

At a meeting of the SOUTH SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE on MONDAY, 8th September, 2008 at 5.00 P.M.

Present:-

Councillor Tye in the Chair

Councillors Errington, M. Dixon, E. Gibson, P. Gibson, Oliver, P. Smith, Vardy and A. Wright

Apologies for Absence

All Members being present there were no apologies for absence.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 2nd June, 2008

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 2nd June, 2008 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest

Item 6 – Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) : Regeneration Issues Report

Councillors Errington, Tye and P.Smith declared a personal interest the report as members of various Management Committees which may benefit from the promoting youth initiatives project.

Councillor Errington declared a personal interest in the report (Dance Mobility for Children with Disabilities) as a Governor of Portland School.

Item 8 – Strategic initiatives Budget 2008/2009 Ward Based Community Chest

Councillor Tye declared a personal and prejudicial interest in relation to the application for the Youth Almighty Project as the Chairman of the Management Committee and agreed to withdraw from the meeting if any questions were raised in respect of the application.

Councillor E. Gibson declared a personal and in relation to the application for the Benedict Biscop School as a Governor of the School and agreed to

withdraw from the meeting if any questions were raised in respect of the application.

Item 10 – Integrated Youth Strategy 2008-2011 : Consultation Document

Councillor P. Smith declared a personal interest in the item as Chairman of the Children's Trust

Item 11 – Proposed Programme for Heritage Open Days 2008

Councillor Errington declared a personal interest in the item as a family member had a listed building included in the programme.

Crime Rates relating to the South Sunderland Area – Presentation from Northumbria Police

The Chairman had been advised that there were no Police representatives in attendance to present the report. He requested that it be placed on record that this was totally unacceptable and Members agreed that a letter be sent to the Chief Superintendent to express their concerns.

Minutes of the Meetings of the Local Multi Agency Problem Solving Group

2. RESOLVED that the contents of LMAPS minutes be received and noted.

Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB): Regeneration Issues Report

The Chief Executive (Acting) submitted a report (copy circulated) on the proposed allocation of SIB funding to support the following initiatives of benefit to the area:-

- (i) Dance Mobility for Children with Disabilities Project;
- (ii) Seated Exercise and Mature Moves Project;
- (iii) Silksworth Park Bowling Club's Automated Irrigation Scheme;
- (iv) Job Start Mentoring Project;
- (v) Plains Farm and Humbledon Service Development Project; and
- (vi) Promoting Youth Initiatives Project.

Mr. Richard Parry, Area Regeneration Officer presented the report and advised that the applications for funding before the Committee were

requesting £38,660 from the 2008/9 budget and £20,000 from the 2009/10 budget subject to approval. Should the Committee agree the requests £75,368 would be committed from the 2008/09 budget leaving a balance of £124,632 and £20,000 from the 2009/10 budget, subject to budget approval.

Mr. Parry provide Members with a summary of the applications and introduced Deloris Martin in relation to the Dance Mobility for Children with Disabilities Project, Lynn Summerside for the Seated Exercise and Mature Moves Project, Bob Rollason for Silksworth Bowling Club, Jemma Cole for South Job Start Mentoring Service, Julie Stamp for Plains Farm and Humbledon Community Initiative and Karen Parkinson for promoting Youth Initiatives in the South who addressed comments and questions from Members.

Consideration having been given to the items, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that approval be given to the allocation of Strategic Initiatives Budget Funding of:-

- (i) £1,562 from the 2008/09 budget as a contribution to 'Dance Mobility for Children with Disabilities' project, be approved;
- (ii) £2,500 from the 2008/09 budget as a contribution to the 'Seated Exercise and Mature Moves' project, be approved;
- (iii) £7,000 from the 2008/09 budget as a contribution to the Silksworth Park Bowling Club's 'Automated Irrigation Scheme' project be approved;
- (iv) £10,000 from the 2008/09 and £20,000 from the 2009/10 budget be approved, subject to budget approval, as a contribution to the 'Job Start Mentoring' project;
- (v) £7,600 from the 2008/09 budget as a contribution to the 'Plains Farm and Humbledon Service Development' project, be approved;
- (vi) £9,998 from the 2008/09 budget as a contribution to the 'Promoting Youth Initiatives' project, be approved.

Regeneration Issues Report: Feedback on Projects Previously Funded Through Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB)

The Acting Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide information to the Area Committee on expenditure from the Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) on projects it had previously funded.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

There being no one present to present the report, it was:-

4. RESOLVED that the feedback report be deferred to the next Committee meeting.

Strategic Initiatives Budget: 2008/2009 Ward Based Community Chest

The Chief Executive (Acting) submitted a report (copy circulated) on 16 projects recommended for support from the 2008/2009 Community Chest Scheme in respect of the Doxford, Silksworth and St. Chad's Wards.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chairman advised that St. Chad's Ward Members had requested an amendment to the contribution towards St. David's Community Church from £500 to £1000.

5. RESOLVED that

- (i) approval be given to the 16 projects recommended for support from the 2008/09 budget with a total of £10,584 detailed in Annex 1 to the report; and
- (ii) an additional £500 Community Chest funding from the St. Chad's Ward as a contribution to the St. David's Community Church be approved.

Housing and Council Tax Benefit Progress Report

The City Treasurer submitted a report (copy circulated) informing Members of the performance of the Benefits' Section in the processing of new claims for the period 1st April, 2008 to 31st July, 2008.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Mr. Steve Atkinson, Benefits' Manager presented the report stating that now the problems with processing claims had been resolved, the speed of processing had increased considerably to approximately 16.35 days, which was almost twice as quick as the same period the previous year.

Councillor P. Gibson commended the report and commented that the introduction of Local Housing Allowance had brought about significant changes to the housing benefits system. One major improvement was that payments were now made to the tenant, who will then pay the landlord, thus preventing absent landlords.

Councillor M. Dixon queried whether there was an increase in arrears due to payments being made direct to tenants. Mr. Atkinson advised that the department had received approximately 200 requests from private landlords to have cheques paid to themselves. The Local Authorities will have the

discretion to make a decision regarding whether such requests are valid or not. It may only be possible to gauge the extent of arrears in a year's time when the new scheme was up and running.

Integrated Youth Strategy 2008-2011 : Consultation Document

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which informed Members of the draft Sunderland Integrated Youth Strategy 2008-2011 and the associated consultation process.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Mr. Mick McCracken, Head of Safeguarding and Michael Elsy, Acting Youth Development Group Manager, gave the Committee a presentation on the draft of the Integrated Youth Strategy 2008-2011 and welcomed views from Members.

The Chairman thanked the Officers for their presentation, and it was:-

6. RESOLVED that the presentation and report on the draft of the Integrated Youth Strategy be received and noted and the Committee receive further reports as requested.

Proposed Programme for Heritage Open Days 2008

The Director of Community and Cultural Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which updated Members on Heritage Open Days 2008.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Anne Hall, Service Support Officer, Culture and Tourism presented the report.

Councillor Oliver queried whether an audit was carried out on an annual basis of how many people had visited individual heritage sites so that allowances could be made for more people to attend a popular site.

Ms. Hall advised that the audits were dependent upon volunteers who manage the site.

Councillor Errington advised that the Culture and Leisure Review Committee received statistics relating to attendance.

Councillor Dixon queried whether Culture and Tourism were satisfied that 20,000 copies of the booklet received a wide enough circulation.

Ms. Hall advised that when outreach work was carried out, booklets were distributed. The mailing list was extensive and many sites also promoted their own programme.

7. RESOLVED that the contents of the report be received and noted.

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

(Signed) P.M. TYE,
Chairman.