

At a meeting of the EAST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on MONDAY, 30th MARCH, 2009 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Wares in the Chair

Councillors Ball, P. Dixon, M. Forbes, Paul Maddison, Peter Maddison, T. Martin and Wood.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mordey, O'Connor and M. Smith.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 2nd February, 2009

In response to a query from Councillor Wood, Sergeant Goldsmith advised that on 1st April there would be new Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) starting in Hendon and Ryhope. Millfield would be receiving new Police Officers in addition to new Community Support Officers.

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Presentation from Northumbria Police on Crime Rates Relating to the East Sunderland Area and Minutes of the Local Multi-Agency Problem Solving Groups (LMAPS)

Sergeant Keith Goldsmith presented the figures for Hendon and Ryhope.

All crime in the area had reduced by 0.5 percent, a reduction of 10 crimes. The detection rate was 31.3 percent. For Hendon all crime had increased by 4 percent, 58 more crimes. In Ryhope there had been a reduction of 14 percent, 68 fewer crimes.

Criminal damage had reduced by 5 percent overall, a reduction of 33 crimes. For Hendon the decrease had been 3 percent, 11 fewer crimes. Ryhope had seen a 12 percent decrease, a reduction of 22 crimes.

Violent Crime had remained the same as last year overall. In Hendon there was a 3 percent increase, 7 more crimes. In Ryhope there were 7 fewer crimes, a reduction of 6 percent.

There had been 16 fewer Vehicle Crimes, a reduction of 8 percent across the area. For Hendon there had been 15 fewer crimes, a reduction of 10 percent. For Ryhope the reduction had been 2 percent, 1 less crime.

Burglaries from dwellings had increased by 44 percent, 27 crimes in Hendon. In Ryhope there had been 1 additional crime, a 4 percent increase. Overall there had been a 14.2 percent increase, 28 crimes.

For Burglaries on properties other than dwellings there had been an 8 percent increase, 10 more crimes. For Hendon there had been an increase of 27 percent, 29 more crimes. In Ryhope there had been 19 fewer crimes, a reduction of 53 percent.

Robbery had increased by 66 percent in Ryhope however this was only 2 additional crimes. In Hendon there had been a decrease of 1 crime, 8 percent. Overall there had been an increase of 1 crime which was a 7.7 percent increase.

Councillor T. Martin commented on the Selective Licensing of Landlords in Hendon. The study was ongoing and the consultancy company involved were meeting with residents groups and landlords. Leaflets had been sent to tenants and landlords.

Sergeant Simon Wotton presented the figures for Millfield and St. Michael's.

All crime had reduced by 1.7 percent, a reduction of 92 crimes. The detection rate was 46.8 percent. In the City Centre the reduction had been 1 percent, 28 fewer crimes. Millfield had seen a 1 percent reduction, 13 fewer crimes. There had been a 5 percent decrease in St. Michael's, 51 fewer crimes.

Violent Crime had reduced by 1 crime across the area. In Millfield there had been 8 additional crimes and in St. Michael's 1 additional crime, this was an increase of 3 percent in both areas. The City Centre had seen a 3.7 percent reduction, 10 fewer crimes.

Vehicle Crime had increased by less than 1 percent overall, 5 more crimes, with the City Centre and St. Michael's seeing increases of 25 and 26 percent, 40 and 50 additional crimes. In Millfield there had been a reduction of 34 percent which was 91 fewer crimes.

Burglaries from dwellings had decreased by 26 percent, 50 fewer crimes. In the City Centre there had been a 26 percent decrease, 6 fewer crimes. Millfield had seen a 15 percent increase, 11 additional crimes. In St. Michael's there had been a reduction of 55 crimes, 55 percent.

There had been a 28 percent increase in Burglaries to properties other than dwellings, 62 more crimes. The City Centre and Millfield had seen increases of 52 percent and 30 percent respectively; this was an additional 54 and 19 crimes respectively. St. Michael's had seen a reduction of 20 percent, 11 fewer crimes.

Robberies had decreased by 5 percent overall, 3 fewer crimes. In Millfield there had been a 6 percent reduction while in St Michaels there had been a 14 percent increase. This was 1 less crime in Millfield and 4 more crimes in St Michael's. There had been a reduction of 6 crimes in the City Centre, an 18 percent decrease.

Criminal Damage had reduced by 10 percent, 98 crimes. The City Centre had seen a reduction of 28 percent, 126 fewer crimes. In St. Michael's the reduction was 13 percent, 36 fewer crimes. There had been an increase of 64 crimes, 21 percent in Millfield.

Councillor Paul Maddison asked whether there had been a reduction in alcohol fuelled crime as a result of Pubs closing down.

Sergeant Wotton advised that it was too soon to say and that violent crime in the City Centre had reduced however it was difficult to link these crimes specifically to alcohol.

Councillor Wood commented on the Police Pledge document he had received. He found this interesting and was pleased to see the Police increasing their commitment to the community.

Sgt Goldsmith advised that road shows were planned and that Officers would be chairing meetings in the community across the sectors in the next month.

Councillor T. Martin stated that there were regular Police engagement meetings in Hendon and these were well attended. The Community Support Officers also held meetings however these were not well publicised.

Sgt Goldsmith advised that the meetings with the Community Support Officers were part of the Neighbourhood Watch scheme and they were advertised on the internet.

2. RESOLVED that the crime figures and LMAPS reports be received and noted.

Strategic Initiatives Budget: 2008/2009 Ward Based Community Chest

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) on 11 projects recommended for support from the 2008/09 Community Chest Scheme in respect of the Hendon, Millfield, Ryhope and St. Michael's Wards.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

3. RESOLVED that approval be given to the 11 projects recommended for support from the 2008/09 Community Chest Budget with a total value of £7,400 as detailed in Annex 1 of the report.

