

**At a meeting of the EAST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on MONDAY, 16<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2015 at 5.30p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor Ball in the Chair

Councillors M. Dixon, Emerson, Forbes, E. Gibson, Kay, Marshall, McClennan, Mordey, Price, Scanlan and Wood

**Also Present:-**

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Hazel Clark      | - East Area VCS Representative   |
| Matthew Jackson  | - Governance Services Officer, Sunderland City Council                     |
| Jonathan Kinnair | - Assistant Media Officer, Sunderland City Council                         |
| Chris Marshall   | - Head of Operations, Gentoo   |
| Sarah Reed       | - Assistant Chief Executive & Area Lead Executive, Sunderland City Council |
| Gillian Robinson | - Area Co-ordinator, Sunderland City Council                               |
| Jamie Southwell  | - Neighbourhood Inspector, Northumbria Police                              |
| Emma Syson       | - Neighbourhood Sergeant, Northumbria Police                               |
| Nicol Trueman    | - Area Community Officer, Sunderland City Council                          |
| Mark Witherspoon | - Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service                                    |

**Chairman's Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for Absence were received on behalf of Councillors Errington, Farr and T. Martin together with Alan Duffy, Paula Hunt, David Groark, Jen McKeivitt, Jackie Nixon, Alan Pitchford and Nicky Rowland

**Declarations of Interest**

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

Councillors Mordey and Wood declared interests in the application from FUSHIA which was part of the Improving Resident's Emotional Wellbeing Call

for Projects. They both withdrew from the meeting during the consideration of the applications for this call for projects.

### **Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2014**

Councillor Mordey advised that it was not the Cabinet which was looking into the decluttering of back lanes; it was in fact something that he was looking at as part of his role as a Cabinet Member.

Councillor McClennan referred to the comments made regarding Home Housing; in her experience they were very proactive and she was concerned by the comments made by Councillor Mordey and Jen McKeivitt. Councillor Mordey stated that his opinion was that they did the bare minimum amount of work; maintenance of land rather than property was the main issue. He also stated that the comments attributed to Ms McKeivitt should in fact be recorded as having been made by him rather than Ms McKeivitt.

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2014 be confirmed and signed as a correct record subject to the inclusion of the above amendments.

### **East Sunderland Area Committee Annual Report 2014/15**

The Chair of the East Area Committee submitted a report (copy circulated) which requested the Committee's approval of the Annual Report for 2014/15 as part of the combined Area Committee Annual Report 2014/15 which would be presented to full Council.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

The Chairman introduced the report and advised of the work that had been carried out throughout the year by the Area Committee and the People and Place Boards. She also thanked everyone involved for their hard work over the year.

Councillor McClennan advised that within the report there was a reference to the 'Art Centre' this should in fact have referred to the 'Art Studio'.

2. RESOLVED that the East Area Annual Report be approved for inclusion in the combined Area Committee Annual Report 2014/15.

### **VCS Area Network Progress Report**

The East Area Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Network submitted a report (copy circulated) which updated the Committee on the work that had been done by the VCS network since the last meeting of the Area Committee.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Hazel Clark introduced the report and advised that since the last meeting of the Area Committee there had been 2 meetings of the VCS Network and they had received 3 presentations at these meetings. There had also been work done around the Fourteen Programme in conjunction with the Big Lottery to increase participation in grassroots sport; cultural activities and social action including volunteering. A Local Reference Group would be set up to guide the Fourteen Programme in Hendon and Ryhope. The details of these were set out in the report.

The Chairman thanked Ms Clark for her report and it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the VCS Network progress report be noted.

### **Northumbria Police Update**

Inspector Jamie Southwell presented the figures for the A1 area which covered the city centre and Millfield. He advised that the total number of crimes had increased by 30 which was a 1 percent increase when compared with the same period last year. This was partly due to increased reporting of domestic violence following extensive campaigning to encourage reporting. There had been 23 additional domestic violence crimes reported. The other main area which had seen an increase was violent crimes related to the city centre night-time economy; this was partly due to changes to the way crimes were recorded which now saw incidents being recorded as a crime even if the victim could not be found.

