimed primarily at children, with the opportunity for them to try stone carving, and a photo competition was organised, to see how many buildings/places they knew in the area. This proved very useful in gauging awareness, however NECT did not manage to complete a large number of adult questionnaires.
- 3.5 The event at Shiney Row Advice Project was not initially a success, as no publicity was visible at the venue and with only 2 people turning up for the event. NECT did however manage to achieve results by going out onto the street and asking people to complete questionnaires. They were therefore able to gauge awareness from a wide range of people, not just those with a particular interest in heritage.
- 3.6 A sample of the general findings to date include:
- There is much enthusiasm for this topic amongst those spoken to, and many are very active in their particular neighbourhoods.
 - There is currently a wide range of groups, individuals and activities, and a degree of working together at a very local level.
 - A general lack of awareness of heritage, frequent inability to name examples of local heritage (in some cases this could be due to over-familiarity with local buildings/places)
 - People do not readily identify with the word 'heritage', but do with the word 'history'.
 - When discussing 'heritage', themes generated tended to revolve around 'community', 'continuity', 'roots' and 'civic pride'.
 - Surprisingly low level of awareness of coalmining heritage, except for 50+ age bracket.
 - Very low awareness of Heritage Open Days.
 - Most people do visit historic buildings in their free time – not as a particular interest, generally as part of their activities during a day out/on holiday.

4 Next Steps

- 4.1 NECT are currently in the process of completing their initial findings and held a further Stakeholder meeting on Thursday 24 March.
- 4.2 A final report will now be produced by NECT which will then be submitted to Area Committee for consideration and approval. The report will give the full findings from the study, along with a gazetteer of collections and organisations and will outline the way forward in terms of recommendations for future heritage priorities for the Coalfield area.
- 4.3 Area Committee along with the Heritage Task and Finish Group will then be asked to agree what priorities from the study should be taken forward, in order to develop a work plan for the coming year.

Recommendation:

- Note the report
- Agree to consider the outcomes of the final report to inform future actions

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30 MARCH 2011

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

COMMUNITY ACTION IN COALFIELD – PROGRESS REVIEW

Progress Report on 2010/11 Priority: Local Shopping Centres (Coalfield Shopping Initiative)

1 Why has it come to Committee?

The report provides an update of progress against agreed actions in the current year's (2010/11) work plan (**Annex 1**).

2 Progress report on 2010/11 priority: Local Shopping Centres

Following the agreement of Area Committee to progress with the first stage of the Coalfield Shopping Initiative, work has progressed on the three elements of the scoping exercise.

2.1 Data Collection - Work is underway to establish a database of businesses in the three identified locations – Houghton, Hetton and Shiney Row to assist with the occupier surveys. This has involved identifying known sources of data, such as business databases, together with on-site research and primary data collection. The results of which will produce a comprehensive occupier database for each of the areas.

2.2 Survey - The survey work is divided into two parts – street surveys of shoppers/visitors and a survey of occupier perceptions and retail potential. Both the shopper and the occupier survey questionnaires have been designed, and following consultation with retail consultancy company, BSupplied, further revisions have been made to make the survey as user friendly and informative as possible.

Unfortunately, with the survey coinciding with the Census survey, we were initially advised to delay the shopper survey until after the completion of the Census work. After discussions with the Councils Consultation team, agreement has now been reached to allow the survey to progress alongside the Census completion. It is hoped to commence this work in early April 2011. The occupier survey will also commence in April.

2.3 Best Practice Review - Alongside the primary research, examples of good (and bad) practice have been identified to assist in identifying future priorities for the Coalfield Shopping Initiative. These examples have included a mix of Capital Investments (such as retail incubators), business support activities, as well as marketing promotions and specialists activities, such as markets and the Arts. A summary of the best practice will be provided alongside the survey analysis.

3 Next Steps

The project is progressing steadily, but is currently behind the original anticipated schedule for a variety of reasons. The Business Investment Team (BIT) Service Review agreed that the service will be re-focused and resources should be aligned with the Economic Masterplan priorities. A Work Programme is currently in development to ensure that all projects are completed during the transfer to the new team. The Task and Result group for Local Shopping Centres will meet on 13 April 2011.

Recommendation:

- Note the report

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30 MARCH 2011

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

COMMUNITY ACTION IN COALFIELD – PROGRESS REVIEW

Progress Report on 2010/11 Priority: Youth Disorder

1 Why has it come to Committee?

The report provides an update of progress against agreed actions in the current year's (2010/11) work plan (**Annex 1**).

