

Area Committees Annual Report

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

AREA COMMITTEES ANNUAL REPORT 2013/14

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To present the Combined Area Committee Annual Report which summarises the work of the five Area Committees during 2013/14.

2. Background Information

- 2.1 This will be the third year that all Area Committee reports have been brought together in one combined report and presented to Full Council.
- 2.2 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:
- Monitoring the quality and effectiveness of services delivered by the Council and other main providers in the area
 - Working in partnership to develop efficient and effective solutions to city-wide issues as well as supporting local area priorities
- 2.3 2013-14 has been an incredibly busy and challenging year for us all - a year when Sunderland amongst many things, celebrated its 21st year as a city. The Annual Report for 2013/14 showcases some of the key achievements delivered this year, through the dedicated work of the five Area Committees and their supporting Place and People Boards. It also highlights how we translate the principles of a community leadership council in practice and the central role of local councillors in this with the positive impact it is having on the lives of people in our communities by creating stronger, more resilient communities.

3. Operation of the Area Committees

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

- (b) monitoring the quality and effectiveness of services delivered by the council and other main providers in the area, and
- (c) Actively encourage local residents to become involved in decision making on matters which affect them.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 During 2013/14 the Area Committees have been involved in shaping and delivering a wide range of activities against key priorities in order to meet the needs of local communities. 2014/15 will see their role strengthen further and Area Committees will continue to have direct local influence over the design, delivery and review of a number of place and people based services.
- 4.2 It is important that the Annual Report is viewed as a collaborative achievement and the Area Committees would like to thank everyone who has contributed towards the outcomes achieved through the work of the Area Committees and the supporting Place and People Boards.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 Members are asked to consider the achievements and impact of the work of the Area Committees during 2013/14 as outlined in the Annual Report.

6. Background Papers

- 6.1 All 5 Area Committee Annual Reports for 2013/14.

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