

Coalfield Area Committee

16 June 2010

Report of the Chief Executive

Coalfield: Establishing a new work plan 2010-11

1.0 Why has it come to Committee?

1.1 At its meeting in April 2010, the Committee agreed the report: 'Towards a new work plan' for the year 2010/11, which discussed and agreed the principle of six priorities, to include Responsive Local Services, to form the 2010-11 work plan.

1.2 In addition, it was agreed that Committee will receive information that will build a picture of key facts and current services relating to the priorities listed, together with options, see Annex 1, to inform the process of decision making.

1.3 The options outlined in the annex have arisen through the collection of information throughout the year via the 'Thematic Reports', 'Area Action Plan' developments, issues raised through the Leader's Ward visits, feedback from members and partners and recent policy initiatives, with each option being agreed as a viable way forward.

2. Description of Decision (Recommendations)

2.1 Area Committee is recommended to:

- Agree to focus the efforts of the Area Committee on the Local Area Plan priorities where they can make a real difference;
- Agree to a maximum of six priorities, to include Responsive Local Services, to form the 2010/11 work plan. Potential options, as per part 1.3 and contained in Annex 1 are:
 - Family, Adult and Community Learning
 - Health Inequalities
 - Responsive Local Services
 - Bulb planting and landscaping
 - Allotment Sites
 - Heritage
 - Local Shopping Centres
 - Enterprise and Entrepreneurship
 - Play Provision
 - Anti Social Behaviour
 - Drugs Education and Support
 - Unadopted Roads
 - Community Engagement
 - Child Poverty
- Identify and agree a Lead Agent for each priority action
- Agree to establish a 'Local Task and Finish' group per priority, where relevant, to include elected Members and partners, to support the Lead Agent in delivering against the priority
- Agree to receive regular updates on progress in implementing all the priorities identified in the Coalfield Local Area Plan

3. Background

3.1 The Committee will recall that the priorities contained within the Coalfield Local Area Plan (LAP) were the result of an extensive consultation process, culminating in the formal adoption of the Committee's key priorities in July 2009. The Local Area Plan is in place for two years, when it will be subject to a comprehensive review.

3.2 The adoption of the Committee's priorities was the result of a comprehensive programme of consultation and involvement, which began in November 2008 with an initial workshop with Councillors. This work shop identified Councillors' initial priorities and was followed by a joint workshop with Councillors and partners to formulate, develop and jointly agree priorities. A third workshop, led by the Leader, was then held with the local voluntary and community

organisations. This event, which was attended by over 60 local residents, discussed and agreed the local priorities.

3.3 During this period, and running alongside of the process described above, a major public consultation exercise was carried out across the city, involving 65 public meetings, including the five 'YouthInc' road shows, and a series of road shows at major shopping centres. This involved in excess of 2,000 responses and contributions, which informed the development of priorities.

3.4 Following this, the priorities were agreed at a meeting of Councillors and officers in May 2009 and ratified as the Committee's work plan at its June meeting.

4. 0 Existing operations

4.1 Throughout the previous municipal year, the Committee was presented with 'Thematic Reports' highlighting work being undertaken to address a priority area, and proposals to enhance and add value to existing work for the benefit of the area.

4.2 As reported at the last Committee meeting to consider the Annual Report, there have been a number of major achievements. However, it has become increasingly clear that changing some of the ways the Committee operates will lead to greater alignment with priorities and a clearer focus on delivery.

5.0 Delivering the Local Area Plan

5.1 To ensure the committee has a focus on delivering key LAP priorities and influencing those not directly within its remit, the actions, contained in Annex 1, are proposed as options for discussion, with a view to choosing a maximum of six to form the Committee's work plan for 2010/11. It should be stressed that the options in Annex 1 are suggestions that have arisen as a means to focus the LAP and the committee may wish to agree a number of other priorities.

5.2 It should be noted that all LAP priorities will be progressed and reported to Committee. The 'Local Task and Finish' groups will enable delivery of key priorities and will ensure the Committee is making clear and tangible improvements for the benefit of local residents.

5.3 The 'Local Task and Finish' groups should include elected Members and partners and will support the Lead Agent through a problem solving approach that will deliver against the priority. This will ensure services are reviewed, actions allocated and measurable and are monitored and fed back into the Area Committee. This process will have a link with the Area Officer, ensuring a central point for the collection of information.

6. Process

6.1 As agreed at April's meeting, governance processes will be reviewed to ensure they are 'fit for purpose' to deliver the Committee's programme and priorities. This will be the subject of a further work shop, with the outcomes being reported to a future meeting of this Committee.

7. Background papers

- Sunderland Strategy Delivery Plans
- Local Area Agreement Delivery Plans
- Coalfield Local Area Plan

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Annex 1: Background papers: prioritising your priorities (preparation for Area Committee)