There had been reductions for other types of crime. Theft of pedal cycles had reduced by 31 percent and shoplifting had reduced by 6 percent. Vehicle crime had reduced by 8 percent. Burglaries of dwellings had reduced by 21 percent while burglaries other than dwellings had reduced by 8 percent. There had been some problems in the area; there had been an area between Chester Road and Hylton Road where there had been a number of burglaries and within the area between the Ivy House and Ashbrooke Cricket Club there had been a number of thefts from motor vehicles; there had been arrests made and custodial sentences had been given to some of the offenders.

There had been a problem with youth antisocial behaviour in the city centre; there had been large groups congregating at fast food outlets and also the cinema and bowling alley which were then creating a nuisance; most of these young people were from outside of the East Area. There had also been a large under 18s disco held which had caused problems; it had been anticipated that there would be no more than 500 attendees however over 1200 had actually attended and there had been problems with antisocial behaviour after the event. The organiser of this event had apologised to the pubwatch group and had agreed not to hold any more events of this type. Following the problems at the fast food outlets there had been an XL youth

service trailer parked outside of McDonalds on High Street West; this had led to a significant reduction in the amount of antisocial behaviour.

It was expected that Easter Sunday would be busy on the evening following the Sunderland-v-Newcastle United match at 4pm; the city centre pubs had agreed not to open until 10am to reduce the amount of time alcohol was available for prior to the match.

Resources were being moved out of Gill Bridge Police Station in anticipation for it closing; a number of these resources had moved to Southwick Police Station. The Neighbourhood team would be based within the community.

Councillor Price commented that the supermarkets would be closed on the day of the derby match due to it being Easter Sunday; he queried whether there were any other restrictions on the sale of alcohol that day. Inspector Southwell advised that the restrictions were based on the size of the store; supermarkets were large enough that they would not be allowed to open while smaller retailers would be able to open and would be able to sell alcohol as they would on any other day.

In response to queries from Councillor M. Dixon Inspector Southwell advised that social media was an issue for the under 18s discos as information about the events spread much more quickly than in the past and reached a wider audience. He was not aware of any extremist elements who would be using the upcoming election for publicity although there had been a small demonstration planned for Newcastle city centre.

Sergeant Syson then introduced the crime figures for the East Area; she advised that total crime had increased by 73 crimes. Burglary of dwellings had increased by 17 crimes; a number of these had been vacant properties which had been targeted by metal thieves a problem which had increased over the last month. Burglaries other than dwellings had reduced by 6 percent following work in the Hendon area which had previously suffered from problems.

Thefts from motor vehicles had reduced by 33 percent. Antisocial behaviour had reduced by 28 percent; there was now less than one incident per day; it was important to consider that antisocial behaviour was a seasonal problem which was expected to increase again once the light nights arrived.

Domestic Violence had increased slightly however this was due to increased reporting of offences rather than there being an increase in the number of offences occurring. It was good to see that more people were reporting domestic violence.

Shoplifting had increased by 6 percent; there had been a criminal behaviour order issued to one offender; it was the first time one of these orders had been used in the area. The order sought to restrict the offender's behaviour and made it easier for action to be taken to imprison the person should they commit any more offences.

Councillor Mordey commented that residents around Hendon Burn Avenue had noticed that there had not been their neighbourhood police officer in the area recently. Inspector Southwell advised that the regular officer for that area had been off work sick recently although he had now returned to work. There had been other officers working in the area. Sergeant Syson added that there had been an address in the area which had been the cause of problems for a number of years; following an investigation the occupants of this property had now been remanded into custody.

Councillor Mordey then referred to an article he had seen in the press which had referred to a pilot scheme being undertaken by West Midlands Police which involved a triage service being used. He queried whether anything like this had been considered by Northumbria Police. He was advised that there was already a triage team and that they worked with people with mental health issues to get them the help they needed rather than criminalising people.

Councillor Emerson advised that, disappointingly, the artwork on the footbridge at Ryhope; which had been created by pupils from the local school; had been vandalised again.

4. RESOLVED that the update from Northumbria Police be noted.

### **Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service Update**

Mark Witherspoon presented the update from Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service; he advised that there had been a reduction in the number of antisocial behaviour fires in the area compared with last year. In total there had been 42 antisocial behaviour fires in the area. 10 of these had been related to refuse while 22 had been wheelie bin fires. There had been 2 antisocial behaviour car fires which was a reduction from the 10 which occurred in the period to December. The trend was for antisocial behaviour fires to reduce in number over winter with an increase once the lighter nights arrived. There would be a campaign starting next week to work with schools to educate young people. Hendon and Millfield were still the hotspot areas for antisocial behaviour fires.

