

**THE SUNDERLAND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND  
COMPACT**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL SERVICES**

**STRATEGIC PRIORITY: Cross-cutting theme across all priorities**

**CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES: CIO 1, CIO 3 and CIO 4**

**1. Why has this report come to the Committee?**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report and associated presentation is to seek Policy and Coordination Review Committee's agreement of the proposed Community Development Action Plan and Sunderland Compact.
- 1.2 The final Community Development Action Plan and Sunderland Compact will be adopted by the City Council subject to Members' approval, and will subsequently be considered for approval by the Sunderland Partnership.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 The Sunderland Community Development Plan was agreed by Cabinet and the Sunderland Partnership in April 2008. Since then work has progressed to develop a detailed action plan to support its implementation.
- 2.2 Community development is at the heart of the involvement, participation, and empowerment agenda, bringing the best out of our communities and getting the most out of our services. Two clear strands have emerged from the Community Development Plan, active citizenship and the role of the Voluntary and Community Sector, the latter being led by Community and Cultural Services.
- 2.3 The Sunderland Compact is a key strand of the work of the Community Development Plan. Both the Compact and the Community Development Action Plan are a result of extensive consultation.
- 2.4 The Council's response to the Compact consultation was agreed by Policy and Coordination Review Committee in November 2008. The aim of the Compact is to improve partnership working for mutual advantage and community gain.
- 2.5 The Council has a crucial role in facilitating a process whereby there is both clarity and a coordinated approach to delivery of these agendas.
- 2.6 Elected Members are at the heart of the involvement, participation, and empowerment agenda, ensuring that our services and those of our partners meet local needs.

### **3. Current position**

- 3.1 A presentation will be made to the Policy and Coordination Review Committee to present an overview of the Community Development Plan prior to consideration by Cabinet in June 2009. Officers propose to undertake workshops in May 2009 to gain more detailed views from Elected Members.
- 3.2 Subject to the views of Elected Members the final Community Development Action Plan and Sunderland Compact will be adopted by the City Council, and will subsequently be considered by the Sunderland Partnership.

### **4. Conclusion**

- 4.1 Community development is at the heart of the involvement, participation, and empowerment agenda. The Council in its community leadership has a crucial role in facilitating a process whereby there is both clarity and a coordinated approach to delivery of the community development and Compact agendas.

### **5 Recommendation**

- 5.1 Policy and Coordination Review Committee is recommended to:
  - a) Receive this report and associated presentation for information and consideration;
  - b) Support officers proceeding with Elected Member workshops.

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**Contact Officer:** Jane Hibberd, Assistant Head of Community Services  
(Community Development), Tel: 0191 561 4587  
Jane.hibberd@sunderland.gov.uk