

At a meeting of the WEST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, on WEDNESDAY 6 DECEMBER 2023 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Laverick in the Chair

Councillors, Ayre, Burnicle, Crosby, Dunn, Edgeworth, Haque, Haswell, Hunter, McDonough, Mullen, Nicholson, G. Smith, P. Smith.

Also Present:-

Jeanette Chapman	Area Network Representative
Sophie Clinton	Area Network Representative
Vicky Gamblin	Head of Operations, Gentoo
Patrick Houghton	Governance Law Specialist, Sunderland City Council
David Noon	Principal Democratic Services Officer, Sunderland City Council
Liz St Louis	Director of Smart Cities and Enabling Services
Gilly Stanley	Partnership & and Community Resilience Manager, Sunderland City Council
Scott Wilson	Station Manager, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors O'Brien, Tye and Watson.

Declarations of Interest

Item 4 West Area Budget Report.

Councillor Laverick made a declaration in respect in of the application regarding the West Area Event (Recommendation 4.6), as Youth Almighty Project Manager. Councillor Laverick left the meeting at the appropriate point on the agenda taking no part in any discussion or decision thereon.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 20th September 2023 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Report of Northumbria Police

A report of Northumbria Police was submitted (copy circulated) which updated members on key performance information in relation to the Sunderland West area.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

The Committee was informed that Inspector Passey had been unable to attend the meeting. The report was therefore submitted for information only and Members having any questions were advised to email Ms Gilly Stanley, Partnership & and Community Resilience Manager who would contact Northumbria Police for a response.

Councillor P. Smith suggested that if the presenting Officer was unable to attend then Northumbria Police should arrange to send a substitute. Councillor McDonough echoed Councillor Smith's comment and also expressed concern at the lack of detail in the report.

2. RESOLVED the report be received and noted.

Report of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service

Station Manager Scott Wilson, presented a report of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service (TWFRS), (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with an update on the Service's performance indicators for the period 22nd August to 19th November 2023

(For copy report – see original minutes)

The Chair thanked Mr Wilson for his report and invited questions and comments from Members.

Councillor Hunter referred to the increased incidents of fires at St George's playing fields and suggested that the Anti-Social Behaviour Team could liaise with the Police and Fire Service to view CCCTV footage of the area to assist in any investigations.

Councillor P. Smith referred to paragraph 3.4 of the report, expressing concern at the rise in secondary fires in Silksworth, and asked if this related to a particular hot spot. Mr Wilson replied that the reporting period coincided with the protracted ASB issues that occurred at the former Farringdon Police Station site.

In response an enquiry from Councillor McDonough regarding the need to educate adults as well as young people regarding the dangers of lighting fires on bonfire night, Mr Wilson advised that a huge amount of work went into planning around the Darker Nights Campaign which commenced in August each year. He would be happy to circulate the Plan, so the Committee was able to appreciate the effort that went into the campaign.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Crosby regarding the high incidence of loose refuse fires, Mr Wilson advised that loose refuse was classified as anything from one bag of side waste to a sofa. The Fire Service carried out regular ASB patrols and would report any accumulations of loose refuse if it constituted a fire hazard.

There being no further questions or comments for Mr Wilson, it was:-

3. RESOLVED the report be received and noted

Report of Gentoo

Vicky Gamblin, Head of Operations, Gentoo Group presented a report, (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with an update on current Gentoo developments, projects and priorities for the period September to December 2023 together with a schedule of the planned investment and renewal programme for 2023/24

(For copy report – see original minutes)

The Chairman thanked Ms Gamblin for her report and invited questions and comments from the Committee.

Councillor P. Smith referred to people parking on the grass verges in certain streets in Silksworth and churning up the grass as a result. The issue was being exacerbated by the onset of the wet winter weather. Ms Gamblin advised that she was not aware of the problem but confirmed that she would investigate.

Councillor Edgeworth referred to issues being caused by pigeons roosting under the solar panels of a particular building and asked if there was a budget available to install netting to prevent the pigeons gaining access. Ms Gamblin confirmed that she would try to find a solution to the problem.