There had been 10 accidental dwelling fires during the period since December; there had been one injury as a result of these fires. There had been an increase in the number of accidental fires related to wood burning stoves which had been installed incorrectly by DIYers; within Sunderland there had only been one incident to date however regionally it was a major problem; he encouraged anyone getting a wood burner to ensure that it was professionally installed in line with the regulations.

The central fire station would now be remaining open although at this stage it was not known how many fire engines would be based at the station in the future.

The Chairman commented that it was good to hear that the fire station would be remaining open. She was looking forward to the neighbourhood police team moving into the building.

Councillor Mordey commented that the council now charged for replacement wheelie bins; he thought that this could help to reduce the number of bins that were left out. Mr Witherspoon agreed that he thought that people might take more care to take their bin back into their property if they knew that they would need to pay for a replacement should it be stolen or set alight.

Councillor Scanlan queried which areas had experienced most wheelie bin fires. Mr Witherspoon advised that Hendon and Millfield had the most and there was proactive work in these areas to encourage people to take their bins in. Stickers had been placed onto bins in these areas. It could be a problem when people put their bins out the night before collection although it was accepted that this was unavoidable due to how early the collection needed to be in some places.

5. RESOLVED that the update from Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service be noted.

## **Gentoo Update**

Chris Marshall presented the Committee with an update on the work Gentoo had been carrying out in the area. He advised that the extra care scheme in Doxford had now been constructed and residents were starting to move in; there were still some apartments available for rent or sale. He was happy to provide Members with a tour of the facility if they wished. The site hoardings had been put in place around the Phase 5 Doxford Park site in preparation for the construction of the new houses. The sale of the former Croftside House Nursing Home had now been completed and Aldi would be moving onto the site to construct their new supermarket.

The investment plan for the next three years had been developed; most of the work would be around replacing outdated heating systems and single glazed windows.

Within Hendon there would be significant expenditure on the tower blocks. The blocks would be fully modernised and the work was expected to take 3 years at a cost of £3million per year. The work would be done on 3 floors at a time with residents being moved out of the flats during the works. Within the area there would also be some roofing works carried out on properties.

There would be a new service delivery model implemented which would see staff covering a smaller area but taking on more responsibility within that area.

Councillor E. Gibson commented that it was good to hear that windows and boilers would be getting replaced; heating costs were a real concern for residents.

Councillor Price queried whether there were any plans to do works on the City Centre tower blocks; residents of these flats had real concerns over the windows. Mr Marshall stated that there were no plans at the moment however he would look into individual concerns; it was known that some windows in these blocks needed to be resealed to prevent drafts.

Councillor Mordey queried which tower block would be modernised first. He was informed by Mr Marshall that it would be D'Arcy Court. In response to further querying Mr Marshall then advised that the last time there had been upgrade works on this block had been before Sunderland Housing Group had taken over ownership of the housing stock from the council.

Mr Witherspoon queried whether sprinklers would be installed during the modernisation works. Mr Marshall stated that he did not know but would find out. Sprinklers were being installed in extra care facilities.

6. RESOLVED that the update from Gentoo be noted.

### **Place Board Progress Report**

The Chair of the Place Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with an update on the work done by the Place Board against the priorities set out in the workplan for 2014/15.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Scanlan, Chair of the Place Board, introduced the report and advised Members of the work done over the last year. The initial meeting with landlords to promote the accredited landlord programme had been successful and the next event had been arranged for 26<sup>th</sup> March at the Gateway Building. It would be held at the earlier time of 12pm-2pm following feedback from the last event.

There had been discussions with representatives from each Ward with regard to the Highways Maintenance Programme for 2015/16. A priority list had been created and this was included at Table B which was at annex 2 to the report. There was £100,000 available for this project and the Place Board had recommended that an additional £7,000 be provided from Walk and Talk budgets in order to ensure that all of the works were able to be completed.

Councillor Mordey advised that the table referred to Westminster Street however it was actually Westminster Terrace which was supposed to be included in the programme.