2 Progress report on 2010/11 priority: Youth Disorder

As reported at the January 2011 Area Committee meeting, the XL youth village steering group has extended its membership and remit to include the Task and Result group for Youth Disorder. All members are invited to attend and receive minutes of the meetings.

The group has met twice since the last Area Committee and it has been recognised that there are two distinct elements of ensuring there is adequate youth provision. The first is to provide a quality youth service which is available and accessible to all young people. The second is to provide diversionary activities to specifically target areas of high levels of youth disorder, with the aim being to reduce reported youth disorder. The two elements need to be delivered in a co-ordinated way but need to be recognised as being for different audiences with different outcomes.

The first element as described above is provided by Sunderland North Community Business Centre (SNCBC) as mainstream provision commissioned by the Youth Development Group. The second element is where the current gap is and the Task and Result group have discussed in detail the type of provision required.

Using evidence provided by partners, including Northumbria Police, it has been found that the current hotspots of disorder are located at: a) Easington Lane (particularly around the High Street), b) Houghton Racecourse Estate and c) Penshaw.

The Task and Result group recommend that a pilot project is delivered in the three areas above. The project will provide activities in each location tailored to the need of that particular area. The activities provided will be used to engage and communicate with those young people identified as most at risk of causing nuisance or anti social behaviour, with the longer term plan to support them to engage in existing mainstream provision or other positive activity. Therefore the pilot project will be delivered in partnership with, and alongside, existing and contracted youth services.

3 Next steps

An application for SIB is presented to this meeting. A responsive project to reduce youth disorder and anti social behaviour will be delivered. The Youth Disorder Task and Result group will 'steer' the project to ensure it is in line with evidenced need.

Recommendation

That the application for SIB is considered under item 3g Annex 1a of this report

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30 MARCH 2011

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

COMMUNITY ACTION IN COALFIELD – PROGRESS REVIEW

Progress Report on 2010/11 Priority: Allotments

1 Why has it come to Committee?

The report provides an update of progress against agreed actions in the current year's (2010/11) work plan (**Annex 1**).

2 Progress report on 2010/11 priority: Allotments

The last meeting of Coalfield Area Committee agreed that improvements to allotments be included in Phase 2 of the Coalfield in Bloom project. The project is now moving to Phase 2 under the project title 'Coalfield Community Challenge' (SIB application at Annex 1a). This is to ensure that current issues and priorities (including allotments) can be considered and delivered in conjunction with the local community and partners via the Area Network.

Information from the Scrutiny Policy Review and allotments and parks officers has been collected and reviewed and will form the basis of developing improvement of allotments in the Coalfield area. Discussions have taken place with the Head of Street Scene and City Services officers and it has been agreed that the Operations Manager responsible for allotments will lead a Task and Result group to develop and implement improvements.

The Area Officer has asked for expressions of interest from those who wish to be part of the Task and Result Group. Those who expressed an interest are listed below:

- Councillor Kath Rolph, Houghton ward
- Councillor Bob Heron, Copt Hill ward
- Councillor Derrick Smith, Copt Hill ward
- Councillor Dennis Richardson, Houghton ward
- Councillor John Scott, Shiney Row ward
- Gerry Roll, Parks Operations Manager, City Services (will lead on the allotment priority)
- Ethel Wilson, Allotments Officer, City Services
- Susan Brown, Community Co-ordinator, City Services
- Nichola Hesselwood, Groundwork
- Melanie Caldwell, Gentoo

3 Next steps

The allotment Task and Result Group will meet in early April to develop an action plan to improve allotment sites in the Coalfield. Ideas to be further explored include:

- Offering derelict plots to those on the waiting list in return for a rent free period
- Community clean up of relevant plots to use as community gardens
- Volunteer clean up events to bring derelict plots back into use
- Review of the waiting lists
- Development of a further SIB application to include improvements to two pilot sites
- Address inappropriate use of plots

Recommendation

- Agree the Task and Result Group membership

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Community Action: Outstanding Issues Log from 2009/10

