

**At a meeting of the WEST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held at ST. DAVID'S COMMUNITY PROJECT, ANTHONY ROAD, FARRINGDON, SUNDERLAND on WEDNESDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2015 at 5.30 p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor P. Gibson in the Chair

Councillors, Allan, Atkinson, Dixon, Essl, Galbraith, P. Smith, Tye, Waller, P. Watson, S. Watson and A. Wilson.

**Also Present:-**

Phil Barker	Sergeant	Northumbria Police
Steve Burdis	Station Manager	Tyne & Wear Fire & Rescue Service
Bill Blackett	West Area Response Manager	Sunderland City Council
Graham Carr	Highway Asset Manager	Sunderland City Council
Simone Common	West Locality Manager	Sunderland City Council
Janet Johnson	Area Lead Executive	Sunderland City Council
Lisa Laverick	Inspector	Northumbria Police
Bill Leach	Partnership Co-ordinator	Pennywell Com. Centre
Chris Marshall	Head of Operations	Gentoo
Sandra Mitchell	Head of Community and Family Wellbeing	Sunderland City Council
David Noon	Principal Governance Services Officer	Sunderland City Council
Julie Parker Walton	Public Health Lead	Sunderland City Council
Helen Peverley	Area Co-ordinator	Sunderland City Council
Linda Reiling	Locality Commissioning Manager	Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group
Edna Rochester	Treasurer, Secretary	Tansy Centre and Pennywell Com. Centre
Gilly Stanley	Acting Area Community Officer	Sunderland City Council

**Chairman's Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting especially those attending their first meeting of the West Sunderland Area Committee. The Chairman then invited those present to introduce themselves.

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Gallagher, Gofton, Porthouse and T. Wright.

## **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made.

## **Minutes of the Last Meeting**

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last ordinary meeting of the Committee held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2014 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

## **West Area Committee Annual Report 2014 – 2015**

The Chairman submitted a report (copy circulated) which sought approval for the inclusion of the West Sunderland Area Committee's Annual Report 2014 – 2015 in the combined Area Committees report to be presented to full Council.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Peter Gibson presented the Annual Report and highlighted the key achievements delivered with regard to the Committee's agreed local priorities of Improving Health and Wellbeing, Enhancing Skills and Creating Job Prospects and Maximising Green Spaces. He advised that the results should be seen as a collaborative effort and paid tribute to everyone who had contributed to the work of the Committee and its Place and People Boards over the course of the year including Members, Officers, Partners, the Voluntary and Community Sector and the residents of the West Sunderland area.

There being no questions or comments on the report, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the West Sunderland Area Committee's Annual Report 2014 – 2015 be approved for inclusion in the combined Area Committees Annual Report to Council.

## **Place Board Progress Report.**

The Chairman of the West Sunderland Area Place Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update on progress against the current year's Place Board Work Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Tye, presented the report drawing Members' attention to the initiation of action towards achieving key priorities as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report together with a summary of key areas of influence and achievements of the Place Board in relation to Responsive Local Services, Public Protection and Regulatory Services, Highways Capital Maintenance, Shopping Centres and Environment and Street Scene Improvements as at 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2015.

In addition Members were asked to consider the recommendations of the Place Board regarding the Highways Capital Maintenance Programmes for 2015/16 in the West Sunderland Area as detailed in Annex 1 of the report. Members were also advised that the joint recommendation of the Place and People Boards to extend the Walk and Talk Programme would be considered later on the agenda as part of the finance report at Item 6.

There being no questions or comments on the report it was:-

2. RESOLVED that:-

- i) the report be received and be noted and;
- ii) approval be given to proposals regarding the Highways Capital Maintenance Programme for 2015/16 as detailed in Annex 1 of the report.

### **People Board Progress Report.**

The Chairman of the West Sunderland Area People Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update on progress against the current year's People Board Work Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Atkinson presented the report drawing Members' attention to the initiation of action towards achieving the key priorities as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report, together with a summary of key areas of influence and achievements of the People Board in relation to Youth Contracts, Health and Wellbeing, Education and Skills Strategy and Job Prospects as at 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2015.