An audit of Metro stations in the area had been carried out as part of the proposals to create dementia friendly Metro stations; the findings of this audit were included at annex 3 to the report.

There had been £40,000 allocated to the Area Priority around encouraging use of greenspace; the full £40,000 had now been allocated to projects and the Green Adventure Programme was now closed.

There had been work done around the derelict land in Sunnyside and following initial consultation it was felt that a skate park should be installed onto the site. The Place Board had recommended that the Area Committee approve consultation with a wider group of young people; the feedback be collated and a further report be presented and £25,000 of SIB funding be aligned to the project with the intention of allocating the funds to develop a temporary skate park on the site.

Councillor McClennan queried whether businesses in the area had been consulted; some of the businesses already had concerns over people from the hostels in the area hanging around which was damaging to businesses. Ms Trueman advised that should the funding be aligned to the project then consultation with businesses would be undertaken. Ms Robinson added that Dan Hattle, Planning Implementation Manager, had asked the Area Committee to look at developing a use for the derelict land in this area.

Work was continuing on the Gateway 2 priority and now all shopping areas except for Hylton Road had been finished. The painting had begun on Hylton Road and the other works in the area would be undertaken once the painting was complete.

The work around the Coastal Path had now been completed; the information boards had been designed and they would be installed in the spring once the weather had improved; a guided celebratory walk would be held once the signs were installed.

7. RESOLVED that:-

- a. The East Sunderland Area Place Board Work Plan as set out at Annex 1 be noted
- b. It be noted that the Green Adventure and Walk & Talk Programmes were now closed
- c. The progress of the Full Marks project and the Metro audit be noted and future updates be received.
- d. The list of highways proposed by the Place Board for inclusion in the Highway Maintenance Capital programme 2015/16, as set out in Annex 2 be approved.
- e. The progress made on the derelict land at Sunnyside and the recommendation to align £25,000 of SIB funding to the project be noted.



## People Board Progress Report

The Chairman of the People Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update on the work done by the People Board against the work plan for 2014/15.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Emerson, Chair of the People Board, introduced the report and advised the Committee that the Education and Skills Strategy had now been finalised and Members of the People Boards would be invited to discuss the strategy implementation at an area level.

Work had continued on the Early Intervention and Locality Working Youth Commissioned Contracts and a lot of progress had been made towards meeting the targets; proposals had been developed and the Area Committee was asked to note these proposals.

As part of the Improving Residents Emotional Wellbeing priority there had been a tour of mental health specialist services and it had been identified that debt was a major problem for people in the area who were suffering from mental health issues. There had been a call for projects carried out; 10 projects had submitted applications which had been considered and were included in the Area Committee's Financial Report with a recommendation to approve the projects.

A call for projects had been carried out as part of the Partnership in Practice priority; there had been 7 projects and these were included in the financial report with a recommendation to approve the projects.

A number of organisations had been approached as part of the Skills and Learning priority in order to identify what was already available and to identify any gaps in service provision and barriers to people accessing training. A task group had been set up to look at this priority.

In response to a query from Councillor Mordey regarding short term debts Councillor Emerson advised that short term debts were an instantaneous crisis for people while long term debts caused longer term problems; both types of issue required a different approach. Chris Marshall added that Gentoo had an illegal moneylending team to tackle loan sharks. Hazel Clark added that there had been a major problem with loan sharks in Hendon however following work in the area more people had been directed towards credit unions.

### 8. RESOLVED that:-

- a. The East Sunderland Area People Board work plan as set out at annex 1 be noted
- b. The People Board's recommendations to approve SIB project proposals for the Improving Residents Emotional Wellbeing and Partnership in Practice priorities be noted.

## Area Budgets Report

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with the financial statement which detailed the current position on progress in relation to allocations of SIB and Community Chest funding and which sought Members approval of proposals for funding.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Nicol Trueman introduced the report and advised the Committee of the financial statements and the proposals for funding which Members were asked to consider. There had been three calls for projects for SIB funding and the projects which had applied under these calls for projects were detailed in annex 1 to the report; Members were asked to give consideration to approving the applications which had been received as part of the call for projects. Members were also asked to align £25,000 of SIB funding to the project to install a skate park on derelict land in Sunnyside in order to reduce the number of youths who congregate in the Civic Centre, Park Lane, Mowbray Park and Sunnyside area.