Priority	Issue/Action	Action taken and next steps	Funding request	Progress
Improve local shopping centres	Provide update on the provision of public toilets in Houghton Town Centre	The feasibility of developing a Community Toilet Scheme is being explored including consultation with potential providers and members of the public. The newly appointed Area Response Manager will take this forward as a priority project.	NO	
Bring empty properties back into use	Area Committee receive update on Empty Homes strategy and targets	A Private Sector Housing Officer (empty properties) has been in post since 1 November 2010. Regular updates will be provided to Area Committee. The issue of empty properties has been highlighted during the refresh of priorities and will be taken forward by the Assistant Housing and Neighbourhood Renewal Manager who will develop an action plan in conjunction with Area Committee.	NO	To be moved to 2011/12 workplan once agreed
Raise aspirations of children/young people and their families	Review FACL (Family, Adult and Community Learning) Programme	A review has begun and an initial report will be brought to committee to propose piloting area based delivery. Agreement on new ways to procure learning is in place. Discussions are underway with the FACL Manager to try and resolve the issue of 'full cost recovery', which is a barrier to many VCS organisations' participation. The matter will be raised with the Exec Director of Children's Services, should there be a need for a policy change. Once agreed, the review can be broadened to include the wider VCS. Due to budgetary uncertainties, it has not been possible to progress matters and further actions will be undertaken early in the new financial year.	NO	
Address issues around lack of public transport in some areas	Nexus to ensure full consultation with the Committee and local residents on the Secured Services Network	Nexus will attend future Area Committee meetings and provide information when required. A consultation exercise was carried out at the March 2010 meeting. The Secured Services Network is due to be discussed by Cabinet in January 2011. The Nexus Community Relations Officer, James Third, will attend Area Committee meetings from March 2011.	NO	To be moved to 2011/12 workplan once agreed

Community Action: Work Plan for 2010/11

Priority	Issue/Action	Date raised	Evidence and/or Data Source	Action taken/next steps	Funding	Lead Agent(s)	RAG
Heritage	Audit of current provision	June 2010	Area Committee VCS Network Local Area Plan	The consultants appointed to carry out an audit and recommendations are in the process of compiling a draft report. A stakeholder event on 24 March 2011 will discuss the initial findings.	£10,000 SIB for audit £10,000 SIB for remedial works at Kepier Hall	Vicki Medhurst, City Services	
Local Shopping Centres	Decline of local shopping centres, Lack of adequate provision.	June 2010	Local Development Framework Retail needs assessment	The scoping exercise is underway with further work to commence in April 2011. An update is provided in the main report.	£5,000 SIB for audit and study	Andrew Perkin, Business and Investment Team	
Child Poverty (CP)	High levels of children in families with low income	June 2010	Area Committee Draft Child Poverty strategy Child Poverty Area Profile Income data' Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2007	Phase 2 of the Child and Family Poverty Strategy has been developed, which will support the Council and its partners to work towards the aim of eradicating child and family poverty in the city and improve the life chances of Sunderland's children and young people. The Sunderland Partnership and Partners are working to produce a Child & Family Poverty Action Plan which will accompany the Strategy.	No	Raj Singh, Children's Services	
Responsive Local Services (RLS)	Develop method of working to provide services that are responsive to community needs	June 2010	Area Committee Customer service requests	The first wave of RLS covered the service areas of litter, graffiti, refuse collection, grass cutting and dog fouline. An Area Response Manager for the Coalfield area is now in post and will lead a locality based team. The Area Response Manager will work with Area Committee, ArO, partners and residents to identify and tackle key issues.	No	Les Clark, Head of Street Scene	
Unadopted Roads	Review the current policy and alternative options regarding unadopted roads	September 2009	Cabinet report LAP Area Committee	Due to the recent budget announcements, the citywide policy on unadopted roads is being reviewed. Therefore the Coalfield Area Report currently being prepared will be revised, and presented at the September 2011 meeting.	No	Stephen Pickering/ Graham Carr, City Services	
Play Provision	Review Play and Urban Games Strategy	July 2010	Play and Urban Games Strategy (PUGS) strategy	An update report will be provided at the next area committee (June 2011) with regards to any further developments that	Possibly to a future Area Committee	Julie Gray, Head of Community	