Councillor Mullen stated that he had been openly critical of Home Housing in the past but commended the new fencing scheme they had recently delivered. This in turn emphasised the poor condition of some of the fencing Gentoo were responsible for. With regard to the programme of estates walks, Councillor Mullen advised that Barnes Ward contained very few Gentoo properties and therefore suggested that the schedule of walks could be rationalised as he did not wish to take up the time of Gentoo Officers unnecessarily.

In response to a further enquiry from Councillor Mullen, Ms Stanley advised that she would investigate and report back on who was responsible within the Council for the naming of un-named streets.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor McDonough, Ms Gamblin advised that she would check to see if there were any further major works to be undertaken at Lakeside Towers involving largescale scaffolding that would impact on parking around the area.

There being no further questions or comments, the Chairman thanked Ms Gamblin for her attendance and it was:-

4. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Report of the West Area Voluntary and Community Sector Network

The Network submitted a progress report (copy circulated) which briefed members on issues pertinent to the Committee and the Voluntary and Community Sector.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Consideration was given to the report presented by Sophie Clinton which highlighted the following VCS Network activity undertaken since its last report to the Committee:-

During this reporting period, the Network had met in person twice with meetings held in September and November 2023. The September meeting had considered agenda items on, ICOS, West VCS Rep Nominations, the Area Plan 2023-2026 and Network and Information Share Opportunities

The November meeting included agenda items on 'Mackem Money', Go Online Sunderland, 'Kooth', Household Support Fund and Network and Information Share Opportunities

With regard to the 2 previously vacant roles of West VCS Network Representatives, these had been filled by Sophie Clinton and Jeanette Chapman. However, since the publication of the report, Kelly Brougham had stepped down from the network and a search for her replacement would be undertaken in the New Year.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Hunter, Ms Stanley advised that Kooth was a service commissioned through TfC comprising an online Counselling Service for young people. She had recently received a presentation detailing the Service which she would share with Members.

There being no further questions, the Chair thanked Ms Clinton for her report and it was:-

5. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

West Area Committee Delivery Plan 2023-2026

Councillor Haswell, Chair of the West Area Neighbourhood and Community Board presented a report (copy circulated) which provided an update of progress against the Area Committee's Area Plan priorities for 2023-2024.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Crosby referred to the 'Development of Social Prescribing Physical Hubs' (page 37 of the agenda papers) noting that nothing was scheduled for the West Area. Ms Stanley advised that she would invite the Team who were progressing the development of the model to the next Area Board meeting.

Councillor Edgeworth referred to page 23 of the papers regarding the availability of grant funding for local community defibrillators and asked if Members could feed into the process. Ms Stanley advised that it was a national scheme operated by the Department of Health and Social Care and that she would contact Jane Hibbert regarding the process.

The Chairman having thanked Councillor Haswell for his report, it was:-

6. RESOLVED that:-

- i) the progress and performance update with regard to the West Area Committee Area Plan 2023- 2026 be received and noted, and
- ii) the progress update with regard to Sunderland City Council Service Plans - Area Priorities, be received and noted

West Area Budget Report

The Assistant Director of Housing and Communities submitted a report (copy circulated) in respect of the above matter.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Gilly Stanley, Partnership & and Community Resilience Manager, presented the report highlighting the Committee’s financial statement, together with details of projects approved under delegated powers for support from the 2023/24 Community Chest budget.

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

7. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the Area Committee’s funding statement as detailed in Tables 1 and 2 of the report be received and noted,
- (ii) the alignment of Neighbourhood Funding of £20,000 for West Grow your own/In Bloom be approved,
- (iii) Neighbourhood Funding of £88,338 be granted to Sunderland City Council in respect of Enforcement/ASB as set out in Annex 1 of the report,
- (iv) Neighbourhood Funding of £20,000 be granted to Sunderland City Council to develop the Safer Spaces project as set out in Annex 1 of the report,
- (v) Neighbourhood Funding of £181,860 be granted to Sunderland All Together Consortium in respect of West Youth Activities as set out in Annex 1 of the report,
- (vi) Neighbourhood Funding of £40,000 be granted to the Youth Almighty Project in respect of the West Area Event as set out in Annex 1 of the report,
- (vii) the approval of the Community Chest applications from the 2023/24 budget as detailed in Annex 2 of the report be noted.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting having thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions.

(Signed) J. LAVERICK,
Chairman.