There being no questions or comments on the report, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

### **Report of the West Area Voluntary and Community Sector Network (AVCSN)**

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

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Gilly Stanley, Acting Area Community Officer presented the report highlighting the following feedback and input arising from the two VCS meetings held since the Area Committee last met in December, 2014:-

- i) the visit from the Council's Public Health Practitioner to discuss emotional health and well-being and the Community Mental Health Profile 2014,
- ii) an update on health and social care and opportunities to improve pathways was provided by the Council's People Directorate together with a

- presentation from the Essence Service on their work to improve the quality of life of people diagnosed with dementia,
- iii) a visit from Sunderland Carers Centre to provide an overview of their work
  - iv) the involvement of the Network in the West Sunderland Area Event,
  - v) consideration of the selection process to fill a vacancy for a West Area Committee VCS representative,
  - vi) the support from the Network in delivering the Committee's priorities in relation to Job prospects, Activities for Older and Younger Persons, Street Scene and Environmental Improvements together with Health and Wellbeing,
  - vii) in addition the Network received information on and considered how it could support initiatives in relation to:
    - Healthwatch Sunderland News Bulletin
    - Changes arising from the Care Act 2015
    - Consultation on the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment
    - Jobs / funding updates and opportunities
    - NEPO opportunities

Bill Leach confirmed that the Network would continue to support the Area Committee and its priorities in as many different ways as possible. He was particularly encouraged by the large attendances that were now being generated by the meetings of the network. The Chairman thanked Ms Stanley and Mr Leach for their report, and it was:-

4. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

### **Report of the Northumbria Police – Sunderland West**

Inspector Lisa Laverick of Northumbria Police presented a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with an update on the Force's most recent performance indicators showing actual crimes for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2014 to 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2015 and the percentage increase / decrease against the same period last year.

Particular reference was paid to crime levels in relation to violent crime, vehicle crime, burglary from dwelling, burglary other than dwelling, criminal damage, theft and handling, shoplifting, youth ASB and Non Youth ASB. In addition members were informed of the particular crime patterns in respect of the Barnes, Pallion, St. Anne's, Sandhill, Silksworth and St Chad's wards for the period 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2014 to 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2015.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Allan referred to the general increase across the board in relation to the crime statistics and asked if an analysis had been undertaken as to the reason why. Inspector Laverick advised that the increase was not just an issue in the West Area but was also occurring across the city, the region and nationwide. There had been significant recent changes to the way in which national crimes figures were recorded. For instance a person only had to report that they had been a victim of crime and it would be recorded as such. Councillor Allan replied that he believed it was something more worrying in that it reflected the reduction in resources being faced by the Police. He believed that people would draw their own conclusions. Councillor Paul Watson stated that it was difficult to convince people that the public sector faced such severe

funding cuts as they had continued to maintain such high standards of service despite the efficiencies that were being required. However the figures were there, crime was increasing and there was a need to understand the bald facts better.

Councillor Tye noted the positive reductions in youth anti-social behaviour and advised that funding with regard to Youth Work had been ring fenced over this period. The 'proof would be in the pudding' over the next year as this funding was to be cut by approximately 20 to 30%.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Allan, Inspector Laverick advised that alcohol was a growing problem that impacted on the crime figures as well as on people's health and wellbeing. The force had a street triage team that could be utilised in such circumstances.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Waller, Inspector Laverick confirmed that the Police visited schools to discuss the issue of drugs with students.

Councillor P. Smith repeated her request made at Area Committees in the past that the crime report included statistics regarding drug related crime. Inspector Laverick advised that she had been unaware of the request however she would ensure that the statistics were included in future reports.

Councillor Tye referred to the cuts in resources being faced by Northumbria Police and expressed concern that Sunderland may be receiving a raw deal in comparison to other areas. He referred to the impending closure of Farringdon Police station and asked if the proposal for the Police to share the adjacent Fire Station with the Fire and Rescue Service had been confirmed. Inspector Laverick advised that the proposal had yet to be finally signed off but that that was the intention. Steve Burdis, Station Manager for the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service added that he believed that the move had been pencilled in to take place on 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2015. Inspector Laverick confirmed that Farringdon would lose its 24/7 resource as from next week with the 24/7 teams moving to Houghton and Washington. From this time until the move to share the Fire Station, Farringdon would be open to the public Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 5.00pm. The yellow phone outside the station would remain to enable the public to contact the police outside of these hours. The new structure however would include a Chief Inspector dedicated to demand management.