			Community Consultation LAP	have taken place or are due to take place on the identified and agreed priorities in the play and urban games strategy update. Communication remains in place with ward councillors on individual site specific issues.		Services	
	Receive more information on play provision services and activities in the Coalfield area	July 2010	Area Committee	Information regarding the types of play activities and services available has been provided to members. Research is still underway and will be further explored using local knowledge via the VCS network. A full report will be provided at the September 2011 meeting.	No	Pauline Hopper, Area Officer Susan Brown, Community Co-ordinator	
Review of the Greenspace Strategy	Planning for open space, sport and recreation	September 2010	Local Development Framework	The second Greenspace workshop was held in January 2011. The purpose was a) to explain progress on the Green space Audit and demonstrate improvements made since the first consultation in October 2010, and b) to gain a better understanding on the local value of green spaces. An update is provided within the main report. An update is also provided on one of the projects which will support this piece of work - progress at Rectory Park.	No	Clive Greenwood, Senior Planner	
Motor Cycle disorder	Provide information regarding 'hotspots' in order to prepare a strategy to tackle the issue across the Coalfield area	November 2010	LMAPS VCS Network Local Councillors Residents Area Committee	Information has been provided which has informed discussions with the Community Safety team within the Council, who have agreed to refer this issue to the Business Support Group (BSG) of the Safer Sunderland Partnership. Once discussed by the BSG, a response will be provided to the Area Committee for consideration. In the meantime local operations are ongoing to tackle the issue at a local level	No	LMAPs	
Speeding or dangerous traffic	A co-ordinated approach/ response is required to dealing with traffic issues	November 2010	SIP/SIB applications Place survey LMAPS Area Committee	Andrew Jackman will attend the June 2011 meeting to update Area Committee	Yes – a number of SIP and SIB applications approved	Les Clark, Head of Street Scene	
Youth Disorder	The XL Youth village steering group will refocus and expand in	November 2010	LMAPS Police/Councillor meetings Crime statistics	The XL youth village steering group/youth disorder Task and Result Group have met to discuss how to tackle the current hotspots of youth disorder. It is	SIB application for £10,000 to this meeting	Kath Butchert, Youth Development Group	

	order to take this issue forward.			recommended a pilot project is delivered in conjunction with current youth provision. Feedback will be provided on a regular basis.			
Sunderland 'The Place'	The policy review recognised that part of the gathering of evidence should include views from areas. Therefore the issue was brought to Committee to agree the way forward	<i>January 2011</i>	Environment and Attractive City Scrutiny Committee	All members of Committee were invited to an informal discussion with the Scrutiny Officer, Area Lead Executive and Area Officer on 19 January 2011. Members attending this meeting gave their views and input to inform a further workshop with all Area Chairs held on 24 January 2011. A memo was circulated to all members regarding the outcome of this meeting and the information will be fed into the wider policy review.	Members will be updated on progress of the review.	Helen Lancaster, Acting Scrutiny Officer	
Review of Byelaws	A Task and Finish Group is reviewing City Byelaws.	<i>January 2011</i>		The review is currently ongoing with a view to the proposed draft byelaws being ready for consultation by April 2011. The review covers Seashore, Promenades, Parks and Open Spaces (includes cemeteries), Nature Reserves and Country Parks. Byelaws cannot cover issues which are dealt with by other legislation e.g. alcohol in public places, litter and fly-tipping, damage, graffiti, dogs. The aim is to have the parks/open spaces draft prepared for July 2011, with the byelaws for nature reserves, country parks and seashores following on from there.	Further information will be provided when available.	Andrea Seymour, Solicitor, Law & Governance	
Allotments	Improvement to local allotment sites is needed in order to reduce waiting lists and bring unused sites back into use	<i>January 2011</i>	Area Committee LMAPS Environment and Attractive City Scrutiny Committee	The information provided by the Policy review is being analysed and used to inform actions in the Coalfield area. A Task and Result (T&R) group will be set up with Gerry Roll from City Services acting as Lead Agent. The T&R group will develop an action plan to include the future allocation of SIB funding to deliver improvements.	The Coalfield Community Challenge SIB application to this meeting includes £7,000 for improvements to allotments and community gardens	Les Clark, Head of Street Scene	

COALFIELD AREA COMMITTEE
30 March 2011
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I

Title of Report:

Strategic Initiative Budget (SIB), Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) and Community Chest, - Financial Statement and Proposals for further allocation of Resources

Author(s):

Chief Executive

Purpose of Report:

This report requests Area Committee consideration of proposals for the allocation of the Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB), the Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) and Community Chest to support initiatives that will benefit the area.