Change in the order of business

It was agreed that Item 6 – Community Leadership Programme: Review of Area Arrangements –Current Position and Next Steps; Item 7 – Area Committee Governance and Business Processes; and Item 8 – Local Area Plans – Analysis of Priorities would be heard as one item.

Community Leadership Programme: Review of Area Arrangements – Current Position and Next Steps Area Committee Governance and Business Procedures Local Area Plans – Analysis of Priorities

The Chief Executive submitted a report and PowerPoint Presentations (copies circulated) relating to the Local Area Arrangements and Community Leadership Programme and provided members with an analysis of the Draft Priorities for the East Sunderland Area.

(For copy reports – see original minutes)

Phil Spooner, Community Leadership Programme Manager, delivered the presentation relating to the Community Leadership Programme: Review of Area Arrangements – Current Position and Next Steps.

He advised that the information was being provided to all of the Area Committees and that it was intended to provide an outline on the development of the Community Leadership Programme.

The Area Committees would have an increasingly strong influence and the Members knowledge of the local area would be used to give flexibility to the delivery of front line services.

The Officer support would also be restructured to increase focus on front line services. Attempts would be made to resolve problems at a local level, any issues which were escalated to Scrutiny would be escalated only if absolutely necessary.

Dave Leonard, Area Co-ordination and Health Lead, delivered the presentation relating to the Review of Area Arrangements Update.

The review was intended to introduce robust governance arrangements and business procedures for the delivery of responsive local services.

There had been changes to the Area Committee boundaries and there would be five Areas rather than the existing six.

The Committee meetings would be split into two parts, the public meeting where the main discussion items would be discussed and the closed session where the budget allocations would take place.

The Members expressed concerns over the budget allocation taking place in private; they felt that the decision should be made in public to ensure that people could see that the decisions were being made fairly. There would be a negative public perception if decisions were made behind closed doors.

Mr Leonard advised that the arrangements had not yet been finalised and that this could be changed.

Councillor T. Martin commented on the proposals for Public Participation. He asked whether groups set up by members of the public to deal with issues would be given the opportunity to raise issues at the Meetings. He also expressed concerns over the time it could take for issues to be heard. Mr Leonard advised that the plan was that information would be submitted to the Committee in advance of the meeting and included on the agenda. The issues would be heard as soon as possible and the time taken would depend on the scale of the problem. The Committee would receive updates throughout the process.

Councillor T. Martin then commented that the Ward Surgeries were every month and that these provided the public with an opportunity to raise issues. For the Area Committees to be effective the process of raising issues needed to be easy and relatively quick.

Mr Spooner advised that in the future it was possible that the Committees would be held every month; he agreed that the raising of issues needed to be quick. The systems for raising issues still needed to be finalised.

Councillor Wood commented on the non voting membership of the committees. He asked whether the number of members had been fixed and how the members would be selected.

Mr Leonard advised that the non voting members were there to represent the local service providers; they would provide information on how the partners were operating. The numbers had not yet been fixed however there needed to be a balance between providing suitable representation and overloading the committee.

Councillor M. Forbes advised that she hoped that the Committees would not become 'talking shops' with no progress being made, as this was a problem with expanding committee membership. She had concerns over the cost of the new structure and the new Jobs and stated that she needed to be convinced of how much value for money the proposals were going to be, as the money could have been spent on services. She also commented that many issues covered more than one area and asked how these would be dealt with.

Mr Spooner advised that the only costs of the project were the new posts which had been created; the other changes were being made without increasing the existing budget. There were already systems in place for dealing with Citywide issues, these new arrangements were designed to tackle local problems; Committees would be able to focus on issues and put pressure onto the relevant Directorates to resolve issues. The plans would make problem solving exercises more structured however there was no guarantee that all issues would be resolved to everyone's satisfaction.

Nicol Trueman, Area Regeneration Officer, presented the Local Area Plan – Analysis of Priorities. There were 34 priorities in total and these had been developed by consulting with residents of the area. 546 people had responded in the East Area, the highest in all of the areas. MORI Surveys and Community Spirit exercises were also used to develop the priorities.

The Priorities were able to be categorised into Direct or Indirect priorities. Direct priorities made up 3 percent of all the priorities; they were priorities where immediate action could be taken using SIB or SIP funding. Indirect priorities made up the remaining 97 percent and were ongoing priorities which were currently being delivered.

The list of recommendations could be changed and it was planned that Members would meet with partners in order to decide which priorities would be focused on.

This would be an ongoing process with the priorities being updated regularly.

In response to a question from Councillor Wood regarding bus services, Ms. Trueman advised that this needed to be examined further. The MORI surveys had shown satisfaction to be at its highest since 1998. There was a potential for linking the bus services into the Tyne and Wear Bus Strategy.

Regarding Bus Services, Councillor T. Martin advised that local knowledge was important as it was easy to isolate communities by changing bus services, local residents and Members would be able to identify the areas where there would be problems caused by the removal of services.

Councillor T. Martin commented on the Importance of Services listing, annex 3, he was pleased to see that Facilities for young people had ranked so highly. In his opinion it would have been ranked even higher as he felt that services for young people were highly important.

The Chairman thanked the officers for their presentations.

4. RESOLVED that the presentations and report be received and noted and the comments made be considered when developing the final recommendations.

The Chairman thanked Members and Officers for their attendance and closed the meeting.

(Signed) D.R. WARES,
Chairman.