The Chairman having thanked Inspector Laverick and Sgt Barker for their attendance it was:-

5. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

### **Report of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service**

The report of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service (TWFRS) (copy circulated) was submitted which provided the Committee with an update on the Service's performance indicators for the period 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2014 to 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2015 with particular reference to:-

- i) the number of deaths from accidental / all dwelling fires (none),

- ii) the number of injuries from accidental / all dwelling fires (1),
- iii) accidental fires in domestic properties (2),
- iv) deliberate property fires (3), and
- v) deliberate vehicle fires (5)

(For copy report – see original minutes)

The Chairman welcomed Station Manager Steve Burdis who was to be the TWFRS's new representative at the Area Committee following the retirement of Jeff Wilkinson. Mr Burdis advised that it was his intention to revamp the service's report for future Area Committees by including a ward by ward breakdown in a similar way to that provided by Northumbria Police.

Councillor Wilson congratulated Mr Burdis on the Service's excellent performance indicators which only made it more noticeable when even the slightest reversal took place as had happened in this reporting period. This would need to be monitored so it didn't become a trend.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Tye regarding fires started by smoking in bed, Mr Burdis advised that the person would be spoken to about the dangers and if the problem persisted, fire retardant bedding would be issued. Neighbours would also be visited and smoke alarms provided.

Councillor Paul Watson referred to the budgetary pressures and the proposals to reduce fire appliances and asked Mr Burdis if the service believed it would be able to cope? Mr Burdis replied that 'Target Response Vehicles' (TRVs) were to be introduced which would attend lower risk incidents such as property level 4 fires and would be staffed by two fire fighters. House fires would continue to be attended to by three fire engines. It was important to remember that Tyne and Wear had the quickest response times nationally with the first engine arriving on average between 3 and 4 minutes after the call with the second arriving between 6 and 8 minutes. This could be compared with Humberside where the figures were 15 and 30 minutes respectively.

Councillor Watson commended TWFRS as an exemplar service. It could almost be viewed as a Service that was striving to make itself redundant. Such had been the success of their proactive promotion of preventative measures that it had now become unusual for anyone to die in a fire.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Tye, Mr Burdis confirmed that the TRVs would be staffed by professional fire fighters rather than resilience officers.

The Chairman having thanked Mr Burdis for his report, it was:-

6. RESOLVED the report be received and noted.

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

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) in respect of the above matter.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Helen Peverley, Area Coordinator, presented the report highlighting the financial statement, details of 9 projects approved for support from the 2014/15 Community Chest budget, details of 10 projects approved for support from the maximising green spaces fund, details of 9 projects supported through the West Health Programme, a proposal to receive £20,000 match funding from the Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group to support further delivery of the West Health Programme, together with details of 1 further SIB funding request.

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

### **7. RESOLVED that:-**

- (i) the Area Committee's funding statement be received and noted,
- (ii) approval be given to the recommendations of the Place and People Boards that £60,000 SIB funding from the 2014/15 budget be allocated to support the continuation of the West Walk and Talk Programme (as detailed in annex 1 to the report),
- (iii) the approval of 10 projects using the small grants process from the Maximising Green Spaces fund (as detailed in annex 2 of the report) be noted,
- (iv) the approval of 9 projects using the small grants process from the West Health Programme (as detailed in annex 3 of the report) be noted,
- (v) approval be given to the recommendation of the People Board that the offer of £20,000 match funding from the Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group to support the further delivery of the West Health Programme be accepted, (as detailed in annex 4 to the report), and
- (vi) the approval of the 9 Community Chest applications as (detailed in Annex 5) of the report be noted.

### **Current Planning Applications (West Area)**

A schedule (copy circulated) of current planning applications lodged during the period 1<sup>st</sup> January and 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2015 was submitted for members' information only.

(For copy schedule – see original minutes).

### **8. RESOLVED the schedule be received and noted.**

At this juncture the Chairman introduced Edna Rochester of the Tansey Centre and Pennywell Community Centre who proceeded to thank the Committee for their previous grant of SIB funding towards the provision of a community mini bus for the Tansey Centre.

The Chairman then closed the meeting having thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions and especially to all at St. David's Community Project for their kindness and assistance in hosting the meeting and the associated community event.

(Signed) P. GIBSON,  
Chairman.