

Item 2c
NORTH AREA COMMITTEE

11th July 2011

REPORT OF THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE
COMMUNITY ACTION IN NORTH AREA – PROGRESS REVIEW

Review of Greenspace Strategy

1. Why has it come to Committee?

- 1.1 The report provides information on the progress against agreed actions in the current year's (2011/12) work plan, **Annex 1**.

2. Report on the North Area Workshop:

- 2.1 Elected members, partners, residents and officers attended a workshop, held at Bunny Hill in January 2011. The purpose of the workshop was to:
- 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 the asked to individually identify issues relating to the above questions, and to independently vote on their preferences. The full results of the Workshop can be found at **Annex 2**.
- 2.3 The Workshop was one of 5 held across the city, and was open to all. These initial results have proven to be very beneficial to help frame an online survey on Greenspace value. Those who attended the Workshops agreed that the value survey should be extended for a number of months to enable a much wider range of responses to be received. Subsequently, an online survey has commenced and will run until the end of July 2011. The survey is available on the Council website at www.sunderland-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal. To date, over 300 responses have been received. 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:

Area Committee are requested to

- 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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