Description of Decision:

The Committee is requested to approve the following from the 2010/11 budget:

1. Main report: Allocate a nominal budget of £5,665 SIB to deliver improvements for allotments
2. Main report: Allocate £1,035 SIP to sample works on Houghton War Memorial
3. Annex 1a: Approve two SIB proposals from the 2010-11 budget to the following projects: £12,000 for the Coalfield Community Challenge project, £10,000 for the Responsive Youth Provision project.
4. Annex 1b: Approve 13 proposals for support from the 2010/11 Community Chest, all projects total £5,159.

Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework?

Yes

Suggested reason(s) for Decision:

SIB is a budget delegated to Areas Committee and can be used to commission activity that delivers actions against the key strategic priorities identified in the Coalfield LAP. Its main purpose is to benefit the local community and to attract other funding into the area.

The Area Committee has a budget of £241,514 for 2010-11, with a further £62,422 carried over from 2009-10. During 2010-11, £38,280 has been returned to budget providing a new balance of £342,216 for SIB 2010-11.

The Community Chest forms part of the SIB and £250,000 is available for the scheme in 2010/2011, £10,000 for each of the Copt Hill, Hetton, Houghton and Shiney Row wards.

Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected:

The circumstances are such that there are no realistic alternatives that could be considered.

Is this a “Key Decision” as defined in the Constitution? No

Relevant Scrutiny Committees:

Is it included in the Forward Plan? No

30 MARCH 2011

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE BUDGET (SIB), STRATEGIC INVESTMENT PLAN (SIP) AND COMMUNITY CHEST- FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND PROPOSALS FOR FURTHER ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES

1. Why has it come to Committee?

Area Committee has delegated budgets to allocate to specific strategic priorities identified in the Local Area Plan, with the overall aim to benefit the wider community and to attract other funding into the area. The report provides a financial statement as an up date position on progress in relation to allocating SIB, SIP and Community Chest, and proposes a number of projects for approval from each funding stream.

2. Financial Statement Coalfield Committee

* £241,514 was allocated for 2010-11, £62,422 was carried over from 2009 -10: Balance £303,936				
	Committee Date	Main SIB Fund Approvals	Opportunities Approvals	Total 100%
Available Funding 2010/11 * (including £38,280 from project reclaims 2010/2011)	-	-	-	£342,216
Project Name	-	-	-	-
Coalfields 3G Camera Addition	14.07.10	£5,500	-	£336,716
Eppleton Cricket Club Practice Facilities	14.07.10	-	£13,162	£323,554
Philadelphia Cricket Club Practice Facilities	14.07.10	-	£9,000	£314,554
Houghton Feast Opening Ceremony	14.07.10	-	£10,000	£304,554
Coalfield in Bloom - bulb planting project	14.07.10	£50,000	-	£254,554
Heritage Feasibility Study	09.09.10	£10,000	-	£244,554
Sunderland Angling Festival	08.10.10 (Delegated Process)	-	£1,000	£243,554
Grace House North East	08.10.10 (Delegated Process)	-	£1,675	£241,879
Wensleydale Avenue Traffic Calming	03.11.10	£10,277	-	£231,602
Walking Route to Rainton Meadows	03.11.10	£20,000	-	£211,602
North Road/Hazard Lane Pedestrian safety	03.11.10	£10,000	-	£201,602
Ear 4 U	03.11.10	-	£13,200	£188,402
Shopping Centres scoping exercise	03.11.10	£5,000	-	£183,402
Parade Traffic Mangement Support	11.11.10 (Delegated Process)	-	£2,343	£181,059
Kepier Hall Car Park	05.01.11	-	£10,000	£171,059
The Underground Project	05.01.11	-	£32,394	£138,665
South View Phase 3 (Shiney Row)	05.01.11	-	£1,000	£137,665

Heritage Priority	05.01.11	£40,000	-	£97,665
Shopping Centre Priority	05.01.11	£80,000	-	£17,665
Total allocated		£230,777	£93,774	
NB:- The following has been recouped: £6,149 from The Hive Project, £27,000 from Hetton Memorial Garden project, £58 from New Herrington Community Sports & Social Club Business Plan, £4,646 from Herrington Burn YMCA Feasibility Study and £427 from Parade Traffic Management (all included in remaining balance)				
Balance		-	-	£17,665

3. Strategic Initiatives Budget

Following the January 2011 Committee meeting £17,665 remained to be allocated during 2010/11. This amount includes £4,646 from Herrington Burn YMCA Feasibility Study and £427 from Parade Traffic Management brought back to the budget since the last meeting. Committee agreed at the last meeting that funding for allotments and community gardens be considered as part of the remaining balance. The application for £12,000 in respect of the Coalfield Community Challenge (Annex 1a) includes £7,000 for allotments and gardens from this remaining balance and £5,000 from the budget already allocated for Heritage.

