

At a meeting of the WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE held at THE FIRE AUTHORITY MAIN HEADQUARTERS, BARMSTON MERE on THURSDAY 10TH DECEMBER, 2015 at 6.00 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Williams in the Chair

Councillors Farthing, Fletcher, Kelly, Lauchlan, Middleton, F. Miller, G. Miller, David Snowdon, Dianne Snowdon, Taylor, D. Trueman, H. Trueman and Walker.

Karon Purvis	-	Chief Executives
Helen Wardropper	-	Chief Executives
Paul Wood	-	Commercial and Corporate Services
David Hardy	-	Community Services
Jacqui Reeves	-	VCS Representative
Colin McCartney	-	Gentoo
Inspector Steve Pescod	-	Northumbria Police

Members of the Washington Community.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Scaplehorn. Neil Revely, Steve Graham, Louise Butler and John Rostron

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 15th October, 2015

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 15th October, 2015 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Partner Agency Reports

(a) Report of the Washington Area Community Voluntary Sector Network

The Washington Area Community Voluntary Sector Network submitted a report (copy circulated) to inform the Committee of activity, progress, issues and concerns of the sector.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Jacqui Reeves, VCS Representative, presented the report and advised that the Network had met twice since the last Area Committee and had also held an extraordinary meeting to host the Annual Budget Consultation with the voluntary and community sector.

2. RESOLVED that Members noted the contents of the report.

(b) Fire Authority

The Chairman advised that Steve Graham, Station Manager was unable to attend the meeting but should Members have any queries in relation to his report, these could be passed on for him to reply to Members directly.

Councillor Kelly commented that the report was excellent and very informative.

3. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Northumbria Police

Inspector Steve Pescod of Northumbria Police presented the Washington Sector Performance Update.

Inspector Pescod advised that there had been a 17% increase in crime figures from last year and informed of a spate of eight burglaries which had occurred over a period of 28 days in which the perpetrator had been caught and prosecuted which accounted for the burglary/dwelling statistics .

The Committee was informed of an arrest over a recent ram raid, the individual was on bail and due to come back at the end of the month.

Bonfire night had been busy with high numbers of incidents and lots of wheelie bins stolen.

In response to Councillor David Snowdon's query, Inspector Pescod advised that the classification of fly tipping for example and more instances being deemed as criminal

activity now, was impacting upon the Police figures and it was a massive factor, with crime up 25% force wide.

Councillor H. Trueman enquired if there had been a reduction in front line policing. Inspector Pescod advised that he could not honestly answer this due to the new ways of working that had been implemented.

In relation to a query from the Chairman with regards to the rise in the number of sex offences committed, Inspector Pescod advised that some were historic cases that had only just been reported recently and also that there were different classifications for sexual offences now.

4. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

People Board – Progress Report

The Chair of the People Board submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide the Committee with an update of the progress against the current year's (2015/2016) People Board Work Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Farthing presented the report and then opened it up for discussion.

5. RESOLVED that the Committee
 - (i) Considered the progress with regard to the Washington People Board's Work Plan for 2015/16 as detailed in Annex 1 of the report
 - (ii) Agreed to support the People Board recommendation to approve the Project Brief and Call for Projects for the 'Home from Hospital' Small Grants Scheme as detailed in Annex 2 of the report
 - (iii) Agreed to support the People Board's recommendation to align SIB to develop a targeted approach to further develop community inclusion and support for the VCS as detailed in Annex 3 of the report
 - (iv) Agreed to support the People Board's recommendation to align SIB to deliver a Washington Skills Conference/Work Discovery Event as detailed in the report.

Place Board – Progress Report

The Chair of the Place Board submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide the Committee with an update of progress against the current years (2015/16) Place Board Work Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Fiona Miller, Chair of the Place Board presented the report and then opened it up for discussion.

In relation to the Events Programme, Councillor Kelly expressed concern that one provider would be responsible for all events and that some expertise would be needed in certain events.

Mrs Purvis advised that organisations such as the British Legion for example, would still be involved in the planning of events but would work with the successful applicant and contributions from groups would still happen.

6. RESOLVED that the Committee

- i) Considered the progress and performance update with regard to the Washington Place Board's Work Plan for 2015/16 as detailed in Annex 1 of the report.
- ii) Noted the detail of the proposed Washington Flood Study attached as Annex 2 of the report
- iii) Agreed to support the Place Board recommendation to align SIB funding to provide an equipment bank for use by volunteers and partners to deliver identified neighbourhood improvements as detailed in the report. Funding levels were considered under Item 5 Finance Report.
- iv) Agreed to support the Place Board recommendation to align further SIB funding to develop an enforcement approach to addressing derelict industrial estates as detailed in the report. Funding levels were considered under Item 5 Finance Report
- v) Agreed to support the Place Board recommendation to approve the Project Brief and Call for Projects for the Washington Events Programme 2016 as detailed in Annex 3 of the report.

Financial Statement and Proposals for further allocation of Resources

The Head of Scrutiny and Area Arrangements submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide a financial statement as an update position on progress in relation to allocating SIB and Community Chest and present proposals for further funding requests.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

7. RESOLVED that the Committee:-

- i) Noted the financial statements set out in the report.
- ii) Considered and approved the alignment of £35,000 SIB 2015/16 to support community inclusion and the local VCS as detailed in paragraph 3.1 of the report and in Item 3 People Board Progress Report.
- iii) Considered and approved the alignment of £15,000 SIB 2015/16 for the development and delivery of a Washington Skills Conference/Work Discovery Event as detailed in paragraph 3.2 of the report and in Item 3 People Board Progress Report
- iv) Considered and approved the alignment of £25,000 SIB 2015/16 to develop a local equipment bank as detailed in paragraph 4.1 of the report and in Item 4 Place Board Progress Report
- v) Considered and approved the alignment of £25,000 SIB 2015/16 to develop a new approach to manage derelict industrial estates as detailed in paragraph 4.2 of the report and in Item 4 Place Board Progress Report
- vi) Noted the 14 Approvals of Community Chest detailed within the report.

Planning Applications – For Information Only

Current Planning Applications relating to the Washington Area for the period 1st October to 19th November 2015 were submitted for Members information only (copy circulated).

(For copy report – see original minutes)

8. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting

(Signed) L. WILLIAMS,
Chairman.