The Clinical Commissioning Group had committed a further £20,000 to the Area Committee to spend on health priorities during 2015/16. It was recommended that the Area Committee provide match funding of £20,000 of SIB funding. This would be subject to the funding being approved at a future meeting of the Area Committee once appropriate projects had been identified in the new municipal year.

The Big Lottery Fund had established the Fourteen Programme which would soon be launched and aimed to increase participation in social action, volunteering, grassroots sport and physical activity in Hendon and Ryhope as part of the Olympic legacy. There would be £200,000 provided by the Big Lottery Fund over 3 years. Match funding totalling £90,000 had been secured from The Community Foundation. The Area Committee were asked to approve the contribution of £50,000 of SIB funding to the programme in order to assist with securing the £290,000 of external funding into the area.

The total amount of SIB requested across all projects was £177,149 and should all of the projects be approved there would be £847 remaining of the 2014/15 SIB budget.

Members discussed the SIB proposals and concerns were raised by some Members over the allocation of £50,000 to the Fourteen Programme; Councillor McClennan stated that the shortfall in match funding was only £35,000 so why was the Committee being requested to give £50,000 to the programme.

Ms Trueman advised that the additional funding would potentially help to bring further match funding into the area. The programme had been discussed by the People Board. It was important to consider that although the programme was intended to benefit Hendon and Ryhope there would also be benefits for

other wards in the area. It was down to Members to decide whether to award funding to the project and whether the amount should be £35,000 or £50,000.

Councillor E. Gibson proposed that £50,000 be awarded to the project. Members further discussed the Fourteen Programme proposal and the motion from Councillor E. Gibson to allocate £50,000 and it was agreed that £50,000 be awarded to this project.

Ms Trueman then introduced the Community Chest approvals which Members were asked to note. There had been 13 applications which had been approved.

Councillor Wood commented that Community Chest should be used to benefit the individual ward which provided the funding; while most applications came from groups which operated in the ward there were some applications which came from groups which met within the ward but which had citywide benefits. Previously there had been a pot of funds available for city wide applications. The projects and the organisations involved were worth supporting; he queried whether there was any way to address this issue.

Ms Trueman advised that Community Chest was ward based and that should citywide applications be received then work would be done with the applicant group to identify a more suitable funding stream.

Councillor Forbes stated that often one ward was left to cover the costs of citywide events due to the lack of a city wide funding stream.

The Chairman commented that city wide applications were more of an issue for the East Area than for other Areas in the city due to the city centre being located within the Area. A funding stream for city wide applications would be useful.

Ms Trueman advised that SIB and Community Chest were intended to benefit the Area; there used to be a lot of large national organisations apply for funding which left local groups feeling like they could not compete for the funding. There were citywide organisations applying for funding at this meeting however the work that would be undertaken would mainly benefit the Area rather than the wider city.

It was then:-

9. RESOLVED that:-

- a. The financial statements as set out in sections 2.1 and 3.2 be noted
- b. £10,667 of SIB be approved to deliver a range of services and support to adults with mild to moderate signs of dementia and their carers as part of the Partnership in Practice priority.
- c. £16,471 of SIB be approved to deliver campaigns and events between April and May in the lead up to Mental Health

Awareness Week which was 11<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> May 2015, as part of the Improving Residents Emotional Wellbeing priority.

- d. £55,011 of SIB be approved to deliver a series of community clean up and community grow projects across the East Area as part of the clean and Grow priority.
- e. £20,000 of SIB to match the £20,000 provided by the Clinical Commissioning Group be approved to deliver health priorities in 2015/16 against the work plan for 2015/16.
- f. £50,000 of SIB to provide match funding to the £290,000 of external funding from the Big Lottery and the Community Foundation be approved to deliver the Fourteen Programme in Hendon and Ryhope wards.
- g. £25,000 be aligned to the proposal to establish a steering group involving young people to investigate the feasibility of developing a temporary skate park provision in the city centre.
- h. The 13 approved Community Chest applications be noted.

### **Planning Applications – For Information Only**

Current Planning Applications relating to the East Sunderland Area for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January to 15<sup>th</sup> February 2015 were submitted for Members information only (copy circulated).

(For copy report – see original minutes)

10. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the Meeting.

(Signed) E. BALL,  
Chairman.