There are two projects detailed in **Annex 1a** recommended for approval as follows:

Project	SIB requested	Recommendation
• Coalfield Community Challenge	£12,000	Approve
• Responsive Youth Provision	£10,000	Approve

Projects recommended for approval from the 2010/11 budget total £22,000 (£5,000 will be utilised from the £40,000 heritage allocation and the remaining £17,000 from the balance of SIB). Should Committee approve this proposal the remaining balance for the 2010/11 allocation would be £5,665 with this being the last meeting of the year. It is proposed this amount be 'ring fenced' for allotments.

4. Strategic Investment Plan (SIP)

Following the January 2011 Committee meeting, £785 remained to be allocated during 2010/11. Since this date £250 has been returned to the budget from savings made from the Gilpin Wood project, giving a total of £1,035 balance remaining (Houghton). It is recommended that this remaining balance be utilised for sample work on the Houghton War Memorial.

5. Community Chest

The table below details balances remaining to be allocated following the last meeting in January, project proposals received as detailed in **Annex 1b**, and balance remaining should those proposals be approved.

Ward	Balance at January 2011	Project proposals	Community Chest Balance
Copt Hill	£1996	£1496	£500
Hetton	£77	£0	£77
Houghton	£2301	£1900	£401
Shiney Row	£1868	£1763	£105

Recommendations

Committee are requested to:

- Note the financial statement set out in Section 2 of this report
- Agree the SIB recommendations set out in Annex 1a
- Agree to allocate a nominal budget of £5,665 SIB to deliver improvements for allotments
- Agree to utilise the remaining £1,035 SIP in relation to sample work on Houghton War Memorial (subject to project application and appraisal)
- Approve the 13 proposals for support 2010/11 Community Chest set out in Annex 1b

Appendices

Annex 1a: Summary of SIP and SIB funding applications

Annex 1b: Summary of Community Chest Applications

Contact Officer:

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SIB Funding Applications

1	Coalfield Community Challenge (Area Network)	SIB
2	Responsive Youth Provision (Youth Development Group)	SIB

Application No1 – Coalfield Community Challenge

Total cost of Project	Total SIB	Total match funding
£12,000	£12,000	(none secured to date)
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
13 months	March 2011	March 2012

The Project

This project will provide a mechanism to enable the local community to influence and deliver area priorities as identified in the Local Area Plan and subsequent work plans. Using the 'Coalfield in Bloom' project as a model of best practice, this project will enable the Coalfield Area Network and partners to develop and deliver relevant projects against priorities. The initial phase of this project will support two priorities in the following ways:

Promote local heritage -

- Community celebrations to promote heritage
- Heritage Roadshow – a series of events in various locations to showcase items of historic interest and share information
- History and heritage 'tour' of local sites/places of interest
- Heritage 'champions' who can act as a reference point to other residents/groups

Improve allotments and gardens -

- Allotment holders clean up days (at least one in each of the four wards)
- Community garden scheme (working with schools/community groups to establish communal gardens or allotments)
- Support to new allotment holders

The project will not be delivered by any one organisation and relies on the commitment of organisations involved in the Network to work together. In addition to the VCS organisations, who are members of the Network, other partners such as Northumbria Police, Gentoo and the City Council will support this project and be involved in its development and delivery. This approach has proved to be successful via the Coalfield in Bloom project which had over 50 organisations taking part. The Coalfield Community Co-ordinator will be key to ensuring the resources available are maximised via volunteer time and funding (actual or in kind) from all organisations. The project will work in partnership with the Heritage Task and Result Group and the allotment Task and Result Group, consulting and reporting to Area Committee where relevant.

Outputs of the Project

A3	Number of voluntary and community groups supported	40
A4	Number of programmes to improve appearance of streets	4
A6	Number of community or educational events held	5
P3	Number of people volunteering	60

Key Milestones for the Project

Heritage awareness day and celebration (Shiney Row/Copt Hill)	April 2011
Community garden party - celebrating heritage (Hetton)	April 2011
Work commences on allotment improvements (ongoing throughout project)	May 2011
Volunteers train to become heritage champions (target of 5)	June 2011
Music festival - celebrating heritage (Houghton)	June 2011

Recommendation: Approve:

The project meets the Coalfield area priorities of Heritage and Allotments/Community Gardens. The success of the 'Coalfield in Bloom' project has helped to shape a model for community engagement and local service delivery which this application is based on. The project has been developed at the request of Area Committee members to continue the valuable work of the Area Network partners and community groups. The project also links to the previously funded 'Underground' project who will lead on the development of the music festival.

Application No 2 – Responsive Youth Provision

Total cost of Project	Total SIB	Total match funding
£15,000	£10,000	£5,000 Gentoo (tbc in April 2011)
Project Duration	Start Date	End Date
6 months	April 2011	September 2011

The Project

The project will provide a 'rapid response' targeted youth provision in areas identified by the police and partners as having high levels of youth disorder. The project will be a pilot which will last 6 months. Activities will be delivered to meet need and those identified to date include mini moto sessions (6 week accredited course), mobile youth village, football sessions and street dance. The activities will be tailored to the audience and be organised and delivered by the Youth Development Group in conjunction with the existing and contracted activity provide by Sunderland North Community Business Centre (SNCBC). The activities will act as an engagement tool to provide a mechanism for youth workers to build up a relationship with young people not currently engaged in the mainstream youth activities in the area. The outcome of the project will be to reduce youth disorder and divert young people to mainstream provision, therefore the activities provided will work in close partnership with existing centre based activity, Gentoo and the police.

The project will provide a 'fund' to be accessed to address evidenced need. The evidence will be provided by the Police and partners via the Youth Disorder Task and Result group and LMAPS. The lead agent will gain the agreement of the Youth Disorder T&R group before implementing specific projects. Currently Easington Lane has the highest levels of youth disorder across the City and the Houghton Racecourse Estate and Penshaw have also be identified as high risk areas.

Partners involved in the development of this project are Sunderland City Council, Gentoo, Northumbria Police, Tyne & Wear Fire and Rescue Service, SNCBC (the contracted youth provider) and local voluntary sector organisations via the Area Network.

Outputs of the Project

S5	Number of young people benefiting from youth inclusion/diversionary projects	90
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Key Milestones for the Project

Identification of activities for each area	April 2011
First mini moto session delivered (Easington Lane)	April 2011
First certificated course complete	May 2011
Activity delivered at Houghton Racecourse Est	May 2011
Activity delivered at Penshaw	May 2011

Recommendation: Approve

The project meets the priority of Youth Disorder and will directly address evidenced need in the area. The project will be monitored and evaluated by using intelligence gathered by LMAPS members and the Youth Disorder Task and Result group.

COMMUNITY CHEST 2010/2011 COALFIELD AREA - PROJECTS PROPOSED FOR APPROVAL

Ward	Project	Amount	Allocation 2010/2011	Project Proposals	Previous Approvals	Balance Remaining
Copt Hill	Houghton Racecourse Community Access Point – Contribution towards computers, bingo night, publicity etc.,	500				
	Eppleton Durham Gala Fund – Contribution towards gala day at Durham, transport etc.,	500				
	Eppleton Primary School – Contribution towards development of community outdoor space, storytellers chair, stools etc.,	496				
	Totals		11,744	1,496	9,748	500
Houghton	ARC Self Defence – Purchase of start up kit.	450				
	Sunnyburn – Contribution towards social afternoon for the residents, disco, magic show, Easter eggs etc.,	400				
	St. Andrew's Church – Contribution towards refurbishment of communal area.	500				
	Dubmire Citizens Club – Purchase of cups, kettles, bingo books etc.,	150				
	Friends of Elba Park Group – Contribution towards setting up costs, printing, stationery, publicity etc.,	400				
	Totals		11,940	1,900	9,639	401
Shiney Row	Monument View Carpet Bowls – Purchase of shirts bearing logo.	183				
	Mount Pleasant Lake – Contribution towards replenishing fish stock.	500				
	Shiney Row Homing Society – Purchase of new racing panniers.	500				
	Sunderland Orphanage & Educational Foundation – Contribution towards clothing, shoes etc.,	80				
	St. Aidan's Allstars Parent & Toddler Group – Contribution towards educational visits, transport etc.,	500				
	Totals		11,071	1,763	9,203	105
TOTALS			34,755	5,159	28,